

From the Desk of Fr. Tim...

Feast of the Holy Family...

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"The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love... The family is an intermediate institution between individuals and society, and nothing can completely take its place... The family is a necessary good for peoples, an indispensable foundation for society and a great and lifelong treasure for couples. It is a unique good for children, who are meant to be the fruit of the love, of the total and generous self-giving of their parents... The family is also a school that enables men and women to grow to the full measure of their humanity...O God, who in the Holy Family left us a perfect model of family life lived in faith and obedience to your will, help us to be examples of faith and love for your commandments."

...Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Our priests and deacon will be very happy to offer individual Family blessings following the final hymn of the Mass, asking the blessing of the Holy Family upon the lives of our families in the coming year.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the World Day of Peace...

In the womb of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, are met mercy and faithfulness, justice and peace. May the peace of God born in Jesus Christ be the future for which we hope and toward which we work, through Mary's example and intercession. Please join us on Sunday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. or Monday, January 1 at either 10:30 a.m. or 12:00 Noon.

First Friday Mass and Holy Hour...

Please join us on Friday, January 5 at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Christmas Thank You...

There are so many people involved in the preparation of Christmas for the Church to all these women and men, young and old, a sincere 'thank you'. For all those involved in the liturgies at all the masses, the ushers, the Ministers of the Eucharist, the musicians, singers and Ministers of the Word, altar serves, Ministers of Hospitality and decorators of the outdoor urns, the sanctuary and the preparation of the crèche...for those who worked so hard to bring comfort to the poor...for our parish schools and for the generous hearts of our parishioners who also donated to the annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Drive, we thank you!

As priests who are called to minister in this parish, we are very fortunate to have such generous people who respond so well with giving hearts to our parish collections during this holy Christmas season. We, in turn, are truly committed to serving you with the utmost abilities and gifts that God has given us. May God continue to bless all of us with His abundant love and compassionate heart this coming year.

On behalf of Fr. Charles Egbulefu, C.C.E. and our parish staff whose privilege it is to serve you throughout the year, we extend to you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas and a Peace-filled New Year!

New Sanctuary Appointments...

Thank you to the donors who made possible the purchase of our new Altar Candles, Processional Cross, Easter Candle, and Incense Thurible, Boat and Stand. They look beautiful! We will bless these items at mass on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m. as we offer mass for the intentions of the donors.

Our existing candles and cross and incense stand (30 years old and near the end of their useful lives) have been donated to Blessed Frederic Ozanam Parish in Markham, founded in September 2017, where they will be used on Sundays for mass in the local school gymnasium. Pastor Fr. Joe Grima (the former pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Mississauga) extends his thanks to all of us!

From the Desk of Fr. Tim...continued...

2018 Parish Envelopes/ Pre-Authorized Giving/ 2017 Financial Report...

Thanks to all who have picked up your 2018 envelopes and use them faithfully each Sunday - envelopes for pick up are in the foyer near the office. Please remember to mark your name and address or use address labels on the first few envelopes you use in this New Year...we appreciate your support!

I invite each family to consider the option of Pre-Authorized Giving for the new year. The PAG registration form can be found in the foyer of the church or on our website and can be returned (along with void cheque) to the office directly or by dropping it into next Sunday's Offertory basket!

Thanks to all on behalf of our Property and Finance Council who will be making their annual financial report to the parish on the weekend of February 3/4, 2018.

Confirmation Preparation Programme...

Our preparation programme continues with the first Preparation Class on <u>either</u> Monday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. OR Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. Attendance is mandatory for all candidates!

Those Grade 7 students who did not attend the December Registration meeting should bring their registration form, baptismal certificate copy and \$20 offering to the church office as soon as possible. They should also plan to attend a special Registration make-up meeting with their parents and their sponsor on Saturday, January 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the church.

Any older youth or adults wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in May 2018 are asked to contact Fr. Charles as soon as possible.

An Evening with Fr. Ed Keays...

On Thursday, January 18, 2018, women and men of the parish are invited to an "Evening of Reflection" with Fr. Ed Keays, Chaplain of Good Shepherd Refuge. Please keep Fr. Ed in your prayers as he continues to undergo chemotherapy.

We will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a glass of wine or beer and a pasta dinner, dessert and coffee, followed by a talk by Fr. Ed with time for questions and answers. Tickets are \$15 per person and will be available at all the weekend masses on January 6/7, and if still available, on January 13/14. Please plan to bring a donation of a pair of socks or new men's underwear with you for the men of the Good Shepherd Refuge.

Win Great Prizes! It is time for the Friar's Student Writing Award. Students aged 14-18 years are invited to write a 500- word essay on the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2018. The theme is "Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power" (cf. Exodus 15:6). Essays will be edited and published in the Catholic Register. **Deadline for entries is January 8, 2018**. Email your essay to <u>editor@catholicregister.org</u> and include your name, email address, phone number and school. For more info call 416-934-3400 ext. 344. Please check the poster on the bulletin board in the front vestibule for more details including the prizes list.

Liturgy of the Word for Children will resume on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at the 10:30 a.m. and Noon mass.

Loyola Playgroup – Moms, dads, grandparents, caregivers are invited to resume gathering for playgroup in the parish hall on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. New members are welcome.

St. Jude's Cupboard will be open on the weekend of January 13/14, 2018. Please stop by and check out all the lovely and reasonably priced religious goods for sale. Proceeds are used to help purchase groceries for our neighbours in need who use the Food Bank at the Salvation Army on Glen Erin Drive and the Collegeway.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees – The Archdiocese of Toronto together with the Chaldean Catholic Community invites you to a special Mass on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Chaldean Cathedral Parish, 2 High Meadow Place, North York. The Celebrant is Bishop Bawai Soro and the homilist is Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick. A reception will follow the mass. Everyone is invited.



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