

December 27, 2015 & January 3, 2016

Christmas Reflection:

Drawing Close to God, Drawing Close to Others



Oh Holy Night

"On this holy night, while we contemplate the Infant Jesus just born and placed in the manger, we are invited to reflect. How do we welcome the tenderness of God? Do I allow myself to be taken up by God, to be embraced by him, or do I prevent him from drawing close? "But I am searching for the Lord" – we could respond. Nevertheless, what is most important is not seeking him, but rather allowing him to seek me, find me

and caress me with tenderness. The question put to us simply by the Infant's presence is: do I allow God to love me?

More so, do we have the courage to welcome with tenderness the difficulties and problems of those who are near to us, or do we prefer impersonal solutions, perhaps effective but devoid of the warmth of the Gospel? How much the world needs tenderness today! The patience of God, the closeness of God, the tenderness of God.

The Christian response cannot be different from God's response to our smallness. Life must be met with goodness, with meekness. When we realize that God is in love with our smallness, that he made himself small in order to better encounter us, we cannot help but open our hearts to him, and beseech him: "Lord, help me to be like you, give me the grace of tenderness in the most difficult circumstances of life, give me the grace of closeness in the face of every need, of meekness in every conflict".

Dear brothers and sisters, on this holy night we contemplate the Nativity scene: there "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:1). People who were unassuming, people open to receiving the gift of God, were the ones who saw this light. This light was not seen, however, by the arrogant, the proud, by those who made laws according to their own personal measures, who were closed off to others. Let us look to the crib and pray, asking the Blessed Mother: 'O Mary, show us Jesus!'. " (Pope Francis, *Christmas Homily 2014*)

Merry Christmas!

The clergy, wardens, and pastoral team of Our Lady of Fatima Parish
join in wishing you every blessing this Christmas;
in your homes, families, schools, and places of work.



ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 26th, 2015 – January 10th, 2016

Saturday 10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 26th	Saint Stephen Jeon Matthew – RIP – by the Ching family Leo, Rosa Maria & Anthony Borges – RIP – by Anne Marie
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 27th	Holy Family Bruna Alesi –RIP – by her parents Thanksgiving by Allyssa Mae Villahermosa
Monday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 28th	Holy Innocents For an end to abortion
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 29th	Saint Thomas Becket Jean Paul Caron – RIP – by Ginette Massy
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 30th	Weekday Morris Gutherz – RIP – by Jasmine Labagnao
Thursday 9:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 31st	New Year's Eve For Souls in Purgatory Alvaro Lopez Jr. – Birthday Blessings – by his family
Friday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 1st	Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day) For the People (<i>Pro Populo</i>) For the People (<i>Pro Populo</i>)
Saturday 10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 2nd	Saints Basil and Gregory Nazianzen Maggie Megelas – For Healing – by Be My Disciples Catechists Albertina Carreiro & Alzemira Branco – For God's Blessings – by Maria
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 3rd	Epiphany of the Lord Napoleon Morales – RIP – by the family Pompea and Domingo Pili – RIP – by Ludi & family
Monday	Jan. 4th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Jan. 5th	Weekday Thanksgiving by Estelita Racadio
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 6th	Weekday Luisa Bencito Atas & Rosalina Mojica – RIP – by the family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 7th	Saint Andre Bessette Jean Paul Caron – RIP – by Ginette Massy
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 8th	Saint Raymond of Penyafort Harry Caragianis – RIP – by Ginette Massy
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 9th	Weekday Anniversary Thanksgiving – by Nelson & Vilma
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 10th	Baptism of the Lord Justino Dalisay – RIP – by the Dalisay family Feliks Rewers – RIP – by Wanda Rewers

Schedule of Masses

December 24 th (Regular Mass)	- 9:00am
December 24 th (Christmas Eve)	- 8:00pm and 10:00pm
December 25 th (Christmas Day)	- 11:00am
December 26 th (Saturday)	- 10 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.
December 27 th (Regular Mass)	- 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.
December 28 th (Monday)	- 9 A.M.
December 29 th (Regular Mass)	- 7 P.M.
December 30 th (Regular Mass)	- 9 A.M.
December 31 st (Regular Mass)	- 9 A.M.
December 31 st (New Year's Eve)	- 4:30 P.M.
January 1 st , 2016 (New Year's Day)	- 9 A.M. and 11 A.M.



Feast of the Holy Family (December 27)

"On this first Sunday after Christmas, the Church is celebrating the Feast of the *Holy Family*... The Holy Family, enables us to appreciate the gift of *family intimacy* in a special way, and spurs us to offer human warmth and concrete solidarity in those unfortunately numerous situations which, for various reasons, lack peace, harmony, in a word, lack "family".

The message that comes from the Holy Family is first of all a message of *faith*: the family of Nazareth is a home which truly centres on God. For Mary and Joseph, this choice of faith becomes concrete in their service to the Son of God entrusted to their care, but it is also expressed in their mutual love, rich in spiritual tenderness and fidelity... When parents and children together breathe this atmosphere of faith they have a ready energy that enables them to face even difficult trials, as the Holy Family's experience shows." – St. John Paul II



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, our Lady's greatest title. This feast is in the octave of Christmas. In the modern Roman Calendar only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave.

The Catechism (n. 721) teaches: "Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom."

Envelopes for 2016 Sunday Offerings

Envelopes for 2016 Sunday offerings are at the front of the Church. **PLEASE TAKE ONLY THE BOX WITH YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON IT.** If you have never used the envelopes and wish to start, please ask for a new box at the Rectory or call (514) 747-4226 during office hours (8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.) to register. **We request all users to please put your name and address on the first few envelopes for the New Year to ensure proper recording.** Thank you.