

St. Paul the Apostle and Immaculate Conception Churches

St. Paul the Apostle: P.O. Box 789, 190 King St. S., Alliston, ON L9R 1V9

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4th Sunday of Advent ~ 24th December 2023

The Angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David." Lk 1:30-33

First Reading + 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Second Reading + Romans 16:25-27

Gospel + Luke 1: 26-38

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

(Morning Mass at Immaculate Conception Church)

9:00am+FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

10:30am+Kurt & Elizabeth STIEGWARDT, RIP-B.Baumfeld

Tuesday, December 26

5:20pm+Marian Cenacle

6:00pm+HOLY HOUR

****6:15pm – 6:45pm + CONFESSIONS****

7:00pm+Gino Gismondi, Per. Int. -G. Cole

Wednesday, December 27

8:00am+Linda ROSSETTI, RIP – P & T Campbell-Ladouceur

Thursday, December 28

8:00am+Pauline Hall, RIP – R. Vandervoort

Friday, December 29

(Mass at Immaculate Conception Church)

12:10pm+Mary Ann FARLEY, RIP – J/R Farrugia

Saturday, December 30

(Morning Mass at Immaculate Conception)

9:00am+Vincenza MARIANI, RIP – Mariani Family

5:00pm+Brian DURKAN, RIP – E Durkan

Sunday, December 31

9:00am+FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

10:30am+ FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

5:00pm+Mary Jo HARRIGAN, RIP-R. McLoughlin

Monday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary

9:00am+ FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

10:30am+FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Saint of the Week:

Who shall resist Anti-Christ when he comes if we show such patience towards the vices and crimes of his precursors? By such leniency, we encourage kings to become tyrants and tempt them to withdraw every privilege and all jurisdiction from the Churches. - Thomas Becket (1118-1170), Martyr, Bishop, Feast Day December 29

From the desk of Father Norberto

Dear Beloved Parish Family,

As we celebrate this fourth Sunday of Advent, our hearts are ablaze with love. In the midst of our Advent journey, we find ourselves enveloped in the warmth of God's unfathomable love, a love that surpasses all understanding and resonates through the ages.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the profound truth that God is love. The Scriptures resound with this revelation, inviting us to contemplate the enormity of God's love for each one of us. In the Gospel of John, we encounter the profound words, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) This verse encapsulates the essence of the Christmas story—a divine narrative woven with threads of love, grace, and redemption.

The Advent season serves as a poignant reminder that love is not merely an attribute of God but the very fabric of His being. It is a love that chose to descend from heavenly heights to embrace our humanity. In the quiet humility of a Bethlehem manger, we witness the radical expression of God's love—a love that seeks communion with us, a love that beckons us into a relationship with the Divine.

As we light the fourth Advent candle, symbolizing love, let us pause to reflect on the transformative power of this divine love. It is a love that extends beyond our failures and shortcomings, reaching into the depths of our souls. God's love is unconditional, unmerited, and unwavering. In a world marked by conditions and expectations, God's love stands as a testament to the boundless grace that awaits us.

Yet, the narrative of love is not a one-sided tale. It invites us into a reciprocal relationship with our Creator. The Apostle John beautifully articulates this truth: "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19) Our response to God's love is an acknowledgment of His grace that calls us into a life characterized by love—a love that is reflected in our relationships, actions, and attitudes.

This Advent, let us strive to embody the love that God has lavished upon us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, may our lives be a testament to the transformative power of love. In our families, workplaces, and communities, let love be the guiding force that transcends differences and builds bridges. As followers of Christ, we are called to be ambassadors of love, mirroring the selfless and sacrificial love exemplified by our Lord.

In the business of the holiday season, let us not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas—love incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ. May our love for God be evident in our worship, devotion, and obedience. As we extend love to others, may our actions echo the sentiment of the Apostle Paul: "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Colossians 3:14)

Let the fourth Sunday of Advent be a sacred pause—a moment to bask in the glow of God's love and recommit ourselves to living out that love in every facet of our lives. May the love that descended from heaven fill our hearts and overflow into a world hungry for the transformative and redemptive power of God's boundless love.

Blessings and joy to you all as we await the coming of our Savior!

In Christ's Love,
Fr. Norbert Eyule

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Please note...

\*\*The weekly collections for the week of **Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** will be published in next week's bulletin. \*\*

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Christmas message from Father Norberto

As we approach the joyous celebration of Christmas, we are reminded of the incredible gift that God has bestowed upon us – the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. In this season of hope and love, let us take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and its profound impact on our lives.

Christmas is a time of great joy and celebration because it marks the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The birth of Jesus was not just an ordinary event; it was a divine intervention that forever changed the course of human history. God, in His infinite love and mercy, sent His Son into the world to bring us salvation and reconciliation. Through Jesus, we are offered the gift of eternal life and the opportunity to be in a loving relationship with our Heavenly Father.

As we gather with our loved ones to exchange gifts and share in the festivities, let us remember that the greatest gift we have received is Jesus Himself. He is the true reason for our celebration. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the season, let us not lose sight of the profound significance of His birth.

Christmas also reminds us of the importance of spreading love and kindness to others. Just as God selflessly gave His Son for us, we are called to imitate His love by reaching out to those in need, comforting the lonely, and sharing the joy of the Gospel with others. Let us remember that the true spirit of Christmas lies in acts of selflessness, compassion, and generosity.

In the midst of a world that often focuses on materialism and consumerism during this season, let us be counter-cultural and embrace the simplicity and humility of the nativity scene. May we find inspiration in the Holy Family, who found joy and contentment in the midst of humble surroundings.

As we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us open our hearts to receive Him anew. Let us invite Him into our lives, our families, and our parish community. May His presence fill us with hope, peace, and joy that surpasses all understanding.

On behalf of the entire parish community, I wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts and homes and may His love guide and inspire you throughout the coming year.

Have a joyful and Merry Christmas everyone!

In Christ's love,
Fr. Norbert Eyule

Muffin Sundays

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone for making our muffin Sundays such a success in 2023. This social, for the good of the parish, event was restarted in 2023 after an extended pause for the pandemic. We gather approximately once a month after the 10:30 mass to enjoy two varieties of muffins, hot and cold beverages, and most importantly fellowship with our fellow parishioners, young and older, new or longtime. We look forward to seeing everyone on **Jan.14** for first muffin Sunday of **2024**.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Bookkeeper required

We are looking for a part-time bookkeeper to oversee bookkeeping and financial administration for the Parish with a College or University education in accounting, bookkeeping and payroll and/or equivalent related experience. If you are willing to devote a couple of days a week, please submit a resume via email or to Father Norberto. This is a paid part-time position and full training will be provided.

Street Patrol- HOMELESS

Our youth will once again be collecting **'Clean Winter Clothing in Good Condition'** for **ADULTS ONLY (mostly men's clothing please)** to distribute to the homeless & shelters.

Adult clothing, especially - winter boots and socks, winter coats, shoes, boots, mitts, hats, pants, sweaters, blankets, sleeping bags, personal hygiene items.

Food- Loaf of sandwiches, granola bars, fruit drink boxes, water bottles, gift cards- \$5-10

(Please no summer wear and no children's clothing, light weight material pants or men's suits, these are not practical on the street in winter). See posters in Foyer for items needed.

****Items may be dropped at St. Paul's Church in the bin below the Youth Ministry Board. ****

Our Life Teen (high School teens) will be sorting, bagging, and then delivering these items to homeless in Barrie on December 29th, donations accepted until Dec. 27. Help Pack at Church – Dec 28th -12-4 pm. *Thank-you for your generosity.*

Celebration of Marriage Mass with Archbishop Francis Leo – February 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

As part of Marriage Sunday 2024 celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2024. The Mass will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass.

All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversary in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass. Registration and other important information can be found at www.archtoronto.org/marriage. For questions, please email formation@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 ext. 523.

Please note the Office Hours during the Holidays.

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 12:00 noon, on December 22nd and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd at 9:00 am.

***In case of emergency you may call Father Norberto on 905-715-1530**



From- The Pastoral Team



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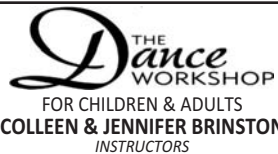
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