

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st Sunday of Advent

A NEW BEGINNING! Exciting words – a chance to start over with a clean slate. Who wouldn't relish the possibility of starting over and getting it right?

The First Sunday of Advent is the Church's way of announcing the beginning of a new liturgical year – and this Sunday the beginning of the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. Today's readings give us a recipe for how to "get it right," not just for ourselves but for the whole world.

Advent is a time of expectant preparation for the celebration of Christmas. We observe it as a season of prayer, fasting and repentance – the ways Christians "start over."

In a sense it is also the beginning of the rest of our life. The readings give us the key for how to live in this moment and for all time in peace and harmony.

The words of the prophet Isaiah tell of the coming of a judge who will help people from all nations to surrender their weapons and make peace. And in that peace, we are told to choose light over darkness. That light is the coming of Christ, for whom we "must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Exciting? Indeed – a message of hope – the coming of a Saviour and the key to preparing for eternity.

(Reflection of Patrick M. Doyle, from Living with Christ)



Mass Intentions

Monday, November 28th, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Jeffrey Callaghan

Tuesday, November 29th, 2016 Multi-Intention

8:30 a.m. + Claire Rivera Timog
+ Juan Chin
+ Margaret Fonseca

Wednesday, November 30th, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Anna Sachs

Thursday, December 1st, 2016

8:30 a.m. + Franc Zelko

Friday, December 2nd, 2016 Multi-intention

8:30 a.m. + Maria Kang
+ Dennis Santiago
7:30 p.m. For the Protection of Unborn Children

Saturday, December 3rd, 2016

4:30 p.m. + Jacqueline McCaig

Sunday, December 4th, 2016

8:00 a.m. Special Blessings for Thomas Callaghan
9:30 a.m. Birthday Wishes for Brian Wong
11:00 a.m. + Pietro Turco

Dear Parishioners:

What a great joy to have Deacon Favin Alemao with us last weekend as he gave his first homily since his Ordination as Deacon the previous weekend. I wish to thank the Catholic Women's League for hosting the reception that followed the 11 a.m. Mass. Please keep Deacon Favin in your prayers as he prepares for his priestly ordination on Saturday, May 13, 2017, at St. Michael's Cathedral.

This week, we begin Advent, a season of hope and renewal as we prepare for Christmas. I wish to remind you of some initiatives we have planned, to include an Advent Retreat.

Blessed Trinity Parish and St. Edward's Parish will co-join for an Advent Retreat, Monday, December 5th – Wednesday, December 7th, 7 p.m., at Blessed Trinity Parish (3220 Bayview Avenue). The Retreat begins each night with Mass at 7 p.m. Fr. Tomasz Skibinski, Rector of Redemptoris Mater Seminary, Toronto, will offer the retreat. On the final night, Wednesday, Dec. 7th, following Mass, a number of priests will be available for confessions.

I also welcome all parishioners to attend our Advent "Reflection and Carols" Service on Saturday, December 10th, from 6 - 7 p.m. For those attending the regular 4:30 p.m. Saturday evening Mass, we will have a brief time of refreshments before the start of the 6 p.m. service should you wish to stay for the Carol Service. There will also be refreshments following the one hour Advent Service.

In addition, I wish to invite all the seniors of the parish for the second annual "Seniors' Lunch", Wednesday, Dec. 7th at 12:00 Noon. In order to appreciate numbers, a sign-up sheet will be available after each Mass this weekend.

The Knights of Columbus of St. Edward's Parish will host a Children's Christmas Party, Sunday, Dec. 18th, in the parish hall, following the 11 a.m. Mass. Parents and children welcome.

Finally, I thank the Knights of Columbus for helping with this year's "Angel Tree" Program, as well as to Patricia Murphy-Masse, Mary Ellen Herron-Mead, and the St. Vincent de Paul Association for their great work with this worthy project. This program helps to provide toys and gifts for the needy children of our community, as well as those served by St. Paul's Basilica (downtown). Parishioners are welcome to take a tag from the tree which highlights the need of a specific child. For those wishing to donate a monetary donation more directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Association, you are welcome to pick up one of the envelopes in the pews, marked "St. Vincent de Paul", and place in the collection basket on the weekend of December 4th when we will have a second collection to support their great work.

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

In conclusion, I wish you a happy Advent. Let us keep one another in prayer. God Bless.

Fr. Pat

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 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 to arrange an audition.

For further information, contact the Pastor, Fr. Patrick O’Dea, at: 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 possible other opportunities at the parish.

POINSETTIAS, CRAFTS & MORE SALE

Saturday, Dec. 3rd, from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4th, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In the Church Hall

Deadline to **pre-order** poinsettia plants is this weekend. There are 5 sizes and 4 colours to choose from. Order forms available at the Welcome Table. For additional information, please contact Susan Barry at 416-223-5261.

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.ritvacations.com

Calling all Children!

Children from Grades 3 – 12 are welcome to sing at the Christmas Eve Children’s Choir, December 24th 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

Traditional Lessons and Carols Service

St. Edward’s Church

Saturday December 10th 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 for more information.

Day of Confessions

The Archdiocese has asked all churches to hold a day of Confessions during Advent. We shall host it on Friday, Dec. 16th, 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.

**Friday, December 2nd, First Friday Holy Hour,
Benediction and Mass**

Join us on Friday, December 2nd, for First Friday Holy Hour (6:30 – 7:30 p.m.), followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.