

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Pastor's New Year Message

A comment often heard these days is, "Where does the time go?"

As I sat in conversation the other night with a young student, I was struck by the realization of how precious time can be, and yet how quickly one day becomes another.

The challenge, I suspect, is to find time to pause, and to reflect carefully on the past months and year, in order to better appreciate and to savour what happened and how each memorable experience can shape our present and future lives.

As we approach the New Year 2017, I wish to pause to reflect and to be grateful for the past year at St. Edward's Parish. The events we have celebrated and the times we have shared as a community of faith have indeed been a sacred and wonderful experience.

In a relatively short period, we have much to be grateful for. We have sponsored trips, and celebrated the Seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. We welcomed new Catholics into the Church, affirmed children and their families as they received the gifts of Baptism or First Communion or Confirmation, supported couples who married, mourned with those who experienced the loss of a loved one (and celebrated their loved ones at Mass), and enjoyed the various picnics, socials and Retreats. As well, we served the sick and needy in our Outreach Programs, and we look forward to sponsoring a Refugee family despite its slow, slow process of awaiting their arrival.

We continue to support an active outreach to seniors and have recently hired a Youth Director as we work to build up our future generations at the parish and schools. We have been blest with a good staff and a wonderful seminarian. And, God willing, our new parking lot will be completed in the spring!

So much in "only" a year! Yet, it speaks to the dedication, joy and faith of all in our community who gather for prayer, worship, and to offer their gifts in service to their brothers and sisters. That is not always easy in the midst of such a busy community. However, it has worked well, and mainly due to the involvement of all at so many different levels of Ministry. That, in my view, is what a Christian community is called to be about – all expressing their individual gifts as one body of faith.

As we begin a new year, I conclude with some thoughts from the poem, "Through the Kaleidoscope of Change", written by a student I met a few years ago at the University of Toronto (who preferred to remain anonymous):

*"I look for meaning and the meaning I find is this:
For every season of my life, God has a purpose.
And if God has a reason then I am free to go ahead
and love
Even though I know that class ends in seven days,
Or graduation is only a few months away,
Or the person living next to me may move in a year.
I will reach out and embrace friendship
Without fear of the risk that it soon may end,
For through this friendship God wants me to learn.
To love, to receive, and to give.
I will allow my roots to cling deeply to the soil around
me
Even though I know that the deeper the roots,
The harder it will be to pull them up someday.
And when things begin to change and God turns over
The well-worked soil of my experience,
I know that a new growing period is about to begin.
That's how God works in this world,
A world which never stays the same."*

Happy New Year! – Fr. Pat



Mass Intentions

Monday, January 2nd, 2017

8:30 a.m. For All Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017

8:30 a.m. + Leonardo & Caterina Renda

Wednesday, January 4th, 2017

8:30 a.m. + Jacob Bizub & Parents

Thursday, January 5th, 2017

8:30 a.m. Special Intention – Gennaro Family

Friday, January 6th, 2017

8:30 a.m. Special Intention – Altilia Family

7:30 p.m. For the Protection of Unborn Children

Saturday, January 7th, 2017

**4:30 p.m. For all Deceased Members of the
Devorat Family**

Sunday, January 8th, 2017

8:00 a.m. + Bernadette Carvalho

9:30 a.m. Deceased Members of Gasparini Family

11:00 a.m. + George vanMierlo

JANUARY 1, 2017

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 to arrange an audition.

For further information, contact the Pastor, Fr. Patrick O’Dea, at: frpatodea@yahoo.com

For Current and New Ministers to the Sick

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, visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/our-catholic-faith/programs-and-workshops> or call (416) 934-3400 ext.523

Band of Christian Brothers Men’s Conference

On **February 18th** join **Fr. Larry Richards** and **Archbishop of Montreal Christian Lépine** for Serviam Ministries’ 2nd annual **Band of Christian Brothers Men’s Conference** at Canada Christian College in Toronto. The theme is “Step Up”. The day will strengthen and challenge men to become the man God created them to be. Mass, Adoration and Confession will take place.

New Offertory Envelopes

Those who have not yet picked up the new offertory envelopes for 2017, please do so in order that you can start using them. Thank you



New Year Schedule

New Year’s Eve – Saturday, December 31st

4:30 p.m.

New Year’s Day – Sunday January 1st

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Are You Considering a Religious Vocation?

Mary treasured all that God had done for her, and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, **contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997** email vocations@archtoronto.org

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Special Father/Son rates available. All info and tickets: <https://www.serviamministries.com/events/step-up/>, info@ServiamMinistries.com or 1-888-522-2070.

**Friday, January 6th
First Friday Holy Hour,
Benediction and Mass**

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

Please note

Office is closed – Monday January 2nd