

# Holy Family Parish

91 RIBBLESDALE DRIVE, WHITBY, ONTARIO CANADA L1N 6Z3

TEL: 905.665.6470 | FAX: 905.665.6651

[holyfamilywh.archtoronto.org](http://holyfamilywh.archtoronto.org) | [www.holyfamilywhitby.ca](http://www.holyfamilywhitby.ca)

Email: [holy.family@rogers.com](mailto:holy.family@rogers.com) | Facebook: [Holy.Family.Parish.Whitby](https://www.facebook.com/Holy.Family.Parish.Whitby) | Instagram: [#holyfamilywh](https://www.instagram.com/holyfamilywh)

**PASTOR:** Rev. Fr. Laszlo Nagy

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Fr. Ravibabu Kakumanu

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Tess Bondoc   **Youth Minister:** Stephanie Paglia

**Office Assistant:** Sue Kanemy   **Lay Pastoral Assistant:** Karina Doyle



## The Nativity of the Lord



## **Monday Dec 26 7:00pm**

+Leonardo Falconeri req by

Angela Falconeri

+Stewart Smith req by Gerald &

Anna Mary Cybulske

Sp Int Alexia Hawkins req by Family

## **Tuesday Dec 27, 9:00am**

Thanksgiving for Jun Padua and

Family

## **Wednesday Dec 28, 7:00pm**

Special Intentions

## **Thursday Dec 29, 9:00am**

+Giovani Rocchio req by Wife,

Domenica and Children

## **Friday Dec 30, 7:00pm**

Sp Int Tess Bondoc req by Sheila Tobin

+Marguerite Delphine Gillard req by

Marguerite Gillard

## **2023 Offertory envelopes**

are ready for pick up at the back of the church. We encourage everyone to have church envelopes. Even if you are in our PAG (pre-authorized program), putting your weekly envelopes in the collection bag shows the congregation your support.

The act of putting your envelope in the collection bag is a sign of your worship and love for God. Scan the QR Code to request 2023 envelopes:



## **DO YOU NEED A PRAYER?**

If you are in need of prayer, please use our

# HFkids Holy Family Parish



## **HFkids EVERY SUNDAY DURING** **THE 9:30, 11:00 MASS.**

We invite **ALL KIDS** from grades **JK to GRADE 6** to join us starting **Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>** in the hall for our HFkids Programs. Just listen for the HFkids call at the start of Mass, your children will return to join you in your pew after the offertory collection. We are offering 2 programs this fall **Adventurers** for KIDS in JK to Gr 1 and **Time Travellers** for YOUTH in Gr 2 to Gr 6. Scan the QR code or visit: [holyfamilywhitby.ca/hfkids-2/](http://holyfamilywhitby.ca/hfkids-2/) for more info!

## **➤ Moms, Dads, Teachers, Young Adults!**

We invite you to come down and check out our two HFkids programs; Adventurers for kids in JK to Gr 1 and Time Travellers for kids in Gr 2-6. We're seeking individuals who have a flair for talking with kids! Scripts and material are all provided. This is a unique and fun way to evangelize our youth. If you would like to know more or jump right in, please contact Sue at [holyfamily.sue@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamily.sue@gmail.com) or come and find us in the hall after the 9:30 or 11:00 Masses.

**We would especially love to offer these programs at the 12:30 Mass but can only so this with your help!! Together we can make this happen.**

## **SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL HOLY FAMILY CONFERENCE**

As 2022 comes to an end, we reflect on the generosity of Fr. László, Fr. Ravi and all our donors in the Holy Family faith community. Because of you, in the first eleven months of 2022, we have made some 550 visits to 110 families assisting them with grocery gift cards to the value of some \$40,700, distributing 580 bags of groceries, paid \$864 for furniture and we distributed \$1,410 in gift cards for assistance in back-to-school expenses. With the Christmas Envelopes contribution of some \$19,000, we helped give support to our Neighbours in Need at this special time of the year: a special act of generosity and love. We wish all of you a Happy and Blessed Christmas. The LORD bless you and keep you!

## **HOMELESS MISSION TEAM**

***Turkey Lunch at Gate 3:16- A very special day  
for those in great need.***

Fr. Ravi, Tess Bondoc, our turkey roasters (Marie Sergeant, Devayani DeCroos, Anna Colacicco, Lise Watt, Evette D'Cunha, Sorin Burian, Andrea Richard). Our musicians (Percy D'Souza and Carlos Quintana), McDonalds for donating the coffee and the amazing Homeless Mission Team for your passion and dedication. To Fr. László for your continued guidance and support and to all the parishioners at Holy Family Parish – **"May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of Christ child. May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you all now and forever".**

Merry Christmas to all, Mary Anne Belanger

## BECAUSE CHRIST CAME, WE HAVE A JOY THAT TRANSFORMS OUR LIVES.

*"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete."*

First letter of John 1:1—4.

Christmas is about the word *incarnation*. We sing it every year in our Christmas carols, especially in "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Charles Wesley wrote that, and one line you've sung says, "Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity." If you understand the word *incarnation*, you'll understand what Christmas is about. The Apostles' Creed doesn't use the word *incarnation*, but it teaches the doctrine of the Incarnation when it says, "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary." The Scripture says the *invisible* has become *visible*, the *incorporeal* has become *corporeal*. In other words, God has become *human*. The *absolute* has become *particular*. The ideal has become real. The divine has taken up a human nature. This is not only a specific doctrine, but it's also unique.

Look at what John says: We saw it. We heard it. Our own eyes, our own ears. We felt it, this eternal Life. Here's what he's saying: When we give you these accounts of Jesus walking on the water, of Jesus rising from the dead, of Jesus speaking these words, these are not legends. These are not things we made up. These are not wonderful spiritual parables. These are things we saw. We saw him do this. We heard him do this. We felt him do this.

The manger, the resurrection, the story of Jesus is not just a story. It's true. It actually happened in history. This goes completely against what the average person believes. The average person says these are wonderful stories, but they're parables. They're legends. They didn't really happen.

Here's the one thing Christmas presses us on. First John 1:1—2 is saying: These are either lies you're reading in the New Testament or they're eyewitness accounts, but they can't be legends. Many scholars of ancient literature have told us this. Today modern fiction throws in details that give a realistic sense, but ancient legends were never written like that.

The point of Christmas is that Jesus Christ really lived, and he really died. It happened in history. He did these things. He said these things. The gospel is not that Jesus Christ comes to earth, tells us how to live, we live a good life, and then God owes us blessing. The gospel is that Jesus Christ came to earth, lived the life we should have lived, and died the death we should have died, so when we believe in him we are accepted and live a life of grateful joy for him.

Every year I see stories in newspapers saying Christmas is the time of year for depression. It is, but not if you understand Christmas is not just an inspiring story we can live up to. Here's the point. If Jesus Christ is actually God come in the flesh, you're going to know much more about God. He's going to be graspable. He's going to be somebody you can relate to. You're seeing him weep. You're seeing him upset. You're seeing him cast down. You're seeing him exalted. If Jesus is who he says he is, we have a 500 autobiography from God, in a sense. And our understanding will be vastly more personal and specific than any philosophy or religion could give us.

Look at what God has done to get you to know him personally. If the Son would come all this way to become a real person to you, don't you think the Holy Spirit will do anything in his power to make Jesus a real person to you in your heart? Christmas is an invitation to know Christ personally. Christmas is an invitation by God to say: Look what I've done to come near to you. Now draw near to me. I don't want to be a concept; I want to be a friend.

In behalf of Fr. Ravi and the Staff, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Fr. László Nagy, Pastor



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