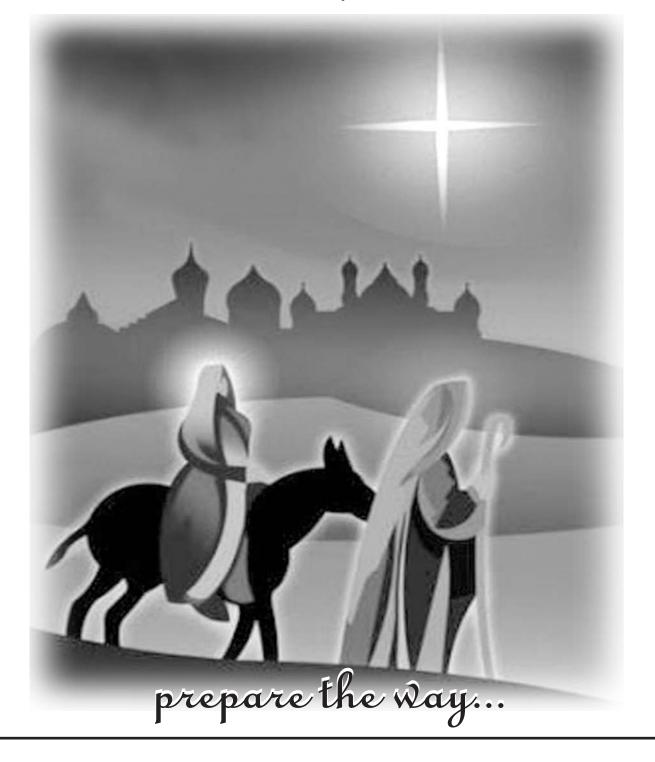


Rev. James Cherickal, Pastor Rev. Fr. Jibin Joy, Associate



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 24

8:00 AM For intentions of St. Anne's Community

10:00 AMSpecial Intentions12:00 PMSpecial Intentions5:00 PMCHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS8:00 PMCHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

12:00 AM MIDNIGHT MASS

Monday, December 25

10:00 AM CHRISTMAS MASS 12:00 PM CHRISTMAS MASS

Tuesday, December 26

9:15 AM Fr. James' Ordination Anniversary

Wednesday, December 27

9:15 AM † Reggie Schembri

7:00 PM † Maria Pontes - In thanksgiving – Julian

Ricaud

Thursday, December 28

9:15 AM † Irene Placidus Elmi

Friday, December 29

9:15 AM † Taryn Granger & Luis Rego 7:00 PM Ashton & Teresa – In thanksgiving and in Petition

Saturday, December 30

9:15 AM † Jyoti Nayagam



Lamp Intentions

SANCTUARY LAMP 1:

In memory of Danny Walsh

SANCTUARY LAMP 2:

In memory of Marina & Gabriele Curini

SACRED HEART LAMP: In memory of Nicola Maramieri

ST. ANNE LAMP:

For the souls of Jose & Olivia Verdade

DIVINE MERCY:

† Maria & Orlanda Maramieri

PADRE PIO:

Special Intention



Do you want to Change the world?

We have stepped to the last Sunday of Advent. Dawn of the Christmas. Mass readings speak about preparations that God made for Jesus to be born among us and as one of us.

First, the incident is taking place in Nazareth - not Rome, not Athens, nor any of the other great centers of power (most interestingly later we heard "can anything good come from Nazareth?"). But God chose that place. Secondly God chose a young girl called Mary.

Now we can start our discussion. When God wants to do something he is not looking for any qualifications of a person or where he/she stays. We all know that. Then what is he looking for? In his heart. Right. What qualities. Simply that person should need God. Why I say that? Look at the message (most suitable word will be the promise) that Mother Mary received?

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,"

Now Mother Mary doesn't know a man. So only way this promise can be fulfilled is with the help of God.

It is the most important thing in the miracles. When person was chosen by a God and given a promise then that person has to willingly depend on God. It is a journey. That is what Mother Mary did.

Mother Mary expresses his willingness by saying

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Do we think the story ends there? NO. Mother Mary continues to live that journey with God. May be she saw God every time she saw Jesus as Jesus say who ever sees me sees the farther.

How do we know Mother Mary lived the journey with God? Miracle at Cana. As we all know she was a pretty silent figure. But she was always looking after others. At the wedding of Cana she knew it was her moment to act. Her action was let Jesus know. She was sure that it will be done. Not because anything but because her relationship with God. She has done that and kept quiet. Miracle happens. Do you think if the couple let Jesus know about the situation miracle would happen. I don't think so. God has appointed people and when that appointed people acts God acts too.

