

HOLY CROSS

P A R I S H

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Feast of the Holy Family

(No) Room for the Child



Part of the Christmas tableau is the Nativity scene based on St. Luke's narrative: 'While they were there, the time for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.'

St. Francis of Assisi popularized this when one Christmas eve, he called on the villagers to stage a 'live presentation' of the scene in the stable, complete with animals. To explain why there was no place for the Baby Jesus in the inn, people imagined the innkeeper's refusal of Joseph and Mary who was heavy with child. The boy and girl playing Joseph and Mary were refused when they knocked on the door and they ended up in the church in time for the midnight mass.

This may be stretching too much the imagination but it recalls God's complaint about his people Israel: 'An ox knows its owner, and ass, it's master's manger; but Israel does not know, my people has not understood' (Isaiah 1:3).

At Christmas, the Master, the Lord, in the person of a little child is recognized by the shepherds.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in his Christmas 2007 homily, reflects on this 'room', beginning from the disposition of the Blessed Virgin Mary: "We imagine the kind of interior preparation, the kind of love with which Mary approached that hour. The brief phrase, 'She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes,' allow us to glimpse something of the holy joy and silent zeal of that preparation."

"The swaddling clothes were ready, so that the child could be given a fitting welcome. Yet there is no room in the inn. In some way, humankind is awaiting God, waiting for Him to draw near. But when the moment comes, there is no room for Him. Humans are so pre-occupied with themselves, they have such urgent need of all the space and all the

time for their own things, that nothing remains for others – for their neighbours, for the poor, for God. And the richer people become, the more they fill up all the spaces by themselves. And there is no room for others..."

Thankfully, this negative detail is not the only one, nor the last one that we find in the gospels. Just as in Luke's Gospel, we encounter the maternal love of Mary and the fidelity of St. Joseph, the vigilance of the shepherds and their great joy, just as in Matthew's Gospel, we encounter the visit of the wise men, come from afar, so too John says to us: *To all who received him, he gave power to become children of God* (1: 12). There are those who received him, and thus, beginning with the stable, with the outside, there grows silently the new house, the new city, the new world.

Have a Blessed New Year Everyone!

Fr. Roselle

***Examination of Conscience
at the End of the Year***

1. **SOUL:** Did I give priority to my relationship with the Lord? Did I take seriously the salvation of my soul? Did I pray daily and spend time to reflect on God's Word? Did I nourish myself regularly with the Eucharist?
2. **HEART:** Did I have a meaningful life in spite of my routine existence? Did I love my family and any person that God placed beside me in the present moment?
3. **MIND:** Did I see my life even my failures from God's point of view? Did I have a positive disposition before negative situations?
4. **HAND:** Did I work not only to earn money but also to love the God of work? Did I manage my time and resources well and share what I could with the poor beginning with the ones closest to me?

Fr. Andrew Recepcion

New Year Mass Schedule



The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31 Monday 7:00pm (*Vigil Mass*)

January 1 Tuesday 9:30am & 11:00am

No 7:00pm Mass

Upcoming Events

Food Drive: Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

Every 2nd Sunday of the month.

2019 Parish Offertory Envelopes Distribution

Until the end of January 2019 • Church

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

January 26, 2019 (*Saturday*) • Church • 10:30am

2019 Parish Offertory Envelopes Distribution

The 2019 Parish Offertory Envelopes are ready for pickup. Distribution will be until the **end of January 2019**.

Please take note:

- (1) Some of the assigned envelope numbers **have changed** especially those who had **envelope #376 and onwards in 2018**. Be sure to double check your name on the box.
- (2) Please **do not use** envelopes from previous years.
- (3) If you want your donation to be included in the 2018 tax receipt, the donation or cheques must be in by December 25.

**Postdated cheques that were issued after the said date will be included in the 2019 tax receipt.*

- (4) If you have a **change in address or telephone number**, please let us know before the end of December.

New Parishioners are welcome . . .

Registration Forms are available at the entrance of the Church. Kindly provide us with the complete information.

You may contact the church office at 416-421-5225 for other inquiries.



Mass Intentions

Date	Day	Time	Mass Intention for	Requested by
Jan 1	Tues	9:30am & 11:00am	All Parishioners	
Jan 2	Wed	8:15 am	Arturo & Siony Libatique – <i>Thanksgiving</i>	Ruel & Edu Gutierrez
Jan 3	Thurs	8:15 am	Shirley Dillon – <i>Thanksgiving</i>	
Jan 4	Fri	8:15 am	Ostojic Family – <i>Thanksgiving</i>	Ostojic Family
		7:00 pm	Guiseppe & Mario Ambrosini†	Incoronata Ambrosini
Jan 5	Sat	9:00 am	Incoronata Ambrosini – <i>Thanksgiving</i>	Incoronata Ambrosini
		5:00 pm	Socorro Jarabe – <i>Thanksgiving</i>	Socorro Jarabe
Jan 6	Sun	9:30 am	Allan & Lydia Jaikaransingh – <i>Thanksgiving</i>	Nelson & Nelia Ducusin
		11:00 am	Myrtle Saldanha – <i>Thanksgiving</i>	D'Souza Family
		7:00 pm	All Parishioners	



**Altar Servers Schedule
January 5th & 6th 2019**

Saturday 5:00 pm	Angeline & Angelo Beltran	Michael Orillanes	Isaiah Odejobi	Ryan
Sunday 9:30 am	Ruel Gutierrez, Jr.	Cheraldine Carandang	Arnold Carandang	Maryrose Sabio
Sunday 11:00 am	Andre Flores	Martina Flores	Matthew Guzman	Giann & Bernadette
Sunday 7:00 pm	Cerniel Cruzada	Cailean Cruzada	Joshua	Kirsten

First Friday Adoration



There will be an Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on **January 4** starting at 6:00pm followed by the Holy Mass at 7:00pm.



OFFICE SCHEDULE:

December 24, 2018 (Monday)
(open until 12 noon)

CLOSED:

December 25, 2018 (Tuesday)
to January 1, 2019 (Tuesday)

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