

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH

2018: CELEBRATING THE PRESENT / CELEBRANDO IL PRESENTE
MOVING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL - VERSO IL NOSTRO CENTENARIO

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PASTOR: Rev. Carlos A. Sierra T.

COORDINATOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC: Attila Jagodits

PARISH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Maria Frassica



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

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. ~G. McDougall

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE - MONDAY, 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 - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25th
8:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 11:00 am

BOXING DAY - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26th
9:00 am Chapel Mass, Only
*No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Meditation, Vespers
 Liturgy of the Hours at 6:00 pm and No Novena Mass at 7:00 pm*

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30th
8:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 11:00 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1st, 2019
8:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 11:00 am

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Your **2019 donation envelopes** are ready for pick up. They are located at the back of the Church. Please ask an usher for assistance. If you have moved or have updated your contact information, we urge you to please contact the Parish office with your new details.

Holiday Schedule: The Parish office will close at 12:00 Noon on Monday, December 24th and on Monday, December 31st. We will be closed all day on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and on New Year's Day.

**POPE'S WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE:
 POLITICS MUST SERVE PEACE**

The Holy See Press Office statement shared Pope Francis' Message for the coming **World Day of Peace on Tuesday, January 1st. Politics Must Serve Peace!** This highlights the need for politics to be at the service of peace: "Political responsibility belongs to every citizen, and in particular to those who have been given the mandate to protect and govern. This mission consists in safeguarding the law and encouraging dialogue between all actors of society, between generations, and between cultures. The first condition for trust is respect for the given word..." **Let us pray for peace among nations.**

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2019

January 18th to the 25th, 2019 is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme for 2019 finds its origins in Deuteronomy, "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue" (cf. Deuteronomy 16:20). It was chosen for its powerful message of promoting truth, equality and unity. For more information visit: www.geii.org.

WORLD YOUTH DAY: JANUARY 22 to 27, 2019

World Youth Day will be celebrated in Panama starting January 22nd to January 27th, 2019. World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide encounter with the Pope which is typically celebrated every three years in a different country. WYD is open to all young people who want to take part in a festive encounter with their contemporaries centered on Jesus Christ. This event is an opportunity to experience in first person the universality of the Church; to share with the whole world the hope of many young people who want to commit themselves to Christ and others. World Youth Day is a unique way to deepen your faith and grow closer to Christ, by means of prayer and the sacraments, together with thousands of other young people who share your interests and ambitions. worldyouthday.com

**ST. BRIGID'S PATRON SAINT
 FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS:**

**TRIDUUM MASSES 2019:
 JANUARY 30th, 31st & FEBRUARY 1st**

Our annual Feast of St. Brigid ~ our Patron Saint will be taking place this year. Please join us for our **Triduum Masses** on **Wednesday, January 30th, Thursday, January 31st, and Friday, February 1st at 7:00 pm** in the Church. We look forward to seeing you there!

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**ST. BRIGID'S AND
 ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
 ANNUAL FEAST DAY DINNER DANCE**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 2019

Please join us for our **St. Brigid's and St. Catherine of Siena Annual Feast Day Dinner Dance** on **Saturday, February 2nd, 2019**. The festivities will take place in the Church Hall. More details to follow soon.

ST. BRIGID'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Starting **January 2019**, we will start a Children's Choir that will be singing at the 5:00 pm Saturday Mass. The choir will be led by **Daniel Colla**, a retired TCDSB Music Teacher and professional choral conductor. Children from ages 7 to 14 are encouraged to be part of this newly formed choir. Please contact the Parish office to register your child.

PRAYER & LIFE WORKSHOP: FEBRUARY 27, 2019

The *Prayer & Life Workshop* is a weekly program that helps you to learn and deepen the art of prayer. Sessions include methods such as prayerful reading, integral reconciliation, and contemplative prayer. The workshop will be held in the Rectory Hall and will start on **Wednesday, February 27th**. Each session is two hours long. The instruction is free; however, materials are \$15. Please contact the Parish office to register for this workshop.

MARRIAGE SUNDAY 2019

Marriage Sunday in the Archdiocese of Toronto will take place on the weekend of February 9th and 10th, 2019. **The Celebration of Marriage Mass** will take place on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at St. Clare of Assisi Parish (150 St. Francis Avenue, Woodbridge). Cardinal Thomas Collins will preside over this special Mass where couples celebrating their milestone 25th, 40th, 50th and 60+ wedding anniversaries will be honoured.

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 16th, 2018 will be published in the December 30th, 2017 bulletin.

IV DOMENICA DI AVVENTO / C

Il figlio dell'Altissimo nel diventare il «figlio di Maria», ama farsi precedere e annunciare dai poveri e dagli umili: vuole circondarsi di semplicità e verità. Betlemme è la più piccola fra le città di Giuda; avrà l'onore di dare i natali al Messia promesso dai profeti, a colui che estenderà il suo regno di pace fino «agli estremi confini della terra». Umili e pastorali sono pure le origini di Davide. Il futuro Messia è presentato più come il discendente del Davide, pastore di Betlemme, che non del Davide glorioso della città regale. Umili e poveri sono i primi portatori della speranza e della salvezza. Così è Maria nei riguardi di Elisabetta. Per la stessa umiltà e povertà Elisabetta, illuminata dallo Spirito Santo, riconosce in Maria la madre del Salvatore, e proclama il mistero che si è compiuto in Lei.

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 de 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 dell'orario normale. Pertanto, la colletta regolare per la settimana che finirà il 16 Dicembre 2018 sarà pubblicata nel bollettino del 30 Dicembre 2018.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 22nd

9:00 a.m. For all the Members of our Community Suffering with Illnesses

5:00 p.m. +Giovanni & Maria Iannitelli, req. by Joe Naccarato

Sunday, December 23rd ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. **Mass Pro Populo ~ Mass For All Parishioners**

9:30 a.m. Per Tutti I Defunti Della Famiglia Kolja, req. by Maria Kolja

+Mariangela Castagnozzi & Antonio Maraiò, req. by the Schiavo Family

+Antonio Romagnuolo, Rocco & Carmela Lamanna, req. by Maria Romagnuolo

+Onorino Ruggiero, req. by Rocchina Ruggiero

+Luigi Francella, req. by Fraser & Kat Cook

+Francesco & Maria Luisa Basile, req. by the Family

+Rab Concepcion, req. by Joseph Rampino

+Paolo Di Gregorio, req. by the Parish

+Linda Francis, req. by the Parish

11:00 a.m. +Maria Galdi, req. by Giuseppe & Maria Frassica

Monday, December 24th

5:00 p.m. Family Mass ~ Children's Celebration Vigil

11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols

Tuesday, December 25th ~ The Nativity of the Lord

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass / Messa di Mezzanotte

8:30 a.m. **Mass Pro Populo ~ Mass For All Parishioners**

9:30 a.m. +Fortunato, Maria, Teresa, Antonio, Divina & Daniele Ciardullo, req. by the Family

11:00 a.m. For All the Souls in Purgatory, req. by Maria Calò & Family
Special Blessing for Luis Jr. & Francisca Ong on Their 38th Wedding Anniversary, req. by the Family

Wednesday, December 26th ~ St. Stephen

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

Thursday, December 27th ~ St. John

10:00 a.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

12:00 p.m. +Don Marren, req. by the Parish

Friday, December 28th ~ The Holy Innocents

12:00 p.m. +Francesco & Luisa Iannitelli, req. by Joe Naccarato
+Joe Galea, req. by the Parish

Saturday, December 29th ~ St. Thomas Becket

9:00 a.m. For all the Members of Our Community Suffering with Illnesses

5:00 p.m. +John Zimmer, req. by his Mother Maria Meyer

+Beryl Monaghan, req. by Paul Monaghan


Saint Stephen was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian martyr. The Greek word from which we derive the English word martyr literally means witness. Saint Stephen was so conformed to Jesus in his holy life that his martyrdom was both a natural and supernatural sign of his love for the Lord. It also inspired the early believers as they faced the first round of brutal persecution.

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