

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Nativity of the Lord

MOTH-LIKE, I AM instinctively attracted to light. My inner child is enchanted by the kaleidoscope of colours displayed in Christmas neighbourhoods, by twinkling fireflies on a summer evening, or by festive fireworks displays. My spirit is soothed by candle glow and firelight, by shimmering moonbeams on new snow, by dappled sunlight through the trees. On a practical level, I am thankful for flashlights and lanterns to light my way during a power blackout. Light is an essential, uplifting and transformative element in our lives.

The Nativity readings glow with images of light. Isaiah proclaims: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Psalm 97 exults in the light that will "shine on us this day." John's Gospel, too, speaks of a light shining in the darkness, "and the darkness did not overcome it." What we celebrate today is Jesus as the radiance of God bursting forth into our darkened world.

But it is not enough for us to be merely passive recipients of that light. We are called to become, each of us, a light for others. Often the darkness surrounding us may seem to be impenetrable. Alone, we each may be only a tiny firefly of a wavering candle flame. Joined together in the light of Christ, however, we can illuminate and transform our world.

*(Reflection of Krystyna Higgins, from Living with Christ)*

### Christmas and New Year's Schedule

#### Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

Masses: 4:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight

#### Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

Masses: at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

#### Feast of the Holy Family

(Regular Sunday Schedule)

Saturday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> – Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, Masses: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

#### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

New Year's Eve – Thursday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, Mass at 4:30 p.m.

New Year's Day – Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Mass at 9:30 a.m. &  
11:00 a.m.



### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

4:30 p.m. + Josef Stojko

#### Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

8:00 a.m. In Thanksgiving for Fr. Patrick O'Dea's  
34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priesthood

9:30 a.m. + Linda Kwan

11:00 a.m. + Vincenzo Saracino

#### Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

8:30 a.m. Theresa Yang

#### Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

8:30 a.m. + Maria & Joseph Koon & Agatha Kim

#### Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

8:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving – Rev. Father James Hurley

#### Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

8:30 a.m. + Margaret Alore

#### Christmas Eve (December 24<sup>th</sup>)

4:30 p.m. In Thanksgiving – Medina & Peredo Family

7:00 p.m. + Bernard McNamee

Midnight Special Intention of Jacob Park & Family

#### Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. + Francis Song

11:00 a.m. + Pietro Mazzitelli, Pietro Turco and  
Eugenio Girimonte

#### Family of Faith Campaign

Thank you to all who have donated, so far, to the Family of Faith campaign, in support of the Archbishop's Pastoral Plan, and with funds also assisting the projects and goals of our own parish. A special thanks to all who offered a pledge last weekend.

We are still in the process of verifying all submitted pledge forms with parishioners, to ensure accuracy, and to follow up on others who have requested specific phone calls. However, to date, we have received over \$800,000 in pledges. This is a tremendous accomplishment on behalf of our parish.

Fr. Pat will brief the community at the weekend Masses. Thanks be to God!

#### Workshop

CWL Workshop – Leadership Course

Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thank you to all who assisted in our annual Angel Tree Program, to include Patricia Murphy-Masse, her assistants, and to all who helped Frank Leaver in organizing the St. Vincent de Paul distribution of Christmas items to the needy of our local community. This year, we also welcomed the support of the newly formed Knights of Columbus Council.

A special thank you to Kurt and Sue Metzler, for ensuring delivery of the items to St. Paul's Basilica. Mostly, thanks to all of you, the parishioners, for your most generous support. Hundreds of children, and others, will experience a brighter Christmas this year. Your love and care is a reflection of Christ's love for the poor and needy. God bless you for that!

Last Sunday, we hosted a Children's Christmas party, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. As one can imagine, it turned out to be a wonderful celebration for the kids and their families. I am very grateful to the Knights of Columbus, the Young Adult Group, and to members of the parish social committee ((Rosanna Del Grosso, Genny Gonsalves, Jasmine Carvalho, and Geraldine Rebello) for organizing the food and the crafts. In addition, a special thanks to some of our Confirmation students who helped to serve the food, and to Connie Marsh for organizing the young children who portrayed Mary and Joseph. I would be remiss if I did not thank Mario and Maria Roccha for ensuring that Santa and Mrs. Claus could make time out of their busy schedule to visit the children! Obviously, a fun time for all and it was great to see the children so happy.

Finally, I thank all who are working so diligently in our preparations to welcome a refugee family to Canada, and to all who have offered donations in support of Project Hope. I am very inspired by the love, support and dedication of this parish community as it continues to open its heart to those most in need. We shall keep you informed of our progress.

As we look forward to Christmas, please know of my thoughts and prayers. I shall remember you, in a special way, in the Masses at Christmas.

Fr. Pat

### **Mary's Prayer**

It wasn't that long ago  
that He'd spoken those stars  
into being  
and this woman's life  
was just a thought in His mind.  
He'd smiled down on her birth  
and entered her name in his pages  
perhaps with an asterisk  
denoting plans too sacred to be spoken  
but pondered in His heart.  
Now,  
newborn,  
in wide-eyed wonder  
He gazes up at His creation,  
his hands that hurled the world  
holds tight  
a mother's finger.  
Holy light  
spills across her face  
and she weeps  
silent wonder tears  
to know she holds the One  
who has so long  
held her

### **New Offertory Envelopes**

Those who have not yet picked up the new offertory envelopes for 2016, please do so in order that you can start using them in January; they are arranged numerically. In the event you forgot your envelope number, a listing of last names and numbers is also available at the table. Please verify your number with your name on the label. New parishioners are welcome to sign up for envelopes on a special form which will be provided on the same table.

### **Project Hope**

The Project Hope Refugee Committee continues to work closely with the Office of Refugees of the Archdiocese in preparation for welcoming a refugee family with the support of our parish. As one can imagine, the work is sometimes slow and tedious, but all is moving forward. The committee will brief the parish once final decisions on a refugee family have been confirmed.