

# HOLY CROSS PARISH

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*Fr. Godofredo R. Claudio, Pastor*

*Deacon Albert Dacanay*

*Joan Bolanos, Administrative Assistant*



***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

57-4

<i>Mass Intentions</i>		
JAN	MASS FOR	REQUESTED BY
2 Mon, 9am	No Mass	
3 Tues, 9am	January birthday celebrants of Escabarte Family	Connie & Beth Escabarte
4 Wed, 9am	Milagros Benedicto – Thanksgiving	Connie & Beth Escabarte
5 Thurs, 9am	Emiliano & Justina Encina +	Mitz & Nemie Caldos
6 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 9am  6pm 7pm	Shirley Dillon – Birthday Thanksgiving <b>No Holy Hour</b> <b>No Mass</b>	Claudette Wilson
7 Sat, 9am  5pm	Maxima Moya + Thanksgiving to St Nicola da Bari, Blessed Carlo Acutis, St Expedite – For Nicola’s healing All Parishioners Thanksgiving – Orillanes Family	Monet Moya Lella  ..... Orillanes Family
8 Sun, 9am  11 am	Duy Nguyen – Birthday Thanksgiving Mamerta Flores +	Karin Doumouras & Family Rey Flores & Family

# Meditate on God's Word



## Sunday Gospel Reflection

Gospel: LUKE 2.16-21

### The shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph

Shepherds were considered irreligious by the self-righteous in their community because their occupation prevented them from participating in regular ritual observances. Their focus was on supervising and protecting their flocks.

The fact that they would leave their flocks in the hills in search of a newborn baby was extraordinary. If anything happened to the sheep in their absence, they would suffer a considerable financial setback – a very risky gesture on the part of the shepherds, who were likely poor.

However, they were responding to heavenly revelation, as described by Luke immediately before our reading begins:

*Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:8-14)*

This revelation wasn't bestowed on the privileged leaders of Israel but on poor, dirty shepherds.

Note that “they went in haste.” They are full of joy and eager to see the Savior — in fact, they are the first to respond to a divine invitation to seek out this child.



### *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

We would like to inform everyone that the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is every **Tuesday to Friday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass until 10:00 a.m.** in the Church **except on holidays.**



### *Let us pray for the sick*

*We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the “forgotten members” in our community.*

If you have a loved one you would like on our Sick list, please call or email us. We will keep their names on our list for 4 weeks. *Thank you.*

**Sacramental Preparations**

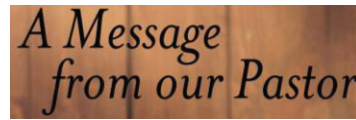
Please be reminded of the next schedule

First Holy Communion

Jan 8 (Sunday) @ 10:15am Family Gathering Session 5  
Parish Hall – Students  
Church - Parents

Sacrament of Confirmation

Jan 15 (Sunday) Session 3  
Parish Hall @ 12:15pm  
Attendance is a MUST



Fr. Godofredo  
“Freddy” Claudio

The New Year means a lot of different things to different people, we look for ways that can help us navigate our way into a new 365-day cycle. Whether we're looking to put the past behind us, learn to keep our feet planted on the ground in today, or looking for guidance as we move into new times in our lives.

**Moving Out of the Past**

At the end of each year, we spend some time in reflecting going over the things we want to leave in the past and those we'd like to hold onto as we head into the future and also help us focus on moving forward and starting fresh.

**Learning to Live in the Present**

As teens, we spend an inordinate amount of time thinking about our futures. We plan for college, look at future jobs. We wonder what it will be like to live on our own, fantasize about getting married or having a family. Yet, we often forget in all that planning that we are living in the present. It's easy at the end of each year to get caught up in reflection or in plotting out our future. A reminder to us that we also have to live in the present:

**Let God Guide Your Future**

One thing the New Year does is make us think about our future. Most of the time, celebrating the New Year at least makes us think about our plans for the next 365 days. However, we cannot forget whose hand needs to be in our future plans. We may not always understand the plans God has for us, but these New Year's scripture verse remind us:

Jeremiah 29:11 - *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (NIV)

**NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE 2023**

What happened to us in 2022? I hope that whatever happened, you can still say: "We received and experienced some blessings!" and so we ask: "What will come to us in 2023?" I propose two things we should think about and accept in this New Year 2023.

1. **TRUST.** No matter what we hear or read about what is happening or will happen, let us not worry. If there is chaos or crisis or distress and tribulation, let us not be afraid. Let us trust in the Lord God. He is more powerful. He is full of kindness. Let us get closer to Him in the New Year ahead, and trust that He will help us. And we will be BLESSED!

Our Blessed Mother, for whom the first day of the New Year is dedicated to her as the Mother of God, trusted God wholeheartedly. Let us ask for her intercession that we may also do the same in 2023.

2. **HOPE.** No matter what we hear or what happens around us, let us not lose hope. We hope in God. Let us cling to Him. He is our strength. He is our refuge. His love and care is everlasting.

Our Blessed Mother did not complain or protest. He followed the will of her Son Jesus. She surrendered herself to the will of God. She accepted everything that happened – even witnessing her Son dying on the Cross. There is no bitterness in her heart, because she has the hope that everything will end up saving everyone. Hope that suffering does not end with bearing the cross, ending in death but there is a resurrection to come!

Brothers and sisters, in the Year 2023, may our trust in God be deepened. May our hope of a better life be strengthened. May 2023 be a Year of Blessing to our families, and to each one of us!

A Blessed New Year to you all!

Join His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (73 Simcoe St. at King St. W. in Toronto) on Sunday January 22, 2023, at 4 p.m. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.



**2023 Offertory Envelopes**

You can get your offertory envelopes from the ushers at the church entrance after each mass.

**First Friday Mass**

We regret to inform everyone that there will be **NO HOLY HOUR & FIRST FRIDAY MASS on January & February.**

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