

# HOLY CROSS PARISH

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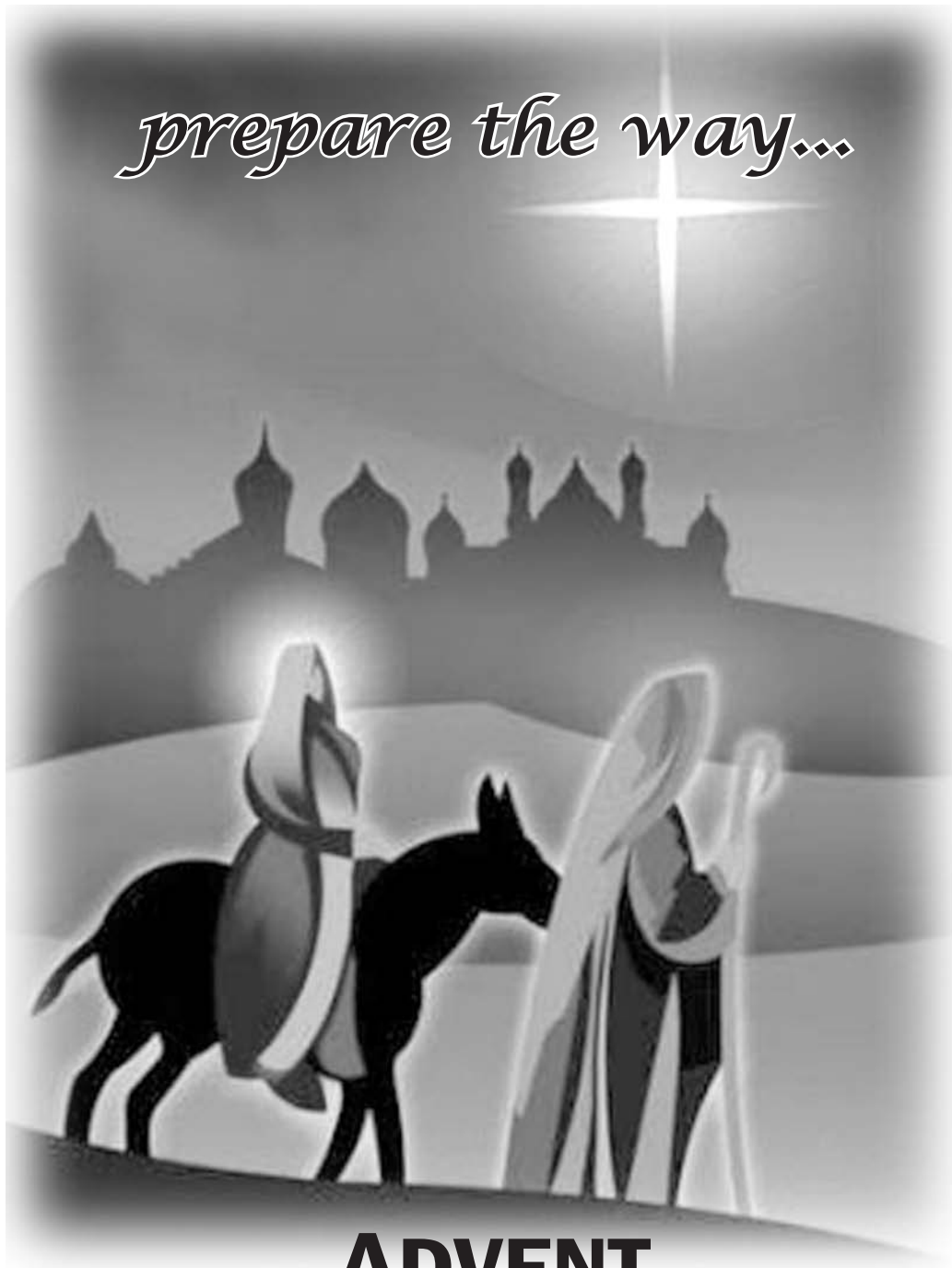
Email: [holycrossto@archtoronto.org](mailto:holycrossto@archtoronto.org) Website: [holycrossto.archtoronto.org](http://holycrossto.archtoronto.org)

*Fr. Godofredo R. Claudio, Pastor*

*Deacon Albert Dacanay*

*Joan Bolanos, Administrative Assistant*

*prepare the way...*



## ADVENT

| ... <i>Mass Intentions</i>              |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Dec                                     | MASS FOR   | REQUESTED BY  |
| 23 Mon<br>9am<br>7pm                    | NO MASS<br>Melanio & Francesca<br>Macarayan +  | Macarayan Family  |
| 24 Tue<br>9am<br>7pm<br><br>9pm<br>10pm | All Parishioners<br>Birthday Thanksgiving –<br>Mario Bergas<br>Christmas Carols<br>Vigil Mass  | Agustin Family  |
| 25 Wed<br>Christmas Day<br>9am<br>11am  | All Parishioners<br>All Parishioners   | .....<br>.....  |
| 26<br>Thurs, 9am                        | Birthday Thanksgiving –<br>Karin Doumouras   | Karin Doumouras   |
| 27<br>Fri, 9am                          | Suresh Alfred +  | Angela Alfred   |
| 28<br>Sat, 9am<br><br><br>5pm           | All Parishioners<br>Thanksgiving – Madeline<br>Dawson<br>Birthday Thanksgiving – Mila<br>Benedicto<br>Severina Mamaril +<br><br>Paul Estrela + | .....<br>Julia Geekie<br><br>Vinda & Fe Olase<br><br>Oscar Mamaril &<br>Family<br><br>Hortencia Estrela |
| 29<br>9am<br><br>11 am                  | Bill Doumouras +<br><br>Thanksgiving – Jeff Michael<br>Alog  | Karin Doumouras<br><br>Alog Family  |

# Meditate on God's Word



**Sunday Gospel Reflection**  
4th Sunday of Advent  
Gospel: Luke 1.39-45 – The Visitation

### Lessons from our Mother

Mother Mary becomes the focal point of the Gospel on this fourth Sunday of Advent. Our Lady, shortly after discovering that she will conceive the Son of God, goes in haste to assist her cousin Elizabeth. After Jesus, Mary is the perfect model and example of how to live a life of deep stewardship. Let us take some time to reflect on this episode and glean insights on how we can better imitate her.

