

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Feast of the Holy Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



The birth of Jesus is a covenant offered to humanity. He is the medicine given to us by the Father. The cure for all our troubles. Christ's birth is God's inauguration of his covenantal love and our hope for our eternal destiny with God. God becomes like us so that we may become like him glorified. We have this assurance for those who keep the friendship with God and his covenant. The Lord renews his covenant with us especially in this Holy Season. He has not left us orphans, but left us with so many gifts and treasures within his Church and his holy people.

The birth of Jesus is that seal from God that we are made in his image and likeness, and that he is in the process of restoring us day in day out. This raises our earthly state to heavenly beings and not just earthly or carnal. Jesus is the Messiah that came from heaven, where he personally invites each one of us to follow him towards the greatest adventure of imitating him. Let us have our feet rooted where God has planted us here. However, let us set our eyes, hearts and souls on heaven. Let us be walking vessels of light and grace to the people and the world around us. Amen.

Have a blessed Christmas everyone!

Fr. Mounir El-Rassi



We are looking for a few
Care Associates
to assist at
the 11 Mass.

If you have any questions please see a Care Associate after any Mass.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Sunday, December 26th

9:00 a.m. † John & Marianne Johnson

11:00 a.m. † John & Mary Fox

Sunday, January 2nd

9:00 a.m. † Tomasina & Francesco Parente

11:00 a.m. † Cesarina Corriero & Vito Trentadue

There will be no daily Mass on Dec 28, 29, 30.



New Year's Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

NEW YEAR'S EVE – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
4:30 p.m.
(no morning Mass)

NEW YEAR'S DAY – SATURDAY, JANUARY 1
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
(no evening Mass)

Pope Francis has launched the Synod on Synodality: a two-year global process of listening to the faithful that will help the Church reflect on how we can do God's will in the world today. The comments of the faithful will ultimately be discussed at a meeting of the bishops in the Vatican in 2023. To learn more about the Synod on Synodality and to share your thoughts, please visit: www.archtoronto.org/synodality.

Virtual Rosary Prayer Group

Wednesday 4:30 pm (30 minutes)

Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/efc-tvjz-ctv>

Divine Mercy Lectio Divina Prayer Group

Thursday 4:30 pm (1 hr)

Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/efc-tvjz-ctv>

Saints Series with Chris Woodward (M.A., M.Div)

Fridays 7:30 pm (1 hr)

Meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/jyi-pkge-ghu>

The Christmas Story is your story too

The beauty of each narrative found in the Sacred Scriptures lies in the fact that there are always, in reality, two narratives unfolding. Thus, when we take the time to read and meditate on the Christmas narrative, we are invited to discover both Christ's birth in Bethlehem and, at the same time, his birth in our own lives.

Both narratives hinge upon two essential points: the marvel of God's overwhelming love, manifested in the Incarnation, and the drama of mankind's cooperation. The drama of whether God's people would say yes or no to his Plan has been lived out since creation.

Yet, it reaches a climax at the moment of the Annunciation, in which God reveals through his messenger his Plan of salvation to Mary. St. Bernardo relates this moment beautifully in one of his Advent homilies. *"Answer, then, quickly to the angel—yes, through the angel give your consent to God... Why do you delay? Why are you fearful? Believe—confess—receive. Let humility put on courage, and timidity, confidence... Open, O Blessed Virgin, your heart to faith, your lips to compliance, your bosom to your Creator. Behold, the desired of all