

Christmas Prayer for those who work on Christmas Day



Loving God, on this sacred day, I am going to work. There is something special about working on Christmas, when so many others are home with loved ones. My work today can have a wondrous sense of service and necessity.

But it doesn't always feel noble and inside me there is a struggle: I wish I could stay home. Help me to feel sent by you today. Let me recognize the unique way my co-workers and I are called to serve our brothers and sisters.

Let me take just a moment in this quiet to feel your deep love for me. May I carry that sense of peace with me as the light of your love, shining on everyone I come in contact with today. Amen

Christmas Prayer for Present Opening Time



With each gift that is opened, no matter how perfect or not, let me feel again the many ways you gift us each day, especially with your presence in our hearts and the presence of each other in our lives. Amen.

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DECEMBER 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



An Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins."

~ MATTHEW 1. 20-21

Advent is all about deeply living this exciting time of expectation, a precious time to prepare to change ourselves, our homes, and our hearts, for sharing. We have to remember that it was the Divine who initiated this sharing in that first Feast of the Incarnation, sending his Son to be the Saviour that our lives yearn for most. Emmanuel –"God with us!" Can we open our hearts to see the signs the "God is with us" today? ~ Joe Gunn, Ottawa, ON.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Dec. 19 9:00 am †Marie-Ange Zeenny
Tues. Dec. 20 9:00 am †Bobby McNeilly
Wed. Dec. 21 9:00 am †Carmelita Ongkeko
Thurs. Dec.22 9:00 am †Clarita G. Dayot
Fri. Dec.23 9:00 am †Balbino Borac
Sat. Dec.24 **No 9:00 am Mass**
Sat. Dec. 24 4:00 pm Parishioners
4:15 pm Parishioners
7:00 pm Parishioners
10:00 pm Parishioners
Sun. Dec. 25 10:00 am Parishioners
Mon. Dec. 26 **No 9:00 am Mass**

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sanctuary Lamp: †Frank Covello
For the Sick: Peter Holloway, Kay Corner, Linda Nazturcio, George Joel, Eileen Velazquez, Dr. Martin Young, Geraldine Daly and Patrice Flanagan
For the Deceased: Burke Seitz

Pastoral care: Ministers of the Eucharist bring Communion to the homebound. Contact the Ministry Centre to make arrangements.

Prayer Network: Members pray daily for intentions held in confidence. Contact Patricia Floros at 416-444-0424

Private Prayer: Contact Friar Boniface at 416-447-5571 ext. 500



Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty — he is the King of glory. *Psalm 24:10*

Psalm 24

May the Lord come in; He is King of glory

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, December 19

6:30 pm Sparks/Bonaventure Room
6:30 pm Brownies/Main Hall
6:30 pm Secular Franciscan Meeting/Francis Room

7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice/Church

Tuesday, December 20

7:00 pm Bible Study Group/Oak Room

Wednesday, December 21

6:30 pm GRASP Group/Oak Room
7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous/Francis Room
7:30 pm Family Choir Practice/Church

Saturday, December 24

9:30 am Christian Meditation/Oak Room
9:30 am Al Anon Group/Bonaventure Room
4:00 pm Mass with Pageant in the Church
4:15 pm Mass in the Parish Centre (this Mass is to reduce overcrowding in our Church)

7:00 pm Mass in the Church

10:00 pm Mass During the Night

Sunday, December 25

10:00 am Mass During the Day

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Fridays of Advent, following the 9:00 a.m. Mass concluding at 10:30 a.m. with Benediction.



Christmas Liturgies

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Children's Mass with Pageant
4:15 p.m. Mass in the Parish Centre. This Mass is to reduce overcrowding and to comply with the Fire Regulations concerning the number of people that can be safely housed in our Church. If you arrive after the Church is filled, you will be asked to go to the Parish Centre for the Mass. We encourage younger parishioners to park at the Botanical Gardens.

7:00 p.m. Mass

9:30 p.m. Festival of Carols and Poems

10:00 p.m. Mass During the Night

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Mass During the Day

STEWARDSHIP - A WAY OF LIVING

December 11 Offertory Collection

Thank you for your generous donations.

Regular Collection: **\$8,873**

Maintenance Fund: **\$265.10**

Flowers for Christmas: **\$2,263.15**

Donate Now: **\$328** Pre-Authorized Giving: **\$2,906**

Second Collection: Christmas Offering

There will be a second collection **December 24th** & **25th** weekend for the Christmas Offering.

COMMUNITY LIFE

News from the St. Vincent de Paul Society

"In short, the Christmas spirit is the Christ spirit, that makes our hearts glow in brotherly love and friendship and prompts us to kind deeds of service." - David O. McKay

Thank you for all you do for others who are genuinely in need.

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre

The deadline for this month casseroles is **Thursday, December 29, 2016**. If you can spare a few hours, contact **Eva Trace, 416.447.3040**.

Knights of Columbus Sock Drive

The Knights of Columbus, St. Francis Council 5080 welcome donations of new, heavy duty, warm socks, mitts and underwear for the Good Shepherd Centre. Please place your donations in the box marked **"Advent Sock Drive"** at the back of the Church. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Handouts in the Parking Lot

We recently had two unauthorised distributions of pamphlets and advertisements in the parking lot. Parish sanctioned events, materials and information are not promoted this way. Persons, businesses, and organizations wishing to advertise to our parishioners must speak to Fr. David or Connie Durante in order to receive permission to do so.

From time to time, we have people begging for money at the parking lot. Please give directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, one of our parishioner-run charities, which will ensure that people in need receive your support. You can place your donation in one of the St. Vincent de Paul boxes only when there is a member present, otherwise place your donations in an envelope marked St. Vincent de Paul in the collection basket or drop it off at the Ministry Centre.

Walking with the Artist: A Spiritual Journey sponsored by Ministry with Maturing Adults

Thursday, 7:30 pm, January 26, 2017, Main Hall
Katharine Lochnan, Senior Curator, Emeritus, of the Art Gallery of Ontario will discuss her current exhibition "Mystical Landscapes," which grew out of the course "Integration for Ministry," at Regis College. It will travel to Paris following its closing in Toronto at the end of January. All are welcome. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

"Giving Tree"

Bring the spirit of Christmas to someone in need. We invite you to take a gift tag from our 'Giving Tree'. We appreciate you returning your gift as soon as possible so that we can ensure all requests for help are answered - **December 19** at the latest. Your gifts will support those who seek help through **St. Vincent de Paul Society, The Community Share Food Bank, residents at Thompson House Retirement Home and Greenview Lodge Nursing Home.**

Franciscan Pilgrimage to Rome and Poland

Friar David Stachurski is part of the team that will be leading the pilgrimage from **August 7-18, 2017**. We will be walking the footsteps of **St. Maximilian Kolbe** as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata, a worldwide movement of Marian consecration he founded. Cost from Toronto is \$3,480. Brochures are available in the back of the church for detailed information.

Baking for the Youth of Eva's Place

I am very excited to announce that last Saturday afternoon at St. Bonaventure, our Youth Group came together to do some baking for Eva's Place, a youth shelter for 16-24 year olds. We had 15 youth come out to support in this ministry; we worked together for 4 hours baking, learning, and connecting. We baked 75 delicious chocolate chip cookies and 75 tasty Rice Krispy treats. Then plated them onto two circular trays, one for each baked item. Wrapped with decorative plastic and Advent coloured ribbons to finish. Finally, we gathered into a circle and said a closing prayer, thanking God for all our blessings and the opportunity to come and work together for others. Later in the evening I dropped off our donation to Eva's Place, which was very happily received! This event was huge success, and I look forward to hosting another baking event in the new year. If you would like more information about any of the upcoming Youth events in the Parish, please contact Peter Dosman, Youth Animator at pdosman@st-bonaventure.ca and check out the blog at: <http://stbonaventureyouth.blogspot.ca/>

Advent is ... O Antiphons

One particular and beautiful expression of our eagerness is found in the antiphons which precede the recitation of the *Magnificat* during Evening Prayer throughout this final week of Advent. The *Magnificat* is Mary's expression of praise and glory to God in response to being chosen to be the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:46-55). It is sung by the Church every evening as the community prays the Liturgy of the Hours. The antiphons which precede the *Magnificat* from the 17th to the 23rd of December are called the "O Antiphons." They call upon God to "Come" by focusing on different aspects of God's saving action throughout history and God's power to save by sending the Messiah. By praying them, we unite our voices and hearts in the desire for the Lord to come, so that we may be renewed in the hope given to us through the birth of Jesus Christ: The Lord who has come into the world.

Fourth Sunday of Advent... Welcoming light

Reading I Isaiah 7:10-14 (birth of Emmanuel)

Reading II Romans 1:1-7 (greetings from Paul)

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24 (the birth of Jesus)

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:24)

Questions of the Week:

Adult: Whom do you find it difficult to welcome in your life? What can you do to overcome that?

Child: What could you do this week to make someone feel welcome, as Joseph welcomed Mary?



Lighting Prayers

Fourth Week of Advent

God of new beginnings, you announced through an angel's message how you would enter the world as one of us so you could love us more deeply. As we light these candles, we reflect on Mary and how we can freely say "yes" to what you ask, just as she did.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen

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