

Dates	Time	Mass Intentions and Celebrations	Prayer Calendar
<b>MONDAY, December 24</b> 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-12, 1 Luke 1.67-79	<b>5:00 pm</b> <b>8:00 pm</b> <b>12 midnight</b>	If you are visiting our community this Christmas, St. Francis Xavier Parish welcomes you!	Rev. Francis Hubilla
<b>TUESDAY, December 25</b> Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-16	<b>8:30 am</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>11:30 am</b>	Insert with Mass intentions for Floral arrangements: "in Memory of", and "Special Intentions" for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, is placed in this week's Christmas bulletin.	Nativity of the Lord
<b>WEDNESDAY, December 26</b> Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59 Matthew 10.17-22 <b>St. Stephen, (Feast)</b>	<b>8:30 am</b> <b>6-6:45pm</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	† Raffaele Mascia <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> † Clara Pagliari † Pierina Pin † Rafaella & Carmine Pasquale † Fr. Gerald Warren † Rafaella & Antonietta Pasquale † Holy Souls in Purgatory † Fr. Patrick Bodendistel	Franciscan Fathers
<b>THURSDAY, December 27</b> 1 John 1.1-4 John 20.2-8 <b>St. John, (Feast)</b>	<b>7:30 am</b>	† Orlando Verrecchia	Rev. Ronald Voisin
<b>FRIDAY, December 28</b> 1 John 1.5 - 2.2 Matthew 2.13-18 <b>Holy Innocents, (Feast)</b>	<b>7:30 am</b> <b>8 – 9 am</b> <b>5 – 7 pm</b>	† William Meek <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b> , in the Church (Benediction at 9 am) <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b> , in the Church (Benediction at 7 pm)	Rev. Duy Van Nguyen
<b>SATURDAY, December 29</b> 1 John 2.3-11 Luke 2.22-35 <b>St. Thomas Becket, (OM)</b> <b>Our Lady's Saturday (OM)</b>	<b>8:30 am</b> <b>4 – 5 pm</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>	† Pierina Pin <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> † Frank Zonka † Carmela Centritto † Filomena Trotta † Macabuag-Jara Family † Macabuag- Guerrero Family † Pasqualina Mazzetti † Msgr. Roger Formosi	Rev. Kevin D'Souza
<b>SUNDAY, December 30</b> Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3.12-21 Luke 2.41-52	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>11:00 am</b> <b>4:00 pm</b>	† Antonio & Dina Paolone † Anthony Salvatori † Stefano Fortunato	Sunday within the octave of Christmas: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### World Youth Day Retreat



World Youth Day is an event that takes place every 2 - 3 years in a different country and brings together mainly Catholic young adults from all over the world for 1 - 2 weeks of faith-formation events and cultural experiences. A group from our parish had the blessing of taking part in World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. The next World Youth Day is taking place in Panama in late January 2019. Our parish is not sending a group this time, but is starting to think about plans to attend the following World Youth Day (the date and location of which will be announced at the conclusion of the events in Panama on Sunday, January 27th). Do you think you might be interested in attending World Youth Day in the future, or experiencing a little bit of the events in Panama?

**We will be having a retreat at the parish from the afternoon of Saturday, January 26th to the afternoon of Sunday, January 27th.** The retreat will include the opportunity to watch coverage of the final World Youth Day events, as well as other activities on this World Youth Day's theme: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your Word." (Luke 1:38) The retreat will be geared to ages 16 and up. Teens, young adults, and adults are all invited to attend. A registration form with finalized details will be available on the youth ministry page of the parish website and in the letter trays in the Narthex starting in early December.

### Blessing for Christmas

The following prayer can be used as the Grace before Meals at your Christmas dinner:

*Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the Universe: We turn to You in prayer and ask You to bless us and this food You have given us, as we celebrate Your Son's birth, for He is Our Wonder Counsellor, Mighty God and Prince of Peace. Help us to be generous toward others, and to work with them so that they too may eat well. Loving Father, may we who celebrate around this earthly table know the joy of feasting in Your Kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ Your Son. Amen.*

### A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

MARY: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother is our next Bible Study starting **January 8, 2019** and ending February 26th. We meet on Tuesday evenings 7pm to 8:30 pm. To register and for more information: call Vera - 905-561-9099 or email vfedorik@skyline.net. (Register early - we need to know how many workbooks to order.)

### A Gift for You

We are pleased to give you a free subscription to formed.org. Discover all the best Catholic content in one place. Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks, and a great selection of popular ebooks—all just a click away! It's easy to get started: Go to: **formed.org** - click: Register, enter this code: **4B3RPK**. Enter your email and create a password (you'll need this to login later) You're all ready to access the inspiring and engaging content on FORMED!



