

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

WHAT WOULD IT feel like to stand before John the Baptist who is admonishing you to confess your sins? It sounds scary, but is there not a longing in us for the healing and wholeness he is offering?

John is preparing the way for God's definitive Word who will come into our midst. His call to repentance is a call to stand before Almighty God, the All-Good, the All-Holy, and to recognize ourselves as sinners. Recall Isaiah seeing God in the Temple and exclaiming, "Woe is me... I am a man of unclean lips... among a people of unclean lips!" (Isa 6.5) Or Peter's awareness, after Jesus directs him to the abundant catch of fish: "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (Lk5.8)

Seeing ourselves as sinners before God, and confessing during this Advent/Preparation season, is not meant to make us feel bad. Rather, we acknowledge who we are in order to open ourselves to what God wants to do for us. Through gentle mercy and graciousness, God frees us from sin and its consequences, inviting us into the kingdom of heaven announced by John and Jesus.

And what is this kingdom of heaven? In today's readings Isaiah describes a kingdom of peace and justice. Then Paul says it is where we find "encouragement... to live in harmony with one another." This is the purpose of repentance.

*(Reflection of Fr. Mark Mille, CSsR, from Living with Christ)*

### Traditional Lessons and Carols Service

St. Edward's Church

Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the Holiday season. Join the choir and musicians of St. Edward's parish for a reflective evening of sacred music. We will present a glorious selection of Advent music. Join in singing well known Christmas hymns. Light refreshments to follow. All are welcome! There will be no admission fee. A free-will offering would be appreciated for the work of the Sisters of Life.

If you've ever thought of joining the choir, we are admitting singers strictly for the preparation of the Lessons and Carols Service. Attendance at 3 rehearsals will be required. Please email [marcfmichalak@gmail.com](mailto:marcfmichalak@gmail.com) for more information.

### Trip to Ireland

Join the parishioners of Blessed Trinity and St. Edward's for a fabulous 15 day tour of Ireland, departing from Toronto on August 21, 2017.

For additional information pick up a flyer at the Welcome Table or contact **Pat Sexton at: 905-773-6773 or 1-866-907-8687** or [www.rityvacations.com](http://www.rityvacations.com)



### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Florence Kean

#### Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Annabel Marchildon

#### Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Consilia Huh

#### Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Bernadette Carvalho

7:30 p.m. + Helen Vida

#### Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Multi-intention

8:30 a.m. + Thomas Aquinas Kil

+ Juan Chin

#### Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

4:30 p.m. + Josef Stojko

#### Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

8:00 a.m. + Richard Callan

9:30 a.m. + Palmieri De Bonis

11:00 a.m. + Dr. Ernest Mastromatteo

### Advent Retreat

St. Edward's and Blessed Trinity Church will co-join for an Advent Retreat.

**Theme:** "Faith, Hope, and Love: A Gift Beyond Any Other"

**Retreat Director:** Fr. Tomasz Skibinski, Rector of Redemptoris Mater Seminary

**Location:** Blessed Trinity R.C. Church  
3220 Bayview, Ave., Toronto, ON,  
M2M 3R7

**Dates:** Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. Mass  
(Retreat follows)

Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. Mass  
(Retreat follows)

Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. Mass  
(Confessions follow)

### Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Immaculate Conception

St. Edward's will have an additional Mass on Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m., in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. (in addition to the regular morning Mass at 8:30 a.m.). Msgr. Ambrose Sheehy to preside and preach.

DECEMBER 4, 2016

**St. Edward the Confessor Church – Choral Scholarships**

**A special scholarship fund has been set up for high school students in music studies who would like to share their gift of music at Sunday Mass.**

**Looking for** – One female and one male singer

**Skills** – A strong singer with a previous choral experience, good sight-reading skills and a voice that blends.

**Duties** – Scholars are expected to exhibit strong commitment to choir duties and to play a positive and enthusiastic role in the work of the choir. Thursday rehearsals, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. Sunday Mass: 11 a.m. (brief rehearsal, prior, at 10:30 a.m.). Some extra rehearsals required throughout the church year for liturgical feasts (Christmas, Holy Week and Easter). Open to cantering at other masses as well.

**Repertoire** – we sing a variety of the best sacred music from the Renaissance to Contemporary.

**Renumeration** – Scholarship of \$1000 per liturgical year (September to June)

**Audition** – contact the Director of Music, Marc Michalak at: [marcfmichalak@gmail.com](mailto:marcfmichalak@gmail.com) to arrange an audition.

For further information, contact the Pastor, Fr. Patrick O’Dea, at: [frpatodea@yahoo.com](mailto:frpatodea@yahoo.com)

Students with other musical gifts (pianists, violin, etc.) interested in using their talents are invited to speak with Fr. Pat as well, for other possible opportunities at the parish.

**Calling all Children!**

Children from Grades 3 – 12 are welcome to sing at the Christmas Eve Children’s Choir, December 24<sup>th</sup> at the 4:30 p.m. Mass.

If interested, church musicians Clea Soare and Marc Michalak will prepare the children at 3 rehearsals prior to Christmas Eve.

**Rehearsal Dates:** Thursday, Dec. 8, Dec. 15, and Dec. 22.

**Rehearsal Time:** 6 – 7 p.m. in the Church

To sign-up, parents may contact choir Director, Marc Michalak at: [marcfmichalak@gmail.com](mailto:marcfmichalak@gmail.com)

**Vocation Discernment Retreat**

The Office of Vocations invites single Catholic Men, 17 years and older to attend a Vocations Discernment Retreat from Dec. 9 to 11, 2016 at Manresa Spiritual Renewal Centre, Pickering. (Starts Friday at 7 pm). This is a good retreat for men who are at crossroads in discerning God’s desired vocation for them. The retreat offers Guided reflections, Holy Mass, Adoration, confession and the assistance of a vocations team. Suggested donation of \$150 to help cover costs. For more information, call 416-968-0997 or email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)

**Lay pastoral Visitors Training**

Office of Formation for Discipleship will be offering the Lay Pastoral Visitors Training beginning on January 11, 2017. This training is designed to prepare lay persons to provide pastoral visits and/or bring Holy Communion to the sick and shut-ins of our parish communities. Participants are required to attend all 6 days. New and seasoned volunteers are welcome to attend. This training will be held at **St. Edward the Confessor Parish, North York on Wednesdays January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8 & 15, 2017 – 6:30pm to 9:00pm.** There is no cost to attend, however registration is required. For further information, please visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/our-catholic-faith/programs-and-workshops> or call (416) 934-3400 ext.523

**Day of Confessions**

The Archdiocese has asked all churches to hold a day of Confessions during Advent. We shall host it on Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, at various times of the day to allow parishioners the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Pat has set the following schedule for St. Edward’s Parish:

**7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**St. Edward Young Adults**

Our next **Young Adult gathering** will be held on **Wednesday, December 7 at 7pm** downstairs in our parish basement. The hope of these gatherings is to offer a welcoming, positive, and prayerful space for young adults looking for community. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided for the evening.

University/college students, young professionals, singles, and engaged and married couples between the ages of 19-35 are all welcome! Please contact Kimberly at [stedwardyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:stedwardyouthministry@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Children’s Christmas Party**

The Knights of Columbus will host a Children’s Christmas party on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, in the parish hall, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Parents and children welcome