

HOLY CROSS PARISH

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Fr. Roselle Cyrille R. Azares, Pastor

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Feast of the Holy Family



***Solo l'Amore può
Salvarci***

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word.

The moment in which God became man is wrapped in great silence. The meeting between the Archangel Gabriel and the Immaculate Virgin is entirely unobserved: no one knows about it, no one speaks of it. It is an event that, if it happened in our times, would not appear in the newspapers, magazines or TV programs.

That which is truly great often occurs unobserved. Also, tranquil silence shows itself to be more fruitful than when 'busy'. Our unrelenting and unnecessary preoccupation with earthly things makes us incapable of stopping, of being quiet, of listening to the silence in which the Lord makes us aware of his discreet voice.

On the day in which he heard of the Angel's announcement, the Blessed Mother was entirely recollected and, at the same time, open to listening to God. There is no obstacle in her, there are no walls, and there is nothing that separates her from God. Her small human heart is perfectly centred in the great heart of God.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we are reminded that the voice of God is heard not in noise and bedlam. Further, his plan for us cannot be discerned if we remain only at the surface of things, if we don't delve deeper into the silence of our heart. It is there that Mary invites us to descend to put ourselves in tune with God's action.

The conception of Jesus, our Lord and King, in Mary tells us that salvation is pure grace. Our redemption is never our work – not by science, not by technology, not by ideologies. Grace is love in its purity and beauty, it is God himself such as he is revealed in salvation history (as narrated in the Bible) and fulfilled in Jesus.

The blessed Mother is full of grace. She reminds us that the power of God's love and mercy is more powerful than evil. Also, Mary tells us that we can never fall so far down that it is too far for God, who descended to the very depths to reach us and snatch us from the devil. However

far our heart is led into error, confusion and doubt, God is always 'greater than our heart' (1 John 3:20).

The false remedies that the world proposes to fill the voids in our lives only deepen our abyss, worsen our sorrow and amplify our confusion. **Only love can save us.** However, this is not just any kind of love: it is the love that is pure and free – a love that wants only the best for us. Only the grace of God can transform and renew us. He alone can breathe new oxygen, clean air and a new energy of life into our lungs that are filled with toxins.

My soul proclaims the goodness of the Lord... The song of Mary (Magnificat) speaks to us of joy, of that authentic joy that fills the heart freed from sin. Sin carries a sadness with it that leads us to close ourselves up within ourselves. Grace brings with it the true joy that does not depend on having things but is rather rooted in the most intimate, deepest part of ourselves and that nothing and nobody can take away from us.

Christianity is viewed by many as an obstacle to joy since they see in it a collection of prohibitions and rules. In essence, Christianity is the proclamation of victory of grace over sin, of love over indifference, of light over darkness. If the Christian religion involves sacrifice and discipline of mind, of the heart and of conduct, it is precisely because there is in us egoism, which is harmful to ourselves and to others. Hence, it is necessary to say no to the voice of egoism and to say yes to the voice of authentic joy.

Mary's joy is full because there is no sin in her heart. This joy coincides with the presence of Jesus in her life: Jesus conceived and carried in her womb, then the child entrusted to her maternal care, the adolescent and the young Jesus; Jesus leaving her, followed at a distance with faith, even to the cross. Jesus is Mary's joy, of all of us.

As we once again enter a New Year, our Blessed Mother teaches us to listen to the voice of God who speaks in silence; to accept his grace, which sets us free from our harmful ways; and hence to taste true joy. Hail Mary, full of grace, pray for us your children now and forever.

Mary New Year!
Fr. RCA



Tuesday, January 2nd:

8:15 am – E. George †

Requested by Vykunthanathan Family

Wednesday, January 3rd:

8:15 am – Shirley Dillon – Thanksgiving

Thursday, January 4th:

8:15 am – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Requested by Incoronata Ambrosini

Friday, January 5th:

8:15 am – All Souls

Requested by Incoronata Ambrosini

6:00 – Holy Hour

7:00 pm – Maxima Moya- Thanksgiving

Requested by Moya Family

Saturday, January 6th:

9:00 am – Justina Encina †

Requested by Mitz Caldos

5:00 pm – All Parishioners

Sunday, January 7th:

9:30 am – Allan & Lydia Jaikaransingh & Family

Requested by Nelson & Nelia Ducusin

11:00 am – Myrtle Saldanha - Thanksgiving

Requested by D'Souza Family

7:00 pm – Mercedita Pulongbarit †

Requested by Ninfa Gasis



**Altar Servers Schedule
January 6th/January 7th, 2017**

Saturday 5:00 pm	Angeline Beltran	Angelo Beltran	Michael Orillanes	
Sunday 9:30 am	Mary Joyce Gutierrez	Ruel Gutierrez	Cheraldine Carandang	Maryrose Sabio
Sunday 11:00 am	Catherine Dipasupil	Andre Flores	Jann Ybarola	Matthew Guzman
Sunday 7:00 pm	Cerniel Cruzada	Cailean Cruzada	Joshua	Kirsten

Upcoming Events

Mondays, December 31, January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29... Al-Anon Meeting, 7:30pm - 9:30pm - in the Church Hall

Saturday, January 20, 2018 – Volunteers Appreciation Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Hall

Saturday, January 27, 2018 – Sacrament of First Reconciliation at 10:30 in the Church.



PLEASE pick up your 2018 Parish Envelopes.

If you are not able to find your envelope box or the address information is incorrect, please contact the parish office (416-421-5225). Please **do not use** envelopes from previous years.

January 1st : WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that “every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and a promise, at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the events to come.”

World Day of Migrants & Refugees

The theme announced by His Holiness Pope Francis for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees is “Welcoming, Protecting, Promoting and Integrating Migrants and Refugees.” In his message, Pope Francis reminds us that “every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age....”

A special Mass commemorating the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on Sunday, **January 14, 2018** at 1 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Chaldean Catholic Cathedral, located at 2 High Meadow Place in North York. Bishop Kirkpatrick will be the homilist for this liturgy. A reception will follow with a number of dignitaries in attendance. All are welcome to attend!

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Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in February 2018 and supports the bulletin service. Please support our bulletin and advertise your product or service. **Call Liturgical Publications at 905-624-4422.**

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