

ST. BRIGID'S PARISH

**MOVING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL / VERSO IL NOSTRO CENTENARIO
2017 ~ CELEBRATING THE PAST / 2017 ~ CELEBRANDO IL PASSATO**

300 Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M4C 1S6

Tel: 416-696-8660 • Fax: 416-425-7602

Email: stbrigid@rogers.com • Website: stbrigids.archtoronto.org

Facebook: St. Brigid's Catholic Church • Twitter: @StBrigidsTO

Pastor: Fr. Carlos A. Sierra T.

Lay Pastoral Associate: Kevin Pettit

Administrator: Maria Frassica



Feast of the Holy Family

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

The focus of today's liturgy is the Davidic covenant, the promise of a throne that will last forever. It appears in the First Reading, in the Responsorial Psalm, and in the Gospel, where the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that "the Lord God will give (her son) the throne of David his father." Jesus is to transform that covenant, revealing "the mystery hidden for many ages." The throne in this new kingdom is to be occupied by "the Son of the Most High ... the Son of God." Indeed, he is "Emmanuel," God-with-us. We are very close now to the coming of Christ. What would the world be like if we were to allow Christ to really come as king? What would a world ruled by Jesus Christ be like? Would we have the poverty that we have now?

FROM THE PASTOR

I would like to take this moment to thank every one of our parishioners, volunteers, members of our ministries, friends of the community and many more. Your unwavering commitment to our Parish and Parish community throughout the Christmas season has been humbling and a true testament of what this season is all about. We are blessed to have you in our lives. We continue to grow deeper in our faith and in the betterment of this Parish.

* * *

Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God. ~George F. McDougall

NOTES OF THANKS

OUT OF THE COLD CHRISTMAS DINNER:

Thank you to all who generously donated to the Out of the Cold Christmas Dinner collection. Your donations totaled just over \$2,300. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

FOOD FOR A MONTH PROGRAM:

On Friday, December 22nd food hampers were successfully delivered to our families in need. We would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to Frank Ciddio for his very generous food donations. Many special thanks to Diana and Mary Fitzgerald for their gift of time not only to this annual food drive but to their ongoing commitment to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you to all the volunteers for their commitment of time and energy in helping to pack, load and delivering the food hampers. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. May God bless you all and may God bless those families in need.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Your 2018 donation envelopes are ready for pick up at the back of the Church. If you have moved or have updated your contact information, please contact the Parish office with your new details. **Holiday Office Hours:** The Parish office will be closed on December 25th & 26th, 2017 and on January 1st, 2018.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT / DECEMBER 24th

8:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 11:00 am

CHRISTMAS EVE - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Family Mass (English)

11:30 pm: Christmas Carols

12:00 am: Christmas Eve Midnight Mass (Bilingual)

CHRISTMAS DAY - MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th

8:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 11:00 am

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

8:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 11:00 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
MONDAY, JANUARY 1st

8:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 11:00 am

MAJOR RELIC OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER TO VISIT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

A first-degree relic of missionary Saint Francis Xavier is coming to the Archdiocese of Toronto from **January 12th to the 14th, 2018**. The forearm of the saint, permanently displayed at the *Church of the Gesù* in Rome, will be in Canada from December 29th to February 2nd, as part of a 14-city Canadian visit. In our archdiocese, the relic will be hosted by St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (January 12th), St. Francis Xavier Church, Mississauga (January 13th) and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toronto (January 14th). More information, please visit: www.cco.ca/relic

It is believed that this is the first time the relic has been on Canadian soil. The body of St. Francis Xavier, which is buried in Goa, India, as well as the relic of his arm are incorrupt—they have not experienced natural decay since his death in 1552.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 14, 2018**. The theme chosen by Pope Francis is "*Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees*" As Christians, we are called to reach out to and pray for all migrants to emphasize the unity of the human family and the values of acceptance, hospitality and love of neighbour.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2018

January 18th to the 25th is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme chosen for 2018 is "*Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power*" (Exodus 15:6). Throughout 2018, join Christians everywhere in praying "*that they may all be one*" joining our prayer with that of the Lord Jesus Christ. For more information please visit: www.geii.org.

PRAYER & LIFE WORKSHOP: JANUARY 24, 2018

The *Prayer & Life Workshop* is a weekly program that helps you to learn and deepen the art of prayer. Sessions include methods of prayerful reading, integral reconciliation, and contemplative prayer. The workshop will be held in the **Rectory Hall** and **starts on Wednesday, January 24th**. Sessions are two hours long. The instruction is free; however, materials are \$15. Please contact the Parish office to register for this workshop.

ST. BRIGID'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS TRIDUUM MASSES 2018

Please join us for our **Triduum Masses** as we celebrate St. Brigid – our Patron Saint. The Masses will take place on: **Wednesday, January 31st, Thursday, February 1st, and February 2nd at 7:00 pm** in the Parish.

SAINTS BRIGID & CATHERINE OF SIENA ANNUAL FEAST DAY DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 2018

Our **St. Brigid and St. Catherine of Siena Annual Feast Day Dinner Dance** will take place on **Saturday, February 3rd, 2018** in the Church Hall. More details to follow soon. We look forward to a wonderful celebration.

