

*Pastor's Note:*

In our readings this Sunday it seems as if we have two sets of readings, each pointing to something different. One the one hand, we have the First and Second Readings and the Responsorial Psalm in which the word joy is mentioned in each. The Prophet Isaiah writes, "God will lead Israel with joy." The Responsorial Psalm says, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy." And St. Paul confesses that he prays "with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you." On the other hand, in the Gospel, we have St. John the Baptist, who proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. When we think of repentance, we don't necessarily think of joy. But without a doubt, the two are joined.

Of all the sacraments that we often participate in, the one we least look forward to, and the one we have the most anxiety about, and maybe even dread, is the sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession. It is this sacrament that most clearly echoes John the Baptist's call to repentance. In my own life of faith, I often drag my feet about going to Confession. I put it off because I'm embarrassed. I wonder what the priest will think of me if I tell him what I've done, said or thought. I'm tempted by a voice that says, "Better to keep things as they are. Keep pretending so that everyone can keep thinking well of you." The mistake I make with Confession and repentance is that I think it's about my sinfulness— I think it's about the thought, words, and actions that I've done that I wish I hadn't. The Sacrament, and repentance is not about our sinfulness, rather, it is about the faithful and merciful love of the Father. This means that the moment I think a judgmental thought about another, if I am speaking a harmful word or doing a harmful action, the love of the Father is being poured fully into my heart. And when I confess or repent I am proclaiming that more than anything I believe in the love of God in my life. And when we believe in the love of God in our lives, without our having to think of it or having to force ourselves, we become a people of joy. Joy, in a way, is how love breathes and speaks. So in Advent, as we remember the Lord's first coming and wait for the Lord's return in glory, we prepare by repenting. And when we repent we are not saying how bad we are, but instead how precious and beautiful we are. For God has said so, and so, it must be true. Let joy be sound of our words. Let joy be the expression of our actions. For we are joyful because we are loved—because we are loved by a love that knows no limits, that will not stop.

God Bless and Take Care, *Jr. John*

**Advent Parish Mission:**

Join us for our Advent Parish Mission, to be held in the church **December 7, 8 and 9 at 7:30 pm.** **Fr. Michael Rosinski, S.J.** will guide us through these evenings of reflection and prayer. This year's theme is: **"Welcoming Christ into our Hearts."**

+++++

**Advent Reconciliation Service:**

**Monday, December 14** is the designated **Day of Confession** here in our parish. On that day we will have confession times scheduled 11am to noon and 4pm to 5pm. Our **Advent Reconciliation Service** will take place that evening beginning at 7:30pm. We will have a number of priests available for individual confession. Come and celebrate the gift of God's faithful and merciful love – a wonderful way to enter into the Year of Mercy!

+++++

**Sacrament of the Sick Communal Celebration:**

Join us for a celebration of the Sacrament of Healing on **Thursday, December 10, at 3:00 pm.** Seniors, as well as those with chronic illnesses or in need of surgery are invited to experience the sacrament at this time.

+++++

**Christmas Eve Children's Nativity Play**

Preparations are underway for our Christmas Eve **Children's Nativity Play.** For those who would like to take part, there are *two scheduled rehearsals.* Any child interested in participating in this year's Presentation please contact the Parish Office at 416-924-6257 for more information about rehearsal times or speak with Sr. Mary Babic or Luz Mustacho.

+++++

**PLANTS FOR CHRISTMAS:**

If you wish to contribute any seasonal plants and flowers for our Christmas décor, please leave them on the table by the Sacristy door during between **Friday, December 18 and Wednesday, December 23.** Our decorating team begins bright and early on December 24<sup>th</sup> to set up for our Christmas celebrations. Thank you for your generosity and for contributing to the beauty of this special season in our church.

