

# Holy Family Parish

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

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Rev. Fr. Sean Jacob

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Tess Bondoc

**YOUTH MINISTER:** Samantha Kanemy

**OFFICE ASSISTANT:** Sue Kanemy

**LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT:** Karina Doyle



**INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK**

**TUESDAY DEC 26, 9:00AM**

Thanksgiving for Aaron Fernandes.  
Sp Int Alexia Hawkins req by Bridget Conneely.

Sp Int Juanita Wade.

**WEDNESDAY DEC 27, 7:00PM**

+Wally Landicho req by Menchie Landicho.

+Aloysius Fernandes req by the D’Cunha Family.

Thanksgiving Jun Padua & Family.

**THURSDAY DEC 28, 9:00AM**

+Sheldon Hannah req by Noel & Mary Hannah.

+Drago Ziebert req by the Family.

Sp Int Fr. Garfield Rochard req by Brenda Pagazani.

**FRIDAY DEC 29, 7:00PM**

+Annunziata De Filippis req by Donato & Carmela De Filippis.

Sp Int Zonita and Ian Reid.

**SATURDAY DEC 30, 9:00AM**

Special Intentions

**SATURDAY DEC 30, 5:00PM**

+Marie Cunningham req by the Larkin Family.

+Marguerite Delphine Gillard req by Marguerite Gillard.

Sp Int Tess Bondoc req by Sheila Tobin.

Sp Int for all Holy Family Intercessory Groups req by Cheryl Robinson.

**2024 ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2024 envelopes at the back of the church. Thank you



Christmas Eve Mass – Sunday Dec 24  
6pm, 8pm, 10pm and 12 Midnight

Christmas Day Mass – Sunday Dec 25  
8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm

Feast of the Holy Family – Dec 30 & 31  
Regular Mass Schedule

**NO NEW YEARS EVE VIGIL MASS**

New Year’s Day Mass – January 1  
8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm

Parish office closed December 22 to  
Dec 27 and on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE?** *Try Alpha! Starts January 10th!*

Start 2024 with a new faith experience, and join the upcoming Alpha course. This series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of Christian faith has been enjoyed by hundreds of people in our church community. We begin with the fellowship of a meal, enjoy incredible video talks on faith, and then engage in honest conversation about life and faith. It is open to literally everyone, and there is no cost, and no pressure! **We will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 6:30pm.** Check our website for the Alpha page at: [holyfamilywhitby.ca/alpha/](http://holyfamilywhitby.ca/alpha/)

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH?**

Are you looking for parent resources? Want to learn more about Prayer or the Rosary? Or learn what happens during Mass or how to prepare for Confession? Find it all and much more on our website! We’ve curated the latest videos and resources to help you in your faith journey! [holyfamilywhitby.ca](http://holyfamilywhitby.ca)



**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR PRAYER?**

If you are in need of prayer, please use our **Prayer Request Box** located in the back of the church or submit your prayer request using our **Online Prayer Request Form** which can be found on our website. Our Intercessory Prayer Warriors will whatever situation you may be faced with, trust in the Lord. Please rest assured your prayers requests will be handled with the utmost respect.

**ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?** *Join our email list!*

Welcome to Holy Family! Please visit us at the Welcome Desk after Mass, we’d love to meet you! We also invite you and your family to register as parishioners and join our email list! Scan the QR code to take you to our website where you will find links to our email list, Social Media links and the Parishioner Registration form [holyfamilywhitby.ca/get-connected/](http://holyfamilywhitby.ca/get-connected/)



**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 5 TO 12 - JOIN US!**



Join one of our Youth Groups in the new year! EDGE (YOUTH grades 5 to 8, runs every 2nd & 4th Thursday. Next Edge starts on **Thursday Jan 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm.** LIFE TEEN (TEENS in grades 9 to 12) runs every 1st & 3rd Thursday and includes dinner! Next Life Teen starts on **Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup>.** **JOIN US!**

Visit the Welcome Desk for a youth card with dates & times or for more information, visit [holyfamilywhitby.ca/youth/](http://holyfamilywhitby.ca/youth/), scan the QR code or contact our Youth Minister Samantha directly at [hfw.youth@gmail.com](mailto:hfw.youth@gmail.com)



