

From the desk of.....

With the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord around the corner, the season of Advent is coming to a close. In these last few days before the solemn feasts our excitement and anticipation can blind us to the grace of these precious moments where God wants to encounter us. The great saints of the church remind us of the encounter with Christ in the present moment.

Our Lord says in the Book of Revelation, "Listen! I am standing at the door knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you." (Rev. 3:20) Jesus comes in humility and offers mercy. He will not impose His mercy upon us or make Himself the centre of our lives. In the classic painting based on this passage from Scripture, William Holman Hunt portrays Jesus knocking at the door which has no handle. This door can only be opened from the inside. Jesus will come in only if we open the door to him.

This Christmas getting all the feels for this festive time of year, spending it with your family and friends, open wide your life to Christ and give him the seat of honour in your heart and in your family. It is the gift of His only begotten Son that Our Heavenly Father has given to us so that we might have everlasting life through the forgiveness of our sins. A quote that reminds me of this gift was found in a Christmas card I had received long ago: "From His first cry in Bethlehem to His last cry on Calvary, He has given the gift of His undying love."

On behalf of our deacons and parish staff, I wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas. Be assured of my prayers for your families in this festive time of the year.

Fr. Michael

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

"In the Amazon, there are 65,000 species of vertebrates and trees. This is also the number of signatures that we want to reach in support of the *seringueiros* and the Mura people of Brazil. On behalf of all those striving to preserve their land, their water, their culture, their lives and our common home, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada thanks you for responding to cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Together, we have the power to change lives. To continue to take action throughout the campaign, go to: devp.org/campaign, and join the Facebook group "*For our common home*." A future for the Amazon is a future for all! Please continue to pray for the peoples of the Amazon."

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)

In response to changing lifestyles and demands on time, we are offering the Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) program. If you would like to donate to the Church, or find out more about the program, please pick up a brochure from the tables at the side exits of the Church.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Every Friday at 5 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org

2019 TAX RECEIPTS

Please note that 2019 tax receipts will not be issued for any donations received after December 31, 2019.

SSVP – BLESSINGS TO ALL

We are so grateful to you, the parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea, for your generous support of our Neighbours in Need and for your trust in our members. On behalf of the 14 members of our conference, we wish you a Blessed Christmas and Peace throughout the year. Sal Badali

DANCING FOR THE COMPASS

Returns for a 13th year to the Port Credit Legion (upstairs), 35 Front St. N., Sat. Jan. 25 2020. Doors open 7 pm, dancing 8 pm to midnight. Call Peter Toller 905-274-6131 for tickets \$25/person and \$30 at the door. 50s/60s music with the local 8-piece band, Little Peter & the Elegants. Light buffet & fabulous raffle prizes.

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S
MASS SCHEDULE**

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019

05:00 pm - Mass
07:00 pm - Mass
08:30 pm - Carol Singing
09:00 pm - Mass

NATIVITY OF THE LORD/CHRISTMAS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019

09:00 am - Mass
11:00 am - Mass
NO CONFESSIONS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019

NO MASS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

MOTHER OF GOD

(DAY OF OBLIGATION)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2019

05:00 pm - Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

09:00 am - Mass
11:00 am - Mass
NO CONFESSIONS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

NO MASS

LINKS TO FAITH

DECEMBER 22, 2019

**WEEK 51 – CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO
KIDS – SOUTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

“What happens when you ask a bunch of kids to tell the story of Christmas? Enjoy this story of Bethle-ha-ha-ham and the magical star that appeared.” A heart warming video to watch – no matter how many times I post this!

To watch this youtube video, click on Links to Faith at the bottom of the parish homepage: www.stmarystarofthesea.ca and select [Week 51 – Christmas According to Kids – Southland Christian Church](#)

**THIS WEEK AT
ST. MARY'S**

SATURDAY 21ST

10:00 am Mass - †Anthony Lobo Sr.
Requested by the family
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10:30 am Confessions
5:00 pm Mass - †Anne De Sante
Requested by her family

SUNDAY 22ND

9:00 am Mass - †Alan del Puerto Jr.
Requested by the family
11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish
12:30 pm Bible Study (SJR)

MONDAY 23RD

9:00 am Mass - Special intention of Devina & Matthew Tamburello
Requested by Shantie Toolsie

TUESDAY 24TH – CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm Mass - †Antonieta Valentino
Requested by Alfredo Vanentino
7:00 pm Mass - For the People of the Parish
8:30 pm Carol Singing
9:00 pm Mass - †Deceased members of the Torralba & Tan families
Requested by Wilson H. Tan and family

WEDNESDAY 25TH – CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 am Mass - †Guido & Erma Barbisan and Pietro Piccolomo
Requested by Franca & Rino Barbisan
11:00 am Mass - †Nicola Piacentino
Requested by the family
NO CONFESSIONS

THURSDAY 26TH

NO MASS

FRIDAY 27TH

9:00 am Mass - Friends and family
Requested by the Fietta family
NO COMMUNITY MEAL

SATURDAY 28TH

10:00 am Mass - †Stella Severin
Requested by the family
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10:30 am Confessions
5:00 pm Mass - For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY 29TH

9:00 am Mass - †Silla Pellizzer
Requested by Luigi Barbisan and family
11:00 am Mass – In Thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity