# THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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**Rev. Fr. Charles Collins, Administrator Rev. Fr. Peter Gitendran, In Residence** 



Feast of the Holy Family

# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

n a way every family is a holy family – the family is the place of love, with its flaws in trying to love well, and its times of



ws in trying to love well, and its times of great joy. If you look around a church on a Sunday, there is a difference in the congregation which includes families and the one that does not. Something about the young and old together, and the messiness even of the different generations, cheers us up. Family is the first natural grouping, no matter what its makeup.

The feast today is to highlight the importance of family, and the focus of the church on trying to support and enhance

family life. While the holy family was a small and rather holy grouping, it was here that Jesus learned the best things of human life – how to care and to love, to look after a widowed mother and earlier, an elderly father-figure; he learned the give and take of the extended family, and in the family learned his faith and to pray. His family is holy because it was a place of love.

Pope Francis says about the family: *'every family is always a light, however faint, amid the darkness of this world.'* Even in the darkness that can go with family life in the middle of crime, addiction and conflict, there is a light in the love of people's hearts.

It is a feast to encourage us in giving thanks, in sharing love and always in being there for the members of our family.

Remember the family members for whom you are grateful: thank God for them, living and dead.

Holy family, help us grow in love in our own family. ~ taken from the Sacred Heart Messenger ~

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#### From St. Vincent de Paul Society

"Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most."

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your

contributions to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul this year. Your support throughout the year has greatly assisted our neighbours who need it the most.



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We also thank our Adopt-a-Family donors, who generously donated to our families this

Christmas season. Your generosity has truly made Christmas special.

Wishing all our parishioners a safe and happy New Year!



The parish office is presently closed until further notice. Please feel free to contact us

via email at immaculaechurch@rogers.com

<u>or</u> leave a voice message at 416-691-6968. We will respond at our earliest convenience.



**Fr. Peter Gitendran**, in residence at Immaculate Heart of Mary, commemorated his 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary as a priest on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. We thank him for his 50 years of devoted service and commitment to the priesthood. He has been a joyful witness to all!

# Congratulations & God Bless Fr. Peter on his Golden Jubilee!



This week

the Sanctuary Lamp is dedicated: For the repose of the soul of Emily Nephin requested by the Warford family





| Mon. Dec. 28 | 12:05 pm |   |
|--------------|----------|---|
| Tue. Dec. 29 | 12:05 pm | In thanksgiving,<br>requested by Linda Quial                            |
| Wed. Dec. 30 | 12:05 pm |   |
| Thu. Dec.31  | 5:00 pm  | <b>†</b> Leonardo F. Festin, Jr., <i>requested by the Festin family</i> |
| Fri. Jan. 01 |          | For the People of the Parish  |
| Sat. Jan, 02 | 9:00 am  |   |
|              | 5:00 pm  | For the People of the Parish  |
| Sun. Jan. 03 | 9:00 am  | <b>†</b> Barry Barron, <i>requested by</i><br>David & Darlene Barron    |
|              | 11:00 am | <b>†</b> Servillano Javier, <i>requested</i> by Alice & Brian Warford   |

#### Note:

All Mass intentions, which already been booked, will be offered during the private daily Mass celebrated by Fr. Charles.



### Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021



And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. ~ Luke 2:19~

Our Christmas Octave would not be complete without paying special attention to the glorious Mother of God! Mary, the mother of Jesus, the mother of the Saviour of the World, is properly called the "Mother of God." It is worth reflecting upon this powerful title of our Blessed Mother. And it's important to understand that this title says just as much about Jesus as it does about His Blessed Mother.

In calling Mary the "Mother of God," we especially acknowledge one fact of human life. A mother is not just the source of one's flesh, she is not just the mother of the body of her children, she is the mother of that person. Being a mother is not just something biological, it is something sacred and holy and is part of the divine order of God's creation. Jesus was her Child and this Child is God. Therefore, it is proper logic to call Mary the "Mother of God."

It's an amazing fact to think about. God has a mother! He has a particular person who carried Him in her womb, nursed Him, raised Him, taught Him, loved Him, was there for Him, and pondered who He was throughout His life. This last fact is especially beautiful to look at.

The Gospel passage above says, "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." And she did this as a caring mother. Her love for Jesus was as unique as the love of any mother. However, it should be noted that she was a mother in perfection and loved Him with a perfect love, He who was not only her Son, but was also God and was perfect in every way. What does this reveal? It reveals that the motherly love shared between Mary and Jesus was profound, inspiring, mysterious, glorious and truly sacred! The mystery of their love is worth reflecting on throughout our lives, keeping it fully alive in our hearts. She is an example for every mother and is also an example for all of us who seek to love others with a pure and holy heart.

Reflect, today, upon the holy and captivating relationship that Mary would have shared with her Divine Son. Try to fathom what this love would have been like. Imagine the deep emotion and passion that would have filled her heart. Imagine the level of unwavering commitment she would have had. Imagine the unbreakable bond that was forged as a result of her love. What a beautiful celebration this is to conclude this Octave of Christmas Day! **PRAYER**: Dearest Mother Mary, you loved your Divine Son with a perfect love. Your heart burned with an unquenchable fire of motherly charity. Your bond with Jesus was one that was perfect in every way. Help me to open my heart to that same love you share with me. Come be my mother and care for me as you cared for your Son. May I also love you with the love Jesus had for you and with the love He now lavishes upon you in Heaven. Mother Mary, the Mother of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.'



## CHURCH OPENING HOURS

### Note: 10 people in attendance only

#### Monday – Friday from 11 am to 1 pm

- For private prayer **only** & Confession is available
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

#### Sunday from noon to 2 pm

- For private prayer **only** & Confession is available
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve from 11 am to 1 pm

• For private prayer **only** 

• Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

- Christmas Day & New Year's Day from 10 am to 2 pm
  - For private prayer **only**
  - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

MASS LIVESTREAMED in ENGLISH and can be viewed online at anytime throughout the day at

- <u>www.olghtamilparish.com</u> at the following times:
  Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve at 6 pm
  - Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve at 6
  - Sundays at 9 am



May God Jesus Christ make your year a happy one!
 Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
 But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
 Not by making your path easy,
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows."

Yesterday is a memory, today is a gift, tomorrow is a hope. Let's begin New Year with faith, love, and peace. Wishing all parishioners & families

**Happy New Year!** Clercy & Stoff





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