Firstly, we can learn a great lesson from how Mary “went with haste” to help Elizabeth. As stewards, we should not sit idle by and be half-hearted in our attempts to serve our neighbour. Whenever we see a need in our parish community, let us strive to utilize our gifts to readily offer our help and support.

Secondly, we should try to imitate Mary in her role of bringing Jesus to others. It wasn’t so much Mary who brought help and comfort to Elizabeth, but rather, it was the presence of Jesus dwelling within her. As stewards, we need to constantly remind ourselves that it is not our own merits that bring about good and conversion in our parish. Rather, we must realize that everything is a result of the grace of God that is working through us. Let us conclude with the beautiful words of St. Teresa of Calcutta who says, “I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”

#### Summary

After Jesus, Mary is the perfect model and example of how to live a life of deep stewardship and we can learn a great deal by reflecting on her visitation. Firstly, we should imitate Mary’s “haste” in her visitation so that whenever we see a need in our parish community, we can readily use our gifts to help. Secondly, just as Mary brought the Child Jesus with her in her womb, we too need to constantly remind ourselves that it is not our own merits that bring about good, but Christ dwelling within us.

<https://www.archtoronto.org/stewardship>



### *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 9:30 a.m. 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.*

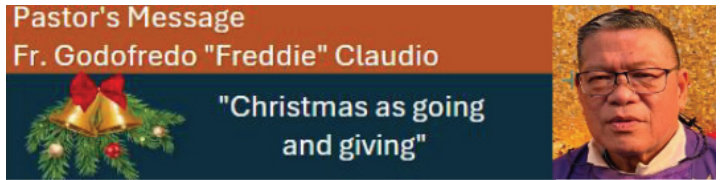


**Prayer for Love**  
 Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love

descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

The greatest gift of all came that first Christmas. It wasn't wrapped in a beautiful package and set under a decorated tree. The greatest gift came wrapped in the flesh of baby Jesus and laid in the rough wood of a manger. Our perfect gift would later be rewrapped in the scars of our sin and nailed to the rugged wood of a cross on Calvary, all because of love.

Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen



Life is always "to go." And God always goes with us. He is with us. He is journeying with us. Truly Christmas is Jesus going to us. He is among us. This is the central sign of Christmas: **the humble baby in the manger who is truly the Son of God, God with us. God remains with us.**

This was the sign foretold by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:10-14) and indicated by the angels to the shepherds at Jesus' birth (Luke 2:8-14). All other signs of Christmas (lights, food, revelry, costumes and gifts) must

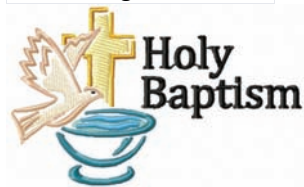


sign foretold by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:10-14) and indicated by the angels to the shepherds at Jesus' birth (Luke 2:8-14). All other signs of Christmas (lights, food, revelry, costumes and gifts) must


be rooted in and draw their meaning from the core Sign: **the humble person of the Son of God who emptied himself to become one of us. Divine glory is seen in a child's weakness; heavenly radiance is made manifest in humility; and God's justice is revealed as compassion.**

Let us not forget the Christ-child. Beholding, contemplating and adoring Jesus, who is truly God's presence among us, let us be transformed into signs of His coming. Christmas 2024 should be a Christmas of solidarity and communion. But this will happen only with serious soul-searching, review of values, reordering of priorities, and commitment to God, neighbor, country and creation.

We wish you all a Blessed Christmas. May God surprise us anew with the sign of His love!



Dec 21, 2024. **Rowan & Finley Grey Errey.** Congratulations on this special day. May it bring with it love, peace and joy as you celebrate this holy occasion.

| Special Devotion Candles – Dec 17 to 24  |   |
|--|---|
|   | Thanksgiving – Antonio & Mary Antonette Quinagon<br>Requested by: Mila Benedicto<br>"To a marriage filled with happy life, love, laughter and a sprinkle of adventure." |
|   | In Loving Memory of Sonia Sanchez & Myrna Arcega<br>Requested by: Mila ben edicto<br>"Your laughter, love and light will never be forgotten."                           |
| We are pleased to offer two Special Devotion Candles (Sanctuary Lamps near the Tabernacle) available to burn for your intentions for one week. The cost is \$20.00 per candle. To book a candle, please call or email the office. Monthly offerings will be posted on our web and Facebook page. |   |

Special Devotion Candles intentions for Nov & Dec are filled. We are now accepting January 2025 intentions. Thank you for your continued support.



The Society of St Vincent de Paul is having a **special collection the weekend of Dec 21/22.** The proceeds will be used to fund the

annual Christmas program for the needy in our parish. Please use the special envelopes in the pews. Tax receipts will be issued for amounts greater than \$ 20.00.



Meet our 11am choir. Thank you for sharing your gift of music with us all the time. We appreciate the effort you put into making each performance exceptional.

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