

Saint Dunstan's Parish

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Feast of the Holy Family



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FATHER JEFF



After the Christmas lockdown last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are all grateful to be able to better celebrate the birth of Christ this year. Personally, it is wonderful to be back at St. Dunstan's after my illness last year, and to be together to rejoice in the Nativity of our Saviour "conceived by the Holy Spirit" and "born of the Virgin Mary" (Apostles' Creed).

The past two years have been difficult for us all and indeed for the whole world. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is our need for God, our need for a Saviour, and our need for each other. The Son of God has come among us as a man to dwell in our midst ~ to be one of us, so that we could experience the nearness of God, for we are His beloved children, chosen in Christ "before the world began to be holy and blameless in his sight" (Ep 1:4).

We have also been confronted with the fragility of life in this world and of the need to be ready to encounter the Lord whenever He comes to take us home to a better country (Heb 11:16). In all our striving, we need the help of God and one another. The pandemic has reminded us of how much we rely on others who are working tirelessly on the front lines, including those who are helping to keep our church and our liturgies safe for everyone. Our parish owes them a debt of gratitude and I thank those parishioners from the bottom of my heart for all their efforts and all who have financially supported St. Dunstan's through these difficult times. As we celebrate Christmas, may God bless our parishioners with better times ahead and a new year in which to praise and glorify Him for all His blessings, especially the gift of His Son Jesus. My best wishes for a happy, holy and joyous Christmas.

Father Jeff

PEACE

Since the pontificate of Saint Paul VI, the Catholic Church has observed 1 January as the World Day of Peace. We know that peace is a great blessing and one of the deepest longings of the human heart. We also know that real and lasting peace cannot co-exist where there is injustice, oppression and poverty. Building peace is everyone's responsibility. Each person must be committed to creating conditions that will foster peace, beginning with oneself and one's own family. The "seeds" needed to build up peace in the family and in the world are respect, humility, self-control, patience and tolerance, inner strength, generosity, goodness and kindness, joy, justice and prayer. In this Christmas season we rejoice that Jesus has given us the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist so that we could live in peace and communion with God and one another. As we commemorate Mary, the Mother of God on New Year's Day and after a year marred by so much violence, turmoil and sickness, let us resolve to pray often the rosary for peace in the world.



THE MOTHER OF GOD
JANUARY 1, SOLEMNITY OF MARY



On 1 January, the Octave (eighth) Day of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. After celebrating the birth of Christ on 25 December, it is only fitting to celebrate the Blessed Virgin who consented to God's plan of salvation and became the Mother of the Redeemer, the Word made flesh in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Mother of God" is Mary's greatest privilege and title. On this great feast day, may Our Lady inspire us to say our own "yes" to God and welcome the Saviour into our lives and hearts. Also, on the first day of the civil calendar, the Church observes the World Day of Peace, praying for peace among nations and an end to war and violence.

Please note that 1 January is a holyday of obligation in Canada.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY



Parishioners are invited to keep the Holy Father's intention in their daily prayers.

For all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originates from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



Masses For The Week

Monday 27 December
SAINT JOHN, apostle & evangelist
 10:00 a.m. Special Intention

Tuesday 28 December
THE HOLY INNOCENTS, martyrs
 10:00 a.m. The repose of Enriqueta & Arthur Gonzales
 Req.by Lisa Soropia

Wednesday 29 December
 7:00 p.m. Special Intention

Thursday 30 December
 9:00 a.m. Special Intention

Friday 31 December
Friday is a day of penitential observance
 9:00 a.m. Special Intention
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
 5:00 p.m. Special Intention

Saturday 1 January *World Day of Peace*
 10:00 a.m. Helen & Fred Halloran deceased
 relatives & friends
 Req.by the Tardif Family
 12:00 noon All Parishioners

Sunday 2 January
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
 10:00 a.m. Intentions of All Parishioners
 12:00 noon Special Intention





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