

Saint Dunstan's Church

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*Oh Come
Let us Adore Him*

NATIVITY OF THE LORD



THE PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas was the holy day closest to the heart of Saint Francis of Assisi, who, although he lived more than a thousand years after the birth of Christ, will forever be associated with Christmas. In 1223, in the little Italian town of Greccio, Francis caused a representation of the Nativity event to be assembled to remind the faithful in a visible and tangible way of the poverty and simplicity of this Birth. Following Francis' example, the Christmas Crib has become a popular tradition throughout Christendom. That Christmas Eve in Greccio, after Mass was celebrated over the manger, a certain man "saw a little child lying in the manger lifeless" and he saw Francis lift up the Child who became alive in his arms. Saint Francis' first biographer, Thomas of Celano comments, "*This vision was not unfitting, for the Child Jesus had been forgotten in the hearts of many, but, by the working of His grace, He was brought to life again through His servant Saint Francis*" (1 Celano 86).



My hope and prayer for all parishioners and friends of St. Dunstan's, is that we welcome our Saviour this Christmas and allow Him to be born in our hearts, that with Jesus alive in us, we may be instruments of God's peace, to bring Him to life in the hearts of those around us. Best wishes to you all for a happy and holy Christmas. May the Christ Child, born of the Virgin Mary, bless you with peace and joy.

Father Jeff

CHRISTMAS APPRECIATION

At Christmas time Fr. Jeff wishes to acknowledge the generous support and edifying example of so many parishioners and friends who helped our parish prepare for and celebrate the feast of our Saviour's birth. Thanks to all who contributed to the parish, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society this Christmas. Thank you for making Christmas happier for those in need. We must also thank all those who made our church and liturgy so beautiful this Christmas. Fr. Jeff and our secretary Jean wish to thank those who brought or sent cards, gifts or Christmas greetings, and to all parishiners and friends who expressed in many different ways their warm support and best wishes. May the celebration of the birth of our Savior this Christmas fill yours hearts with joy. In the New Year 2023 which will be a special year of celebration marking our parish's Centennial, may God continue to bless our parish and form all of us into His family of love and faith. Like Mary, let us open our lives to Jesus and carry Him in our hearts to all we meet.



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

This Friday, December 30, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and we pray that that God will bless all families with His peace and love. Our faith urges us to defend the stability of the family, the true meaning of marriage and the sanctity of human life at every stage which the family must nourish. A special blessing will be given to families at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Friday.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas which is the shortest of the Church's seasons, is liturgically rich and especially meaningful and beloved to the Christian people. It celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus our Saviour and the ways He manifested the presence of God among us. For the Church, only the Easter celebration of the Lord's death and rising is more important.

Christmas and its Octave centre on the great truth and mystery of the Incarnation ~ that God loves us and sent His only begotten Son in the flesh to redeem us that we might believe in Him and have eternal life. Epiphany celebrates Christ's manifestation to the world, represented by the wise men from afar. Jesus is announced as the Saviour of all people.

The Christmas season and cycle ends with the Feast of the Lord's Baptism which continues the theme of Christ's manifestation as John the Baptist points Him out as the Lamb of God and the Father's voice is heard and the Spirit is seen as a dove, attesting to the Son's mission and identity.

OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR BEGINS

St. Dunstan's Parish was canonically erected in 1923 by Archbishop Neil McNeil. The first Mass was celebrated on October 17, 1923 in the original church (the present church is the third on this site) and on October 28, 1923 the church was solemnly blessed by His Grace the Archbishop. The New Year 2023 marks the 100th Anniversary of our parish and we invite all our parishioners and friends to the opening celebration to inaugurate our Centennial next Saturday, December 31 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass, Most Reverend Robert Kasun, CSB, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto will be the principal celebrant with a guest choir and musicians. The Mass will be followed by a festive reception. A number of Centennial events will be held throughout 2023.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Children preparing for First Communion and Confirmation candidates are reminded to see Fr. Jeff after Sunday Mass every week.



Masses For The Week

- Monday 26 December
SAINT STEPHEN, the first martyr
10:00 a.m. The repose of Teofila Katigbak
Req.by her Daughter
-
- Tuesday 27 December
SAINT JOHN, apostle & evangelist
9:00 a.m. The Intentions of Delia Doram
-
- Wednesday 28 December
THE HOLY INNOCENTS, martyrs
7:00 p.m. The repose of Nathaline Fernandes
Req.by Catherine&Avelino Lobo
-
- Thursday 29 December
9:00 a.m. The repose of Maria Garibay
Req.by Maily Garibay
-
- Friday 30 December
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY & JOSEPH**
Friday is a day of penitential observance
9:00 a.m. The repose of Consolacion Primero
Req.by Family
-
- Saturday 31 December *World Day of Peace*
10:00 a.m. The repose of Kesera & Godwin
Req.by Rupesinghe Family
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
5:00 p.m. **Opening Celebration of our Parish
Centennial**
-
- Sunday 1 January
10:00 a.m. Intentions of All Parishioners
12:00noon. Intentions of All Parishioners
-





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