

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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Rev. Fr. Charles Collins, Administrator

Rev. Fr. Peter Gitendran, In Residence

prepare the way...



ADVENT

Lessons from our Mother

The Visitation

Luke 1:39-45

Mother Mary becomes the focal point of the Gospel on this fourth Sunday of Advent. Our Lady, shortly after discovering that she will conceive the Son of God, goes in haste to assist her cousin Elizabeth. After Jesus, Mary is the perfect model and example of how to live a life of deep stewardship. Let us take some time to reflect on this episode and glean insights on how we can better imitate her.

Firstly, we can learn a great lesson from how Mary “went with haste” to help Elizabeth. As stewards, we should not sit idle by and be half-hearted in our attempts to serve our neighbour. Whenever we see a need in our parish community, let us strive to utilize our gifts to readily offer our help and support.

Secondly, we should try to imitate Mary in her role of bringing Jesus to others. It wasn’t so much Mary who brought help and comfort to Elizabeth, but rather, it was the presence of Jesus dwelling within her. As stewards, we need to constantly remind ourselves that it is not our own merits that bring about good and conversion in our parish. Rather, we must realize that everything is a result of the grace of God that is working through us. Let us conclude with the beautiful words of St. Teresa of Calcutta who says, *“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”*

Summary

After Jesus, Mary is the perfect model and example of how to live a life of deep stewardship and we can learn a great deal by reflecting on her visitation. Firstly, we should imitate Mary’s “haste” in her visitation so that whenever we see a need in our parish community, we can readily use our gifts to help. Secondly, just as Mary brought the Child Jesus with her in her womb, we too need to constantly remind ourselves that it is not our own merits that bring about good, but Christ dwelling within us.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES



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Thank you for supporting your parish!



This week
The Sanctuary Lamp
 is dedicated
 For the repose of the soul
 of
Arnold Madrid
requested by
The Sevilla family



Mon.	Dec. 20	12:05 pm	† Felicidad Frias <i>requested by Nereza Frias</i>
Tue.	Dec. 21	12:05 pm	† Gerson Frias, <i>requested Nereza Frias</i>
Wed.	Dec. 22	12:05 pm	† Antonia Frias, <i>requested by Nereza Frias</i>
Thur.	Dec.23	12:05 pm	In thanksgiving for all God’s Blessings and for the intentions of Letty Denovan, <i>requested by Letty Denovan</i>
Fri.	Dec. 24 [Christmas Eve]	5:00 pm	† Delfin Briones in remembrance on her birthday, <i>requested by Briones & Patacsil families</i>
		9:30 pm	† Emily Nephin, <i>requested by Alice & Brian Warford</i>
Sat.	Dec. 25 [Christmas]	10:00 am	For the People of the Parish
Sun.	Dec. 26	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish
		11:00 am	† Toedulo Hipolito, <i>requested by the Llarenas family</i>



OFFICE CLOSED

EFFECTIVE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 2021
TO
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2022
 We apologize for the inconvenience.



Christmas & New Year's Day Schedule

Christmas Eve: Friday December 24th
5 pm & 9:30 pm [English]



Christmas Day: Saturday December 25th
8:30 am [Bilingual Mass Tamil & English]



10:00 am [English only]



Saturday, December 25th – No Sunday Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 26th, *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph* – 9:00 am & 11:00 am



New Year Eve: Friday December 31st
5:00 pm [English]



New Year's Day: Saturday January 1st
8:30 am [Bilingual Mass Tamil & English]



10:00 am [English only]



Saturday, January 1st – No Sunday Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 2nd - *Epiphany of The Lord*
9:00 am & 11:00 am

Please sign up for ALL Masses.

- Sign up sheets will be made available **this weekend** at the back of the church.

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Thank you for your cooperation.

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TEN SIMPLE WAYS TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS—THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS!

PRIMARY FOCUS:

The person and not materialism. Our primary focus in our preparation for Christmas is the birth of Jesus, the Savior who came into the world to save us.



1. **Clean the stable of your heart.** Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas, is a very propitious time to clean our heart, mind, soul and total being by means of making a good Sacramental Confession.
 2. **Strive to cultivate a silent and recollected heart.** Try to avoid all unnecessary noise. When we have moments of silence, it is then that God's Holy Spirit can speak to us, give us certain lights or insights, and send heavenly inspirations
 3. **More frequent and fervent prayer.** Set aside more time to talk to the Lord, Mary, and Saint Joseph in the depths of your heart.
 4. **Good movies; a Christmas carol.** To set the stage for a fruitful Christmas.
 5. **Joy in giving more than having.** The essential message of A Christmas Carol is that true joy can only be attained inasmuch as we learn the art of giving freely, generously, and continually to others.
 6. **Live out the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in your life.** In a real sense, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a daily Christmas. Let Jesus be born in your heart in the worthy reception of Holy Communion.
 7. **Visit the poor, the aged, the sick, and the abandoned.** Living out the Gospel of love is a perennial task. We should seek out helping those in our society who suffer most.
 8. **Reconcile!** Be humble! Take the initiative and reconcile. Even though possibly very difficult, this gesture of reconciliation is very pleasing to God and will fill your heart with a deep peace that maybe you have not experienced in years!
 9. **Kind words: condiment your speech!** Get into the habit of saying kind words to others, especially to your family members - all of these can change a sad and desolate heart into one of joy and exultation!
 10. **Mother Mary and Christmas.** Of course, Christmas would not have taken place if it were not for the generous YES OF MARY! Stay close to Mary. Pray the Rosary, especially the Joyful Mysteries. Accompany Mary in her journey to Bethlehem. Be with her in the stable as she brings forth Jesus for your salvation.
- Place Mary in Advent and Christmas, and Jesus will be born in the depths of your heart.**

~ extracted from an article by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV ~



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