MARRIAGE SUNDAY 2018

Marriage Sunday in the Archdiocese of Toronto will take place on the weekend of February 10th and 11th, 2018. An Archdiocesan Celebration of Marriage Mass will be held on **Sunday, February 11th, 2018 at 3:00 pm at Blessed Trinity Parish in North York.**

WEEKLY COLLECTION

NOTE: Due to the holiday schedule, Liturgical Publications requests that we submit our bulletins earlier than the normal schedule. Therefore, the regular collection for the week ending on December 17th, 2017 will be published in the December 31st, 2017 bulletin.

IV DOMENICA DI AVVENTO: ANNO B

Una casa per Dio. Nel corso dei secoli Israele aveva preso coscienza della propria identità nazionale e insieme religiosa: anzi, la monarchia era parsa la garanzia di una fedeltà al Dio dell'alleanza. Davide pensa che la costruzione di una «casa» a Dio propizi in modo definitivo i suoi favori, e lo faccia abitare stabilmente in mezzo al popolo. Ma il profeta di corte è costretto a dirgli che sarà Dio a costruire una casa a Davide, cioè una dinastia che duri per sempre. Ora, il figlio annunciato a Maria è chiaramente designato come figlio di Davide, poiché Giuseppe, a cui Maria è fidanzata, appartiene alla casa di Davide. Era importante garantire, di fronte agli Ebrei, attraverso l'istituzionalità della successione, il titolo che fonda l'azione dell'invitato di Dio, e, per la fede cristiana, la «verità» umana del Salvatore. Dio identificandosi con i «poveri» che attendevano una salvezza spirituale, egli conferma che «la carne non serve a nulla», e che ogni potenza umana non ha consistenza.

DA NOSTRO PARROCO

Vorrei cogliere questo momento per ringraziare tutti i nostri parrocchiani, volontari, ministri, benefattori e amici della parrocchia per il vostro costante impegno nei riguardi della nostra comunità di Santa Brigida. E' molto edificante la maniera come avete risposto ai bisogni dei nostri poveri di San Vincenzo di Paolo e dei homeless. Stiamo sempre superando noi stessi e lo continueremo a fare per avere la parrocchia che vogliamo.

L'arrivo del Messia porti la buona novella nel cuore di tutti noi! Pace, letizia gioia e amore sono i doni per un sereno e candido Natale in tutto il mondo! Buon Natale a tutti! Dal vostro Parroco.

COLLETTA SETTIMANALE

NOTA: A causa del programma delle festività, le pubblicazioni liturgiche richiedono di inviare i bollettini prima del normale orario. Pertanto, la colletta regolare per la settimana che finirà il 17 dicembre 2017 sarà pubblicata nel bollettino del 31 dicembre 2017.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, Dec. 23rd – St. John of Kanty

9:00 a.m. +Don Marren, req. by the Parish
5:00 p.m. +Mary & Bill Fenn, req. by the Family

Sunday, Dec. 24th – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. **Mass Pro Populo ~ Mass For All Parishioners**
9:30 a.m. +Franca & Alfredo Sollecito, req. by Sestito Family
+Rosina, Pietro & Pasquale Macchione, req. by Sestito Family
+Maria & Fedele Sollecito, req. by Sestito Family
+Vitina, Vincenzo, Vito & Enzo Sestito, req. by Sestito Family
+Antonio Romagnuolo, req. by Maria Romagnuolo
+Rocco & Carmela Lamanna, req. by Maria Romagnuolo
+Joe Galea, req. by the Parish
11:00 a.m. +Emilia Frassica, req. by the Family
5:00 p.m. Family Mass ~ Children's Celebration Vigil
11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass / Messa di Mezzanotte

Monday, Dec. 25th – The Nativity of the Lord / Natale Del Signore

8:30 a.m. **Mass Pro Populo ~ Mass For All Parishioners**
9:30 a.m. +Fortunato, Maria, Teresa, Antonio, Divina & Daniele Ciardullo, req. by Giovanni & Rosina Ciardullo
11:00 a.m. For All the Souls in Purgatory, req. by Maria Calo & Family

Tuesday, Dec. 26th – St. Stephen

9:00 a.m. +Carmine Iannitelli, req. by Joe Naccarato

Wednesday, Dec. 27th – St. John

12:00 p.m. +Francesco & Luisa Iannitelli, req. by Joe Naccarato
7:00 p.m. **Novena Mass:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Thursday, Dec. 28th – The Holy Innocents

12:00 p.m. +Giovannina Lobo, req. by Lucia Del Grande

Friday, Dec. 29th – Fifth Day Within The Octave Of The Nativity

12:00 p.m. +Giovanni & Maria Naccarato, req. by Joe Naccarato

Saturday, Dec. 30th – Sixth Day Within The Octave Of The Nativity

9:00 a.m. Special Blessing for Candace Bernadette Lim, req. by her Mother
5:00 p.m. +Danilo Dalida, req. by the Family
+John Zimmer, req. by His Mother

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