**HFkids – GRADES JK TO 6 ON SUNDAYS!**

All kids in grades JK to grade 6 are invited to join us for HFkids on Sundays during the 9:30 and 11:00 Masses for the first half of the Mass where they will hear a Gospel message prepared just for them. Two Different Programs: Adventurers JK-1 and Time Travellers Gr 2-6. For more information, watch the promo video on our website - visit [holyfamilywhitby.ca/hfkids-2/](http://holyfamilywhitby.ca/hfkids-2/) or scan the QR code. **We hope to see your kids!**



**YEAR-END GIVING DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Thank you to all the many parishioners who have continued to support the parish this year! We are so grateful to all of you! Please pray about your year-end giving. The ongoing operation, maintenance and faith formation opportunities of our parish are made possible through your generous and regular offertory giving. If you would like your year-end giving to be reflected on your 2023 tax receipt you should have it in by **DECEMBER 31, 2023.**



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



### A Christmas Reflection by Fr. László

The apostle John contextualizes his account of the words and deeds of his good friend Jesus with an opening prologue that crackles with energy and wonder. Jesus, John wants to tell us, is the very Word of God. He was with God at the creation of the world. He *is* God.

He is life itself, and that life is the light of the world. Then comes verse 5:  
*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

But here's a striking thing in another translation reads differently. It says,  
*"The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."*

The Greek word alternatively rendered "overcome" and "understood" is *katalambanó* – which means to "take hold of" or "grasp." We need more than one English word to try to hint at the full meaning of what John is saying here.

John has seen the Light of the World with his own eyes. He's gone fishing with him. He's eaten with him. He's prayed with him. And he's watched him endure the most horrific death imaginable and then *come back to life*. So John knows that there is no darkness in the universe that can permanently grasp and defeat this light. The darkness cannot *overcome* it.

But John also knows that our human minds, left to their own devices, cannot begin to grasp the love on offer in the astonishing fact of the Incarnation. The darkness cannot *understand* it.

John's prologue culminates with a breathtaking meditation on the lengths to which God has gone to reach us with his illuminating love.  
*"The Word became flesh," he writes, "and made his dwelling among us."*

The Mighty God came in the staggeringly vulnerable form of a human baby. The Prince of Peace allowed himself to be birthed into a world of sin and chaos-God made huggable, woundable, kissable, killable.

Only the Light of the World can give us the power to begin to understand what God has offered us in the birth of Jesus. So, this Christmas, let us pray the prayer the apostle Paul offered the Ephesians (3:18): that we, *"being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."*

We celebrate Immanuel - God with us - THE Light that overcomes all darkness. As we who daily seek to believe in and follow Him kneel in adoration this day, marveling at God's revelation, let us recommit ourselves to this Jesus, the true Light. May we continually witness to the Light, to this Presence. God's dream for humanity is manifested this day. How blessed (and challenged) we are!

In our celebrations this day let us truly proclaim in word and action that "God is with us"

Today is Christmas! Christ's coming brings the gift of PEACE, Peace comes when enemies reconciled, when family ties that have been broken are mended, when countries can lay down their weapons and sit at table with their enemies, and when we can be reconciled among each other and within ourselves.

The angels greeted Christ's coming with "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth." In every part of our world today, people long for peace. Even in our own hearts there lies a searching for peace. These longings for peace remind us that Christ's coming is yet unfulfilled, and Christmas is still a contradiction.

Over two thousand years since his birth, the Christ of Peace, reflected in Luke's gospel, desires to live on in us and in our world.

Today as you read the newspaper or watch the news coverage, pause. Be in touch with the longing for peace within your own heart and within so many places in our world today. Pray that the coming of the Christ of Peace will close the gap between the Sacred and all of creation. This Christmas let us continue the mission of the One who offers Peace.

*Heavenly Father, set my preparations for this Christmas on the right foundation: on Your mighty Son, my Saviour.  
I pray in His holy Name. Amen.*

On behalf of Fr. Sean and the parish staff, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas,  
Fr. László Nagy, Pastor.

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