

December 24, 2017 & December 31, 2017

CHRISTMAS IS...

"To us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Is 9:5). Today the mystery of Christmas is renewed: this Child who brings salvation to the world is also born for the men and women of our own time, bringing joy and peace for all. We approach the crib with emotion; together with Mary we go to meet the Long-Awaited of the Nations, the Redeemer of humanity.

Cum Maria contemplemur Christi vultum. With Mary let us contemplate the face of Christ: in that Child, wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in the manger (cf Lk2:7), it is God himself who comes to visit us, to guide our feet in the way of peace (cf. Lk 1:79). Mary watches him, caresses him and keeps him warm, pondering the meaning of the wondrous signs which surround the mystery of Christmas.

Christmas is a mystery of joy!

The Angels sang in the night: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased"* (Lk 2:14). To the shepherds they described the event as *"a great joy for all the people"* (cf. Lk 2:10).

Joy, despite distance from home, the poverty of the manger, people's indifference, the hostility of power.

A mystery of joy nonetheless, for in the City of David *"to you is born this day a Saviour"* (Lk 2:11). The Church shares in this same joy, surrounded today by the light of the Son of God: the darkness can never obscure it. It is the glory of the Eternal Word, who out of love has become one of us.

Christmas is a mystery of love!

The love of the Father, who has sent into the world his only-begotten Son, to bestow on us the gift of his own life (cf. 1 Jn 4:8-9). The love of "God-with-us", Emmanuel, who came to earth in order to die on the Cross. In the cold stable, wrapped in silence, the Virgin Mother, with prophetic intuition, already tastes the violent drama of Calvary, the traumatic struggle between darkness and light, between death and life, between hatred and love. The Prince of Peace, born today in Bethlehem, will give his life on Golgotha, so that love may reign on earth.

Christmas is a mystery of peace!

From the cave of Bethlehem there rises today an urgent appeal to the world not to yield to mistrust, suspicion and discouragement, even though the tragic reality of terrorism feeds uncertainties and fears. Believers of all religions, together with men and women of good will, by outlawing all forms of intolerance and discrimination, are called to build peace: [...] May humanity accept the Christmas message of peace!

Adorable mystery of the Incarnate Word!

Together with you, O Virgin Mother, may we stop and reflect at the manger where the Child lies, to share your own amazement at the immense "condescension" of God. Grant us your own eyes, O Mary, that we may understand the mystery hidden within the frail limbs of your Son. Teach us to recognize his face in the children of every race and culture. Help us to be credible witnesses of his message of peace and love, so that the men and women of our own time, still torn by conflicts and unspeakable violence, may also recognize in the Child cradled in your arms the one Saviour of the world, the endless source of that true peace for which every heart profoundly yearns.

- Saint John Paul II's 2002 Christmas Message

ANNOUNCED MASSES
December 23rd, 2017 – January 7, 2018

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 23rd	Sunday Vigil Felix O. Manzanal –RIP– by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Dec. 24th	Fourth Sunday of Advent Maria E.S. Ponte, Maria Melo and Jose Ponte – RIP– by Conceicao and Jeremias Pacheco Chiara Durinzi – RIP – by the Alesi family Laverne Moran – RIP – by the family Bill Yvorchuk – RIP – by the family
Monday 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 25th	Christmas: Nativity of the Lord <i>For the People (Pro Populo)</i>
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 26th	Saint Stephen Pompea and Domingo Pili - RIP – by the family
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 27th	Saint John Father Roger Begin, PME – RIP – by Larry and Alice Panado and family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 28	Holy Innocents Vincent Sankarelli – RIP – by the Leekam family
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 29th	Saint Thomas Becket Ricafer Fumar – RIP – by the Fumar family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 30th	Sunday Vigil John Simonka – RIP – by the family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Dec. 31st	Holy Family Lucy D'Souza - RIP – by the Catechists Adrian de Souza – Rip – by the family Maria E.S. Ponte – RIP – by Connie, Jim & family
Monday 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 1st	Mary, Mother of God <i>For the People (Pro Populo)</i>
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Jan. 2nd	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen Deceased Members of the Machny and Sinakewecz families – RIP – by Betty
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 3rd	Most Holy Name of Jesus Gisele Boisvert – RIP – by the Hebert family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 4th	Weekday Charles Leekam – Birthday Blessings – by his sisters
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 5th	Weekday For the Holy Family – by the Ferraro family
Saturday 10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 6th	Sunday Vigil Thanksgiving and Blessings – by Ana Gabuat and Children Helen Annett – RIP – by Pauline Butkus
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 7th	Epiphany Gloria David – RIP – by Julia Father Russel Schultz & Deceased Members of Our Lady of Fatima Choir – RIP – by the Choir

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

Collection:
December 17, 2017 - **\$2,727.85**
Thank you for your generosity.

Merry Christmas!

Thank you Almighty God, for taking up our broken humanity, to bring us your healing power, and renew the world by the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, born this day to bring us your redemption. Heavenly Father, as we approach the manger crib of our saviour; may we be filled with the humility of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Amen!

HOLY INNOCENTS: December 28th

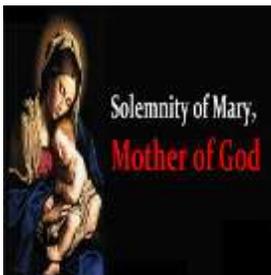


The 'Holy Infants' are the male children recorded slain by King Herod in Matthew's Gospel. This unique episode in Jesus' life is not found in any other document, secular or religious, yet this incident, along with the account of the flight into Egypt, presents the ancient tradition of the early Church: Jesus as the 'new Israel,' persecuted and forced to flee, and the 'new Moses,' marvelously rescued from the slaughter of the Hebrew children.

This feast also points to Jesus as the Messiah and foreshadows the secular opposition, Jesus will later meet, culminating in his Passion.

- *Living with Christ, January 2018*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD: January 1st



Of all the Marian feasts of the Church, this day dedicated to Mary, Mother of God is the greatest. Drawing on scriptural and patristic sources, it celebrates Mary's role in the Incarnation and in redemption. In this way, her special relationship with her son is emphasized, and she is acknowledged as a model of the Church. January 1st is marked as a holy day of obligation in Canada.

- *Living with Christ, December 2017*

HOLY HOUR



Silent adoration every Tuesday evening, following the 7:00pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm) Also, Adoration every Friday, following the 9:00am mass (from 9:30am to 10:30am). Come and spend some time with the Lord!

"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace." -St. Alphonsus Ligouri

ENVELOPES FOR 2018 SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Envelopes for 2018 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 (9 A.M. to 2:00 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.