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The Parish Community of St. Leonard

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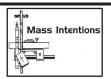
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OUR PARISH TEAM:

Pastor - Fr. P. John Nosan Associate Pastor - Fr. Benny Joseph Ezhormattam Deacon - James Bell



Oh Come Let us Adore Him



Saturday, December 30

9:00 a.m. - **VICTOR BELLUOMINI R.I.P.** 5:00 p.m. - **BARBARA FERNANDEZ R.I.P.**

Sunday, December 31 - Feast of the Holy Family

9:00 a.m. - KENNETH & VIRGINIA HO R.I.P.

 $10{:}30~a.m. \textbf{-} \quad \textbf{FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH}$

12:00 noon- JENNIFER MAHABIR R.I.P.

Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

5:00 p.m. - IRENE & LOPE VIDAD R.I.P.

Monday, January 1-Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

10:30 a.m.- ANTONIO DI MASCIO R.I.P.

12:00 noon- FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Tuesday, January 2 - Sts. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen

7:00 p.m. - CHRISTINE RECLASADO R.I.P.

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 p.m. - ADRIANO RODRIGUES R.I.P.

Thursday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:00 p.m. - BRENDA MURRAY R.I.P.

Friday, January 5

9:00 a.m. - NITA PACCEHO KHAN R.I.P.

7:00 p.m. - MARINA DAVID R.I.P.

Saturday, January 6 - St. André Bessette

9:00 a.m. - INT. OF WALTER DEMELO

5:00 p.m. - **JAMES BELVEDERE R.I.P.**

Sunday, January 7 - Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 a.m. - **DIMITRA SINAJ R.I.P.**

10:30 a.m.- **JERRY PYJOR R.I.P.**

12:00 noon- FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Readings for December 31

Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3.12-21

Luke 2.22-40

A Celebration of Marriage in the Archdiocese of Toronto

MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO

Sunday, February 11, 2024, 3:00 p.m. St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica 65 Bond Street, Toronto

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Special recognition and reserved seating available for couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ anniversaries in 2024

For more information and registration visit www.archtoronto.org/marriage



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

In 1893, Pope Leo XIII instituted the Feast of the Holy Family as a liturgical celebration to be celebrated in any diocese that requested it. The feast continued to spread, bringing about a renewed appreciation for the sacredness of family life. In 1921, three years after

the end of World War I, Pope Benedict XV, sharing the concerns of his predecessor Pope Leo XIII, added the Feast of the Holy Family to the universal Church calendar.

In 1964, while making an apostolic visit to the Holy Land, Pope Paul VI gave a beautiful speech in Nazareth on the Holy Family. This speech is now included in the Office of Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family. He begins by saying, "Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning." In that speech, the Holy Father wanted to help make Jesus' family life, culture, and daily interactions as a child tangible and relatable to all so that His childhood, along with the role of His parents, would be a source of reflection for the strengthening of the family.

As we honor the Holy Family, one of the best ways to do so is to prayerfully ponder the daily life that the Holy Family shared. Because Scripture does not record many of their family interactions in Nazareth, much is left to our prayerful imagination. What we do know is that human familial virtue within the Holy Family, especially between mother and Son, was at a level of perfection. The kindness, respect, obedience, unity, charity, and every other Christian virtue that they lived must become the model for Christian living and for family life.

(from mycatholic.life)



FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, January 5th is the First Friday of the month. Mass, Adoration, and Confession will be celebrated in the morning at 9:00 am. and in the evening

beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Adoration, followed by Mass.

GOOD SHEPHERD OUTREACH

The next drop off date for the Good Shepherd Prepare-a-Meal Program is Saturday, January 6th from 11:00 till noon around the back of the church. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.



NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, December 31 - 5:00 p.m. Monday, January 1 - 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon (No 9:00 a.m. Mass)

As well as Sundays, this is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 495) teaches.

Called in the Gospels "the mother of Jesus," Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as "the mother of my Lord." In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God" (Theotokos).

Mary was declared the Mother of God (Theotokos) in 431 AD at the Council of Ephesus.

Confirmation Enrollment forms for students **not** attending one of our seven parish schools are available on our website or contact the office. Please return the form, along with a copy of the student's Roman Catholic baptism certificate. Classes will begin later in the new year.



Friars Student Writing Contest 2024 (November 8, 2023, to January 15, 2024)

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

High school students (ages 13-19 years) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event that commemorates the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18-25. Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2024 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions.

Resources for the theme: https://rb.gy/; Entries can be submitted to:

https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward. CONTACT: ecumenical@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 (Ext. 527) for more information or questions.



Offertory envelopes for **2024** are available downstairs in the first room. If you used envelopes in 2023, you will find a box with your name.

If you would like to begin using envelopes in 2024, unlabelled boxes are available in the sacristy upon request or call the office. Please write the name to be used for your tax receipt and full address on the first few envelopes that you use.

PLEASE DISCARD ALL OLD ENVELOPES

Tax receipts for 2023 will be issued by the Archdiocese of Toronto by the end of January/beginning of February. All 2023 envelopes received by **December 31st** will be included in the 2023 tax year. Donations with 2024 envelopes will be included in the 2024 tax year.

** We have not been able to identify Envelope user #46. If you have this number, please contact the office.**

Update Regarding the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

On December 12, 2023, the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

Recipients include the **Embrace Life Council** located in Iqaluit, Nunavut, that will receive \$250,000 over five years. The funds will be used for grief care packages to assist those mourning the loss of a loved one by suicide.

Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation.

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service 2024- Sunday, January 21, 2024, 4 p.m.



Venue: St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral (455 Ferrier St., Markham, Ont. L3R 5Z2)

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

Join Archbishop Francis Leo and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.

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