

Saint Dunstan's Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Masterson

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Philip Allard

Secretary: Mrs. Jean Walsh

prepare the way...



ADVENT



THE PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

This Christmas marks the 800th Anniversary of the Christmas Crib erected by Saint Francis of Assisi in the little Italian town of Greccio in 1223 in order to make vivid to the people the poverty and simplicity of Jesus' birth and to enkindle in their hearts a new love for the newborn Saviour. I invite all our parishioners and friends to set up a nativity scene in their own homes and to give thanks for this wonderful tradition that has been handed down to us. The mystery of the Incarnation which we celebrate at Christmas has captivated the imagination and captured the hearts of Christians from the beginning. God became Man: this astounding event has divided time into "before" and "after" the Birth of Christ. At Mary's consent to the Angel's message, "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14). In purest love, Our Lady brought forth her Son, born a tiny, helpless baby, and yet, He is the Mighty God and Saviour of the world. This Child, heralded by the angels, adored by the shepherds and acknowledged by the Wise Men from the East, has changed the world and the course of history like no one else. It is easy to love a baby and for generations the Baby Jesus has conquered those who come to know Him. As we celebrate our parish's Centennial Christmas, may Jesus the Lord conquer our hearts so that we proclaim Him by our lives and share His light with all we meet. May the Christ Child bless you and all the families and friends of St. Dunstan's with peace, joy and love as we begin our second century of faith and service.

My prayers and best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas.

Father Jeff

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Novena prayers in preparation for Christmas will be recited before the weekday Masses until 24 December.

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.



SOCKS, GLOVES, SCARVES DRIVE

Once again this Christmas, The Knights of Columbus are holding their annual Sock/Glove/Mitts Drive to help provide some warmth especially to men living on the street, clients of Good Shepherd Ministries. Donations of socks, gloves, mittens and scarves can be dropped off in the box in the vestibule. Also this year they are requesting donations of canned non-perishable food items, which will help Good Shepherd Ministries greatly as they feed the hundreds of needy people who look to them for help daily.

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Envelope boxes are available for pick up for all parishioners who used them this past year. If you would like to start using Offertory envelopes in 2024, please fill out a registration form at the Information Desk and box will be available for you to pick up next weekend.



REQUESTING ANNOUNCED MASSES 2024

We now have available the 2024 Mass Book. If you would like to book your special Mass Intentions for 2024, please see the receptionist at the Information Desk after Mass on the weekend or call Jean in the parish office 416-694-2811 ext 2. Please book your special dates early so as not to be disappointed.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS

Children preparing for First Communion and candidates for Confirmation are reminded to see Father Jeff after Sunday Mass every week, to assure him of their presence.



Masses For The Week

Monday: 25 December

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10:00 a.m. Intentions of All Parishioners

12:00 noon Intentions of All Parishioners

Tuesday: 26 December

SAINT STEPHEN, the first martyr

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday: 27 December

SAINT JOHN, apostle & evangelist

7:00 p.m.

Thursday: 28 December

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, martyrs

9:00 a.m. The repose of Luz Palacio-Egargo

Req.by Arzaga Family

Friday 29 December

Friday is a day of penitential observance

9:00 a.m. The repose of Julita Columba-Sookhai

Req.by Jacinta & Family

Saturday: 30 December

10:00 a.m.

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH

5:00 p.m. Anthony & Dorothy D'Souza

Req.by Family

Sunday: 31 December

10:00 a.m. Intentions of All Parishioners

12:00 noon The repose of Alfredo Gurtiza & Family

Req.by Family

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

5:00 p.m. *World Day of Peace*

Monday: 1 January

10:00 a.m. Intentions of All Parishioners

12:00 noon Intentions of All Parishioners





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