

Pastor’s Note:

In the First Reading of this past Tuesday’s Mass there was a sentence from St. John’s Epistle that I had never noticed before. St. John said that as Christians, we are to walk as Jesus walked. When I think of the Christian life, I often think in terms of behavior. There are commandments in the Old Testament; the moral teachings of the Church; and our own customs to follow. But St. John seems to be saying something different, something more. Being a disciple of the Lord is not primarily about following rules and instructions that are outside of us, rather is about living according to the life of Christ in an internal way. What I mean by this is the invitation of God to make Christ’s life our own.

With his nativity and incarnation, God has made our lives his own and through his grace we can make his life our own. We may wonder how this could ever be. But I think the joy expressed in our readings this week give us a hint. The Prophet Isaiah proclaimed “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!” In the Second Reading, St. Paul writes how we “have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus.” And, in the Gospel, we hear how when the three wise men “saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.” The joy of the Lord’s coming is the understanding in our hearts that God has taken up our life. We can so often feel a great distance between ourselves and God, maybe even a distance that’s too big to ever be bridged. But when the Father sent the Son to be born of Mary, that distance –that gap—has been bridged by God. This gift of the Lord Jesus is not just for some or the select few but it is for everyone. And like the wise men who saw it and knew it, we are overwhelmed with joy.

There are so many things in my life, in my heart, in my faith that I wish were different. I wish I could be a better disciple of the Lord. Yet, what is infinitely more important is that my life, all of our lives, with all their imperfections, is taken up in God’s love. God does not wait for everything in our lives to be perfect; he takes it all up in his love now. God has saved us and set us free. As we come to know the incomprehensibility of his love, our hearts become light because our hearts rejoice. And it is only

through our knowing that he has taken up our lives in love that we can ever dare to make his life our own. For me today, this is the epiphany – the revelation of the Father’s love in Christ Jesus – and the revelation, through that love, of our own identity. We all desire to walk in light and not in darkness. We all desire to make our home in God’s kingdom. The truth is just before us. It is so clear and concrete and yet it is so hard for us to take hold of. If we are to walk as he walked, to live in love as he lives in love, we want to be who God has made us to be. We are children of the light; we are children of the Father. And so, like the wise men, we are “overwhelmed with joy.”

God Bless and Take Care, Fr. John

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Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will soon be offering Sacrament of Confirmation preparation classes for young people in grades 8 through 12. If your son or daughter is currently enrolled at Our Lady of Lourdes School, he or she will be registered through the school. **If your son or daughter is enrolled at any other Catholic school or a public school, you can pick up a Confirmation registration form at our Welcome desk in Bernadette Hall after our Sunday Masses, or at our Parish Office throughout the week.** For further information, please call **416-924-6257**. We look forward to welcoming all of our Confirmation candidates.

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Sacramental Preparation: The Session 2 Sacraments Class will begin Saturday, January 23rd at 10am for children preparing for *1st Confession & 1st Communion*. This program is for children ages 7 to 13 who are not currently enrolled in a Roman Catholic school. To register your child or children, please call the Office at 416-924-6257. The program will end on Easter Sunday, at the end of March.

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Planning for Marriage? If you have begun planning your wedding, or are hoping to prepare for the sacrament of Marriage in 2016, we are here to help. Just call the parish office at 416-924-6257 or email us at parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca and we will send you one of our Wedding package. It’s full of important information for couples planning to be married in the Catholic Church. We can also help you register for one of our marriage preparations programs and to set up an appointment with Fr. John for your pre-nuptial appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 4

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]
 12:10 pm Intention of Ana & Family [Ana]
 5:15 pm Vladas Jaskus + [Saulius Jaskus]

Tuesday, January 5

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Henriette Cudmore]
 12:10 pm GUALDINE & NANING JOLAMPONG + [Letty Jolampong]
 5:15 pm Octavio Gallardo + [Sheila Byrne]

Wednesday, January 6

8:00 am FLORA SILFAVAN + [Clemente & Family]
 12:10 pm TERESA DADULA'S BIRTHDAY INTENTION [Georgina]
 5:15 pm Thanksgiving – 20th Wedding Anniversary [Tony & Helen]

Thursday, January 7

8:00 am Eufronia Bagon + [Gloria Torio]
 12:10 pm GRACE CIANCIOтта + [Tony Cianciotta]
 5:15 pm Joseph Kaposi's Intention [Mike & Lydia Sherlock]

Friday, January 8

8:00 am Vincent Smith + [Yvonne Parnell]
 12:10 pm Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes & the Holy Family
 [Mary Liu, Lily, Andrew & Danielle]
 5:15pm All Souls in Purgatory [Cora Balatero]

Saturday, January 9

8:00 am DAIZY RATHAKRISNAN + [Rajah Family]
 12:10 pm Servant of God, Alfie Lambe + [Legion of Mary]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
Ernesto De Leon & Gelacio Limbauan

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2016
Ecumenical Prayer Service

Come and join His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins in an ecumenical prayer service with Anglican Archbishop Colin Johnson, Chaldean Catholic Bishop Emanuel Shaleta, Evangelical Lutheran Bishop Michael Pryse, and other city-wide religious leaders on **Sunday, January 24 at 4pm at Good Shepherd Chaldean Church, 2 High Meadow Place (north-west of Finch Ave., and Hwy 400)**. Homilist: His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins. Parking is available. Refreshments to follow in church hall. For further information, please contact the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs at 416-934-3400 ext 344 or email vkwok@archtoronto.org

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Thinking about baptism? Are you considering become Roman Catholic? The Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults or RCIA is for you. The RCIA is designed for those who are thinking about or would like to be Baptized and for those who have been baptized but not Confirmed. If you would like to know more, call us at 416-924-3259

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On **Saturday, January 16** the Tamil community invites everyone to celebrate **PONGAL** (New Year). The celebration will take place at **Msgr Fraser School at 5:00pm**. Following the Mass we will have a short cultural program to celebrate PONGAL. **Almsgiving** is an important part of **PONGAL** - gifts of **rice or other canned goods** can be put in the PONGAL pot which will then be given to our Lourdes Food Bank.

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Our Lady Of Lourdes School
Registration for Kindergarten

Registration into Our Lady Of Lourdes Roman Catholic School for September 2016 begins Monday January 13, 2016. All children born in 2012 are eligible to attend Kindergarten beginning in September. The following documents are required for registration: Child's Birth Certificate (Certificate of Citizenship or Landed Immigrant Status); Child's Catholic Baptismal Certificate (or other proof of Catholicity); Child's Immunization Record; Proof of residency in Toronto. For more information please call 416-393-5221.

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BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

"If poor judgment is harmful to everyone, it is particularly so to those who live with great strictness."
 ~ St. Mark the Ascetic

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of January 3-9						
Sun 3	Mon 4	Tues 5	Wed 6	Thurs 7	Fri 8	Sat 9
<i>Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord</i>						