### The Children's Liturgy



The Children's Liturgy team is looking for new volunteers. Children's Liturgy is offered at the 9 and 11 am Sunday Masses from September - June. Volunteers are usually scheduled for one Mass every 3 - 4 weeks, and have a variety of roles including preparing short lesson plans, proclaiming readings, leading prayers, assisting with worksheets, and doing set-up and clean-up. This is a very rewarding ministry to be part of. We are looking for adults in particular at this time to join the team, but also welcome anyone who is in Grade 8 or older. If you would be interested, please contact Wes at the Parish Office by January 18th.

### 2019 Offering Envelopes

2019 Offering Envelopes will be available in the Chapel Hall next Sunday. If you have used envelopes this past year, there will be a box for you in 2019. **Please do not use envelopes from previous years or envelopes from other Parishes.** This will result in posting errors to your account. For parishioners

### Dear parishioners:

"May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious birth has illuminated this most holy day, drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue."

**Merry Christmas from the Parish Staff!**



### Blessing of a Christmas Tree

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing. In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

**Introduction:** My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: His birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our

minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

**Let us pray:** Lord our God, we praise You for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise You for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise You for Jesus Christ, Your Son: He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of Your love. Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Parenting Tip of the Month

Christmas is a season of great excitement and joy, filled with gifts, sharing love and visiting with our family and friends. These are wonderful parts of Christmas, but it is important to help our children remember that the holiday is really about the birth of Christ. Jesus taught us to look toward others; to feed the hungry, care for the sick and so much more. The greatest gift we can give our children is the ability to look outward towards what others need, as opposed to looking inward to what "I" want. Help your children to learn that is in giving that we truly receive.

### Holiday Office Hours

During Christmas Season the Parish Office will be **CLOSED** on:

- Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)
- Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> (Boxing Day)
- Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Day)

### Holy Days of Obligation

In Canada, the holy days of obligation are the following: **every Sunday, Christmas Day** (December 25<sup>th</sup>) and the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (January 1<sup>st</sup>). On holy days of obligation, the faithful gather to express the fact that the Church is not self-generated but is always called to worship God. On that occasion, we come to hear the Word of God, take part in the Eucharist and give thanks to the Lord for having been incorporated into Christ. Therefore, one must take part in the celebration of Mass either on the same day or at the vigil Mass on the previous evening.

### Year-end Donations

CRA regulations prevent us from accepting 2018 donations in 2019. If you would like to make a "year-end donation", please do so **before or by December 30, 2018**. Donations received after December 30<sup>th</sup> must be credited for 2019. Your co-operation and understanding is appreciated. As a registered Charitable Organization, the Parish must comply with these CRA regulations. Thank you for your understanding.

### Knights of Columbus Thank You!

The sales of the Christmas cakes was well received this year and all the cakes were sold. Proceeds will be put to Campaign Life Coalition in support of Pro-Life issues.

who do not have envelopes and would like to begin using them, please complete a Parish registration form and indicate at the bottom of the form that you would like to support the parish through the use of offertory envelopes. The envelopes will be available for you the following weekend. For parishioners who travel south for the winter, please call the office and we will be happy to hold on to your envelopes until you return home. **Another option for all to consider is signing up for automatic withdrawal donation option. Pamphlets with additional information and forms are located in the narthex of the church.**

### Christmas Pageant - Thank You

A big congratulations to the students and volunteers who put on this year's Pageant on Christmas Eve! Thank-you for giving of your time and talents during the busy month of December to bring the Christmas story to life for our parishioners. You did a great job!

**Student participants:** Isaiah Alas-Dasila, Merna Bedawed, Leah Caruso, Luca Castellani, Julia D'Ambrosio, Giuliano DiMambro, Amber Hirsch, Ava Mago, Lily Morris, Sabrina Pontillo, Dominick Przerwa, Nameesha Sakariyas-DE, Tami Sakariyas-DE

**Volunteer team:** Lindsay Adoranti, Gabriel Centritto, Nancy Centritto, Michael Kosior, Cassandra Lenjosek, Felicia Pereira, Victoria Pereira, and AJ Pettorossi

Merry Christmas!!!

### Questions of the Week

**Theme:** Jesus, our Saviour, was born of the Virgin Mary, so that God could dwell among us.

**Question for Children:** What do you want to tell others about the birth of Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** How can you share the good news of great joy with others?

**Question for Adults:** Jesus, God's very own Son, is God's greatest and most generous gift to us. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise and proof of God's incredible love for us. How do you return to God your greatest gifts?

### Share the Journey #sharejourney

**"Share the Journey" walk for refugee assistance**

In continuation of this year's campaign to assist refugees, our parish's Development and Peace group is planning a fundraiser walk which will take place on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The walk will include prayer, music, and the opportunity to hear real-life stories of refugees. The group is looking for adults and students in Grades 7 and up who would like to be part of the walk's planning team. This would involve meeting several times starting in the winter, assisting with advertising, preparing supplies, collecting funds, planning the programme for the walk, and being present on the day for various roles. If you would be interested, or would like more information, **contact Wes** at the Parish Office by **Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**. The first meeting will take place before the end of January.