When we get all the main points it can be summarized in to three.

- 1. God needs people to do his work.
- 2. That people should depend on God.
- 3. When that people act God also act. (There are so many examples in the Bible. Peter at the Golden Gate is one of them. Moses at the Red Sea is another)

Simply God needs earthly dwelling place for his actions. In today's first reading we hear a dwelling place built by David. It was a magnificent temple. We all know that Paul has said to Corinthian's that "You are the temple of God". Mother Mary became first tabernacle. We are also invited to become dwelling places for Jesus by personally accepting him into our hearts. It is the first part. Then he will increase our faith and lead us to obedience (last week reflection). It will be completion of part 2 (We will depend on God). When we depend on God he will prompt us when to act and what actions to make. Then we will be a blessing to others too.

Normally we complain about the situation of the world to God saying God can't you do something? Don't we? Yes God can change the world as he did two thousand years ago. Problem is he needs people (means us). He works in partnership. Problem that we have is we want to change the world by ourselves. I guess you have got the idea by now.

You have an invitation in this Christmas. Not from me but from creator of Universe. He is not happy the way universe is moving. He want people like Abraham, Moses, Mother Mary, Disciples of Jesus (people who are depend on God) to change the world to be a better place. He has a plan. All we have to do is give a room in our heart to Jesus and let him guide us. Are we ready?

Wish you a Blessed Christmas.



FROM THE PASTOR'S

My dear people,

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

As I was getting ready to write this note, I was also wondering – how many of you may really have time to read this!!!

When visiting one of the classes and asked the students "how many of you remember me from St. Anne's Church?" Many raised their hands but one little guy said: "We don't go to church because my Daddy is busy - you know..."

Right – we are so buy. Our lives are so hectic, challenging and demanding. Who has all the time for a relaxed Christmas?? It is to these noisy and busy days of our lives – Christ arrives. The creator of the universe – the Lord God himself coming as a little baby - To be with us! That is the paradox of Christmas.

Hi is coming to give peace and joy. He is coming to be with us.

Interestingly enough our preparation to receive him has taken away our peace. We couldn't find some time to be with each other...

In fact, that's the message of Christmas:

EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US.

HE is with us! The son of God. He wants us to be together! He wants us to be there for each other.

Then we will experience His peace & Jov in our lives.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! - Fr. James Cherickal, Pastor



ST. AUGUSTINE'S LAY SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM:

The Faces of Christ in the Book of Revelation January 20, 2018 (9:30 am – 3:00 pm includes Mass in seminary chapel) Cost: \$50 (lunch included) Register online: <u>www.staugustines.on.ca</u> Phone: 416-261-7207, ext. 235

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The theme announced by His Holiness Pope Francis for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Welcoming, Protecting, Promoting and Integrating Migrants and Refugees." In his message, Pope Francis reminds us that "every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age...."

A special Mass commemorating the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on <u>Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 1 p.m.</u> at the Good Shepherd Chaldean Catholic Cathedral, located at 2 High Meadow Place in North York. Bishop Kirkpatrick will be the homilist for this liturgy. A reception will follow with a number of dignitaries in attendance. All are welcome to attend!

2018 MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES Catholic Family Services

New courses are open for registration for all couples preparing for Holy Matrimony in the Roman Catholic Church.

Topics Covered: Understanding the Sacrament of Marriage, Keys to strong communication, conflict resolution, value clarification for couples, building intimacy for life and many more relevant topics

Contact: 416-921-1163 for more details. Visit: <u>www.cfstoronto.com</u> for complete schedule for 2018 programs.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, December 25 OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26 OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27 OFFICE CLOSED

<u>Thursday, December 28</u> LIMITED OFFICE HOURS

<u>Friday, December 29</u> LIMITED OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, December 30 REGULAR OFFICE SCHEDULE

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES-2018



These envelopes are available for pickup from the Stephenson room. They are in

numerical order. An alphabetical list is also provided in a binder. Kindly write your contact information on the envelopes for the first couple of weeks in January.



ST. ANNE'S FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A Ministry to Feed the Hungry

Thank You for depositing your change in the "Poor Boxes" in the lobby after Mass

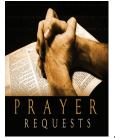




SUNDAY MISSALS for 2018 are now available in the Religious Articles Store after weekend Masses or from the parish office for \$6.00 each.

For the Sick:

Rita Veles Hermano Teves Brynda Hansraj Kathryn Burgess Manuel Rodrigues Manuel Reis Michael Atzori



For the Deceased:

Renato Ferrari Leonora Engson