+++++

**Christmas Schedule:**

If you haven't already, be sure to pick up a copy of our Advent and Christmas Schedule, available at the entrances of the church and from our Parish Office. The schedule includes the Mass times for Christmas and New Year's as well as our Reconciliation Service and Confession times throughout Advent.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, December 7**

8:00 am MAMERTA T. ORTIZ + [Kris, Claudia & Family]  
 12:10 pm Thanksgiving-Birthday [Connie Saavedra]  
 5:15 pm Lawrence Tauro + [Lynnette]

**Tuesday, December 8**

8:00 am Samuel Fox - Blessing [Kabsoon Phu]  
 12:10 pm SR. ERLINDA ABUEG + [Fanny Quimson]  
 5:15 pm SUSAN MATOS & KATHY BAGSHAW'S INTENTION  
 [Amy Federis]

**Wednesday, December 9**

8:00 am Douglas Fox's Birthday [Theresa]  
 12:10 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory [Eden]  
 5:15 pm Fr. John Sullivan's Intention & Thanksgiving [Estela]

**Thursday, December 10**

8:00 am MARIA SUN + [Family]  
 12:10 pm Joseph Shen + [Chow Family]  
 5:15pm MARGARITA LOCSO ENCARNACION + [Fides Quilantang]

**Friday, December 11**

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]  
 12:10 pm Porferio Domingo & Bernardo + [Annabelle & Eleno]  
 5:15pm Huban Ramos + [Susan & Kathy]

**Saturday, December 12**

8:00 am James Chow + [Elenita Derama]  
 12:10 pm Mr. P. Selvarajah + [Selvarajah Family]

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

*Valentin Raquino, Justina Aldover, Flora Silfavan,  
 Jose Goulart & Renee Pelino*

+++++

**Jubilee of Mercy Begins December 8**

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy will begin on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and continue until November 20, 2016 – the Feast of Christ the King. The Holy Father, Pope Francis invites us to live out the great Jubilee, modeling our lives on the merciful love of the Father, as revealed in the life of Jesus Christ. As the holy doors open, let us attune ourselves to the merciful love of the Father, “whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.” (Pope Francis)

+++++

**TAKE HOME YOUR BOX OF ENVELOPES TODAY!**

The 2016 Church Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. They are set up in alphabetical order. **Please take the box with your name on it home today. Thank you!**

+++++

**St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection:** Today, at all of our Masses, there will be a voluntary collection for the St. Vincent de Paul society. For those of you who wish to contribute, there will be envelopes available in the pews. Simply drop your envelope into the collection basket at the same time as you do your regular Sunday offering.

+++++

**Out of the Cold: A History of Caring by Michael Swan Book Signing:** Share a bit of Toronto's history of caring for the homeless as told in Our Lady of Lourdes author Michael Swan's new book, *Out of the Cold: A History of Caring*. The book will be available Sunday, December 6 in Bernadette Hall after the 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Masses for 33 per cent off the cover price – just \$10.00 taxes included. Michael Swan will be there to answer questions and sign your copy.

+++++

The St Jamestown Youth Centre is holding its Annual Christmas Holiday Concert here at Our Lady of Lourdes on Friday, December 11th at 7:00PM featuring the Steel Orchestra and the Singing Group. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.

+++++

**The All Inclusive Ministries (AIM) Christmas Potluck** is an annual tradition. It takes place on **Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**. We are planning to have turkey, ham, homemade stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce for all those attending. Possible dishes you could bring include: beverages; veggies; potatoes; bread; desserts; and condiments (butter, salt, etc.). To register (so that we can plan for the number of people coming) and tell us what dish you'll be bringing (if able), please kindly speak to Todd at 647-522-2367. Note that for this gathering, **the Mass will begin earlier than usual at 5:30 p.m. in Lynch Hall followed by the potluck.**

+++++

**BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH**

*“The glory of God is a living person and the life of each living person is the vision of God.”*

*~ St. Irenaeus of Lyons, 2<sup>nd</sup> Century*

<b>Lourdes @ a glance: the week of December 6 - 12</b>						
<b>Sun 6</b>	<b>Mon 7</b>	<b>Tues 8</b>	<b>Wed9</b>	<b>Thurs 10</b>	<b>Fri 11</b>	<b>Sat 12</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent RCIA 11:30am	Advent Parish Mission 7:30 pm [Church]	Feast of the Immaculate Conception  Advent Parish Mission 7:30 pm [Church]	Advent Parish Mission 7:30 pm [Church]	Communal Sacrament of the Sick 3pm [Church]	St. Vincent de Paul Christmas	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  St. Vincent de Paul Christmas