

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Dec. 27th - Dec. 30th, 2017

Tues. Dec. 26 th	7pm	+Rustico Santiago
Wed. Dec. 27 th	8am	+Charles & Albina McGough
Thurs. Dec. 28 th	8am	+Neil Cachia
Fri. Dec. 29 th	8am	+Louis Regan
Sat. Dec. 30 th	9am	Marcus & Joyce D'Mello - special intention

MARK THE DATE FOR THE SKATING PARTY

Saturday, December 30th, 2017

6-8pm at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway North. Following skating come back to the church for hot dogs and hot chocolate.

Skating & refreshments at no charge to you!

JESSE TREE



Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Jesse tree this year. This is such a natural and easy undertaking in the parish and shows such a wealth of commitment to the poor. Thank you one and all for your magnificent work.

EDGE AND LIFE TEEN

Both programs will be taking a break over Christmas. Life Teen will resume on Monday, January 15th at 6:30pm in Lynett Hall. EDGE will resume on Friday, January 12th from 6:30 - 8pm. Best wishes for a safe and Blessed Christmas.

OUR LADY OF GRACE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUP

The play group will not be meeting on December 26th or January 2nd. We will resume the fun on Tuesday, January 9th at 9:30am. We hope to see you there!

2018 ENVELOPES

Envelopes for 2018 are available in the foyer. As before you take any box, the number does not matter. **When you use the first couple of envelopes please put your name and address on the front so that we can issue a receipt.**

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

Have you totally fallen out of the loop on first communion or confirmation? These sacraments are given to those in grade two or grade seven. Call the parish and we will help you get sorted out.

At this point in the week after Christmas or very early in the new year would be appreciated.

DEADLINE FOR 2017 DONATIONS

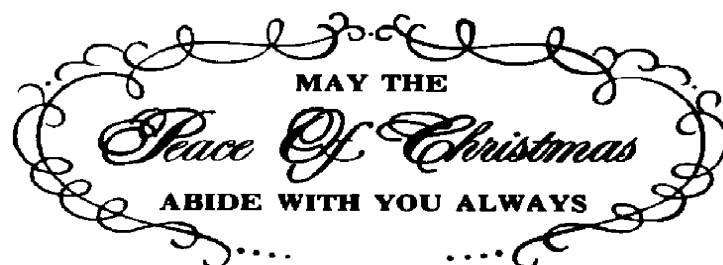
Each year we need to set a date on which we cut off donations for the previous year. We will ask that all people making a donation for 2017 with the anticipation of receiving a tax receipt for that year do so by Sunday, January 14th, clearly marking that this is a 2017 donation.

A GENTLE WORD TO OUR ELDERLY

It is great source of encouragement to see so many elders of our community at mass on weekends and through the week. Your prayer for this whole community is a great gift to all of us. We depend on that prayer and we want it to continue.

If this is to happen we need you to choose your days to come to mass. Do not come when the weather is bad and especially when ice is a problem. We know you can pray for us while you nurse a fractured hip at home, but we want you here year-round. On those bad days just stay in and catch mass on tv, even if it is a Sunday.

Now for the rest of us this doesn't mean we can skip mass on a blustery day to be at the ski resort earlier.



Dear Parishioners,

We gather in this sacred time at the end of an important year in the life of our parish. We have firmed up the plans for the renovation and renewal of our church. We have begun a capital campaign and people are ready to embrace this effort. We have had excellent participation of parishioners on both the renovation committee and the capital campaign committee. We owe a huge vote of thanks to both these groups.

There are many ways to approach this valuable effort of renewal. It can be seen as the strictly practical response to physical care of the property. As we mark this Christmas season, maybe the greater question is, "Who do we want to be?"

Our plans are by no means excessive or luxurious. They are practical, addressing the issue of accessibility and creating a space that can best serve the busy parish of Our Lady of Grace. It reassures us that we can continue the important role we play in the larger Aurora/Newmarket community as well.

There have been 230 households who have responded so far to the effort. Of this number 155 have made pledges over the next three years. No doubt over the time of the campaign many more will come forward. We have sent out 3,800 letters to the households registered in the parish. Our hope and goal is to have at least 2,000 of those households respond to the capital campaign.

People approach the church in many different ways. It is such a profound source of encouragement to see the great crowds at Christmas. For one and all it is a time of renewal of our faith in Christ who has come with salvation for all.

We hope that this Christmas season will be full of joy and hope. Let us continue to build together.

Fr. Frank

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas (Nativity of the Lord)

Sunday, Dec. 24th 4pm in the church and Lynett Hall, 6pm, 8pm and Midnight in church

Monday, Dec. 25th 8:15am, 10am, 12 noon (no 7pm)

Boxing Day

Tuesday, December 26th 7pm only

New Year's (Feast of the Holy Family)

Saturday, Dec. 30th 5pm

Sunday, Dec. 31st 8:15am, 10am and 12 noon

The Solemnity of Mary

Sunday, Dec. 31st 5pm

Monday, Jan. 1st 10am and 12 noon

EUCHRE

All are invited on Mondays at 1 pm to the large meeting room for an afternoon of euchre. This is a successful initiative of our parish. The tone is not highly competitive, the focus being on friendship and enjoying some time together.

There is a minimal admission which covers the cost of a prize and incidentals. Euchre happens every Monday, except those that are part of a long weekend.

PRAYER GROUP

The Our Lady of Grace Charismatic Prayer Group meets every second Thursday in the large meeting room downstairs from 7:30pm - 9pm.

The first meeting of 2018 will be on Thursday, January 11th. For more information please contact Edwin or Anita Andrade 905-727-2367.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

You can now support the Church using securities (stocks, mutual funds, bonds). You will not have to pay any capital gains and you will get a tax receipt for the full amount. For more information please contact the Development Office of the Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-934-3411 or email: development@archtoronto.org.