





**December 20, 2020** 

#### **E- NEWSLETTER**





#### This Issue:

- Welcome
- Christmas Schedule Page 6
- Parish Envelopes
- Priest Reflection
- Faith Formation
- Christmas Special Episode
- FORMED Pick of the week
- Bible Verses
- Vatican Museum
- Live your Faith
- Learning from the Saints
- Prayer of the Week
- 3 Min Prayer Retreat
- Sacramental Programs
- Young/Adult Ministry
- Holy Communion Prayer
- Scattered Seeds
- BAZAAR
- Family Corner

Save the Day:
Christmas Schedule

#### Pastor:

Rev. Liborio Amaral

**Associate Pastor:** 

Rev. Patrick Ezimora CCE

Deacons:

Franciscus Sukardi Douglas Asselstine

### **Welcome and Quick Update**

Welcome everyone and thank you for your great support!

Please, see complete Christmas schedule on page 6





Our parish envelopes for 2021 are ready for pick-up at the back of the church. Please DO NOT USE 2020 ENVELOPES STARTING JANUARY 1ST, 2021 as the numbers have changed.

Friday December 25 - Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m. Spanish Mass Live-streamed 11:00 a.m. English Mass Live-streamed

### Fr Liborio's Reflection .....

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

The figure of Mary stands prominent in today's Gospel. We are given the account of the very moment of history when God took on flesh in the womb of Mary.

The account of the Annunciation in this Sunday's Gospel points to the themes of 'humility', 'fidelity', 'simplicity' and 'life'. Mary shows through her words and actions these themes.

In today's gospel we also clearly see that 'life' begins at conception. This passage is not unique in pointing out the Natural Law that resides in the hearts of all men and women – a law that tells us that life is sacred in all its stages. This is why we Catholic are to be always "pro-life" in all of the stages of human life.

The Archangel Gabriel encounters God's lowly handmaid and seeks her permission to allow the Holy Spirit to overshadow her and be ever the God-bearer. At this moment, all of history, all of Creation, all of humanity waits in great anticipation and pleads that Mary will say "YES". And we know the full story – Mary gives her "Fiat" (i.e. her Yes) to being God's vessel of Grace.

Mary Mother of God, pray for us.

Fr. Liborio

# Faith Formation



## **Christmas Special Episode**

by the Catholic Talk Show

#### In This Episode, You'll Learn:

- What the "X" in X-mas really means
- Why Saint Nick fills up stockings
- What the REAL Santa Claus looks like according to Catholic
- Why Christmas trees are not a pagan origin
- The reason we celebrate Christmas on December 25th
- And much more!

Learn More

### Kids Pick



O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is **About** 

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness

the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Register for Free to watch Picks of Week & More

- Click on the links
- Collect of the lifting
   Register using your email
   Enter St. Mary's Access Code: 8b36b3

Español

Click to watch

#### Pick of the Week



#### The Story of the Nativity: The **Truth of Christmas**

The story of the birth of Jesus is often misunderstood. But this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity clears away widespread misunderstandings of Jesus' origin.

Join top scholars, inspirational speakers, and popular authors as they explain the story behind the story of the birth of Jesus. The Story of the Nativity also includes stunning works of art depicting the biblical story, from Fra Angelico to Rembrandt, and footage from the Holy Land showing the places where the Christmas story actually took Click Here place.

# Bible Verses



"May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of faith in him...- Romans 15:13 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, -Galatians5:22 "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful" - Colossians 3:15

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." - Corinthians 13:13



# Vatican Museum: Come, let us worship #2

"In the stable at Bethlehem, Heaven and Earth meet. Heaven has come down to Earth. For this reason, a light shines from the stable for all times; for this reason joy is enkindled there...

With the humility of the shepherds, let us set out, during this Holy Night, towards the Child in the stable! Let us touch God's humility, God's heart! Then his joy will touch us and will make the world more radiant."

(Pope Benedict XVI - Midnight Mass, Christmas 2007)

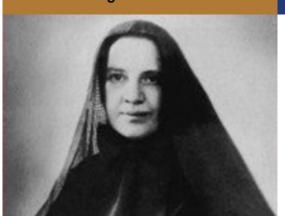
A splendid nighttime scene of the Nativity and the Annunciation to the shepherds, in which St. Joseph is depicted as an old man, shown from behind as he sleeps next to a dead tree, which alludes to his exclusion from the birth of the Son of God. The two women near Mary-who are the midwives of which the apocryphal gospels speakrepresent those people who believe (the woman who looks toward the Virgin) and those who doubt (Salome, who turns her back). In the background an angel lights up the sky appearing to the shepherds. But the supernatural light which radiates from the Child, placed humbly on the ground, is much brighter.



John of Paul (1395/1400 ca. 1482); Altar-step compartment: The Nativity and the Annunciation to the Shepherds

# Live Your Faith

#### **Learning from the Saints**



#### St. Francesca Saverio Cabrini

#### "Celestial Patroness of all Emigrants"

Pope Francis has described St Frances Xavier Cabrini as a woman who understood that the modern world would be marked by people fleeing their homes in search of peace, and that these were the people she wished to take care of.

In the first of her many ocean crossings, she shared the discomfort, problems, and uncertainties of those who left everything in order to search for a better future elsewhere. Meanwhile, her charitable works continued to include caring for orphans and the sick. She set up homes and hospices in Italy, France, Spain, Great Britain, and all over the United States, Central America, Argentina, and Brazil. Proclaimed a saint by Pope Pius XII on the 7 July 1946,

**Learn More** 

#### I have so much to do that I shall spend the first 3 hours in prayer - Martin Muther

#### Advent Prayer

My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season. Please help me to understand all that You have done for me.

Your loving mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world. Help me to do the same.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. Draw me close to You and help me to see my sins so that I can change the things that You want me to change.

Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent so that I may do all that God wants me to do. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you. Please pray for me that I may do the same.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus, come! I love You, Jesus.

- My Catholic Life

Amen.

#### 3 minute Prayer Retreat



Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

- Matthew 11:4-5

<u>English</u>

**Español** 

#### FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

If your child is a baptized Catholic and you would like him/her to receive **the Sacrament of First Communion or Confirmation** next year, then go to St. Mary's church website,

https://stmarysbr.archtoronto.org and you will find an Information video. On this video the First Communion and Confirmation program and expectations will be outlined.

The program will consist of two components – one will focus on your child's preparation for the Sacraments and the second will involve a parental/guardian faith development session. This two pronged program approach will insure that parents/guardians will be able to speak the same faith language that the children will be learning.

Click here for 1st Communion Form

Click here for Confirmation form

#### **Great News! St. Mary's Young Adult Ministry**

Young Adult

Ministry

St. Mary's Church

We are starting, virtually for now, our St Mary's Young Adult ministry.

What's the goal? **To be on fire AGAIN with love for Jesus**, your untrodden pathway to HAPPINESS.

Who can join? **Young people between ages 19 and 35!** Those interested should contact Fr Patrick, our Associate Pastor: <a href="mailto:patrickezimoracce@gmail.com">patrickezimoracce@gmail.com</a>.

# Live Your Faith

#### **SCATTERED SEEDS**

#### **Pray for Vocations**



From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world.

Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

**Email:** vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

### Thank you! - CWL Food Drive



Thank you to everyone who participated in the *Catholic Women's League food drive* for the food bank at the Knights Table.

Your response was terrific. It took seven car loads to bring your donations to the food bank. Amazing!

With your cash donations, we were able to purchase \$400 worth of other food needs and also donate \$500 to the Knights Table. *God bless you for your generosity!* 

#### Holy Communion Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas



I thank You, Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, for having been pleased, through no merit of mine, but of Your great mercy alone, to feed me, a sinner, and Your unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Holy Communion may not be for my judgment and condemnation, but for my pardon and salvation. Let this Holy Communion be to me an armor of faith and a shield of good will, a cleansing of all vices, and a rooting out of all evil desires. May it increase love and patience, humility and obedience, and all virtues. May it be a firm defense against the evil designs of all my visible and invisible enemies, a perfect quieting of all the desires of soul and body. May this Holy Communion bring about a perfect union with You, the one true God, and at last enable me to reach eternal bliss when You will call me. I

pray that You bring me, a sinner, to the indescribable Feast where You, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, are to Your saints true light, full blessedness, everlasting joy, and perfect happiness. Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

- By St. Thomas Aguinas

#### **BAZAAR**

In place of our normal November Bazaar, this year we will be offering one-of-a-kind items for sale. You will see sewn, crafted, and knitted/crochets goods for the home and family. (See samples) The inventory will change frequently. Click **HERE** to see inventory.

If you wish **to purchase items from the Bazaar Collection** please call Fran at 905-867-7595 or email her at <u>fern0@rogers.com</u> for assistance or delivery.

**\$4.00 to \$12.00**Variety of Hats

**\$5.00** Knitted Toys assorted

**\$22.00** Table Runner, 47" X 13.5"









All masses below are private and can be seen via Live-Stream via our YouTube of Facebook channels

#### Monday - December 21st

St. Peter Canisius

9:00 a.m. - Mass

• Mimi Law †

Tuesday - December 22<sup>nd</sup>

St. Francesca Saverio Cabrini

9:00 a.m. - Mass Special Intention For

• Olga Calderon

Wednesday - December 23th

St. John of Kanty

9:00 a.m. - Mass

Thursday - December 24th

St. Tarsilla, St. Irma

9:00 a.m. - Mass

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Mass

Friday - December 25th

St. Anastasia, B. Mary of the Apostles

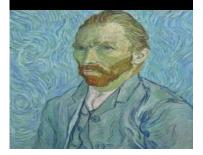
9:30 a.m. - Christmas day Mass - Spanish

11:00 a.m. -Christmas Day Mass - English

Saturday - December 26<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. - Mass

"It is a very good thing that you read the Bible... The Bible is Christ, for the Old Testament leads up to this culminating point... Christ alone... has affirmed as a principal certainty, eternal life, the infinity of time, and reason for existence. He lived as a greater artist than all other artists, that is to say, made neither statues nor pictures nor books; he loudly proclaimed that he made... living men, immortals." – Vincent Van Gough



### FAMILY CORNER

#### 8 Simple Ways to Celebrate Sacred Time as a Family

Even with hectic schedules, it's easy for families to grow in faith together by celebrating the sacred in eight simple and routine activities.

- Teach your children to start each day with prayers
- 2. Put a saint-of-the-day calendar on your breakfast table
- Celebrate ethnic holidays and feasts—even if it's not your ethnic group.
- 4. Make birthdays special.
- 5. Make more of your time in the car together.
- 6. Create a quiet area or room in your house.
- 7. Celebrate the night before the first day of school.
- 8. Make Saturday night special.

Learn More

**The King is Born:** A Collection of Christmas Praises in Song



Bask in the warmth and joy of Christmas with a mixture of traditional and new songs that fill the heart with worship and praise. A wonderful way of remembering Who we celebrate during the holiday season.

Songs

#### Welcoming-Jesus-In-Our-Hearts Wrapping Paper

Kid's Advent Activity

During the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus' birth by letting him know that he's welcome in our lives and in our hearts.

#### **Materials**

- Butcher paper
- Colored paper (purple and pink)
- Markers and crayon

Activity

El Padre Ángel Espinosa de los Monteros L.C. nos comparte una *reflexión para este periodo de Adviento.* 



Padre Angel

#### "Tearful Smiles"

An eye witness account from New York City , on a cold day in December, some years ago:

A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering With cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'
'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

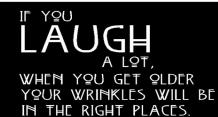
The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her.

'Are you God's wife?'



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Thank You for your Offering!

December 13, 2020
Regular Collection
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# St. Mary's Christmas Schedule 2020-2021



Date	Feast	Time
Thursday	Christmas Eve	9:00 a.m. Live-streamed Mass
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>		Church open for private prayer from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Office Closed		5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass Live-streamed Church open for private prayer from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday Dec.25 <sup>th</sup> Office Closed	Christmas Day	9:30 a.m Spanish Live-streamed Mass 11:00 a.m. English Live-streamed Mass Church open for private prayer from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Weekday	9:00 a.m. Live-streamed Mass Confessions from 9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Office Closed		Church open for private prayer from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup> Office Closed	Holy Family Sunday	9:30 a.m Spanish Live-streamed Mass 11:00 a.m. English Live-streamed Mass Church open for private prayer from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Obsidence - Marchedou	9:00 a.m. Live-streamed Mass
Office Closed	Christmas Weekday	Church open for private prayer from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday		9:00 a.m. Live-streamed Mass
Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Weekday	Church open for private prayer from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Office Closed		
Wednesday Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Weekday	9:00 a.m. Live-streamed Mass
Office Closed	- Chinesinae voorkaay	Church open for private prayer from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	Solemnity of Mary	9:00 a.m. Live-streamed Mass Church open for private prayer from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Mother of God	
Office Closed	(New Year's Eve)	5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Mass Live-streamed Church open for private prayer from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday	Solemnity of Mary	9:30 a.m Spanish Live-streamed Mass
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mother of God	11:00 a.m. English Live-streamed Mass
Office Closed	(New Year)	Church open for private prayer from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday		9:00 a.m. Live-streamed Mass
Jan. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas Weekday	Confessions from 9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Office Closed		Church open for private prayer from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Jan. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Office Closed	Feast of the Holy Family	9:30 a.m Spanish Live-streamed Mass 11:00 a.m. English Live-streamed Mass Church open for private prayer from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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The Christmas season ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope you are able to fill your heart with Hope, Love, Joy and Peace; gifts which only the King of Kings can give. Remember it is not only during this time we can encounter Jesus, we may do so daily in the Blessed Sacrament present always in the tabernacle.