

Saint Dunstan's Church

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THE PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

For the entire Church, the Holy Year 2025 in which we were all called to be “Pilgrims of Hope” has been an especially significant year for Catholics due to the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday, April 21 and the election of Pope Leo XIV on May 8. As I witnessed on my own Jubilee pilgrimage to Lourdes, Assisi and Rome, the crowds thronging these sacred sites were enormous, including many families and young people giving us all reasons to hope for the future. Also significant was the canonization of two young saints Carlo Acutis and Piergiorgio Frassati who afford wonderful examples for modern youth of lives centred on Christ. In October, St. Dunstan’s was blessed to host Carlo Acutis’ Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit which attracted many viewers from our parish and beyond. This event paved the way for our annual Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in November. Now as the Jubilee comes to a close and we celebrate once again the Birth of the Saviour, let us reflect on the common English name for this great feast “Christmas” which means Christ’s Mass or Mass for the Birth of Christ. The very name Christmas, then, reminds us that the Eucharist is at the centre of our celebration. Let us make the Eucharist our “highway to heaven” as Saint Carlo Acutis did. *Father Jeff.*

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.



Confessions:

Monday 22 December ~ 9:45a.m.-11:00a.m.

Tuesday 23 December ~ 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve ~ Wednesday, December 24

7:00 p.m. ~ 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day ~ Thursday, December 25

10:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 noon

Mary the Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1

10:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 noon

**Please note: Christmas and 1 January are
Holydays of Obligation in Canada**

PLEASE SIGN UP!

Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Ushers are asked to volunteer for the Christmas and January 1 liturgies by signing the schedules in the sacristy or in the Ushers Room.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

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.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Novena prayers in preparation for Christmas will be recited before the weekday Masses from 16-24 December

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Each week Holy Communion is brought to residents at the two Long Term Care Facilities in our parish, True Davidson Acres and Chester Village by co-ordinator Imelda Mapili and volunteers. We are in need of more volunteers to help in this important and consoling ministry which spiritually sustains Catholic residents. If you can assist, please call Imelda at 416-690-0636 for more information.

SOCK, GLOVES + FOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus are holding their annual Sock & Gloves Drive, this year they are including non-perishable foods. All donations go to Good Shepherd Ministries, downtown Toronto to aid the homeless of our city. There is a box in the vestibule to place your donations.

ADVENT MOVIE SERIES

This Sunday, our final film in the series "Mother Teresa", an award-winning film by Canadian sisters Ann and Jeannette Petrie which is considered the definitive portrait of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner who captured the attention of the world. Shot over a period of 5 years in 10 countries on 4 continents, and narrated by Richard Attenborough, this 1986 film follows Mother Teresa into some of the most troubled areas of the planet. Movie critics Siskel & Ebert gave it "two thumbs up! wonderful...absolutely fascinating". Peter Stack, writing for the San Francisco Chronicle wrote "Enough to charm a cynic...one of those films that makes us pleased to be a human being".

This movie starts at 4:00 p.m. in the Church.

**Masses For The Week**

Monday 9:00 a.m.	22 December Repose of Etienne John De Villiers Req. by Philip De Villiers
Tuesday 9:00 a.m.	23 December Repose of Benito Salvador Req. by Esperanza Salvador & Family
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	24 December Special Intention *
7:00 p.m.	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Intentions of All Parishioners
12 Midnight	Intentions of All Parishioners
Thursday 10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon	25 December Special Intention* Intentions of All Parishioners
Friday 10:00 a.m.	26 December SAINT STEPHEN, the First Martyr Protection of Unborn Children Req. by Masses for Life Project
Saturday 10:00 a.m.	27 December SAINT JOHN, apostle & evangelist Patrice Munyazikwiye & Family Req. by Marie Claire
5:00 p.m.	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Repose of Relojas Family members Req. by Marieta Renacido
Sunday 10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon	28 December Intentions of All Parishioners Repose of Filomena Rodrigues Req. by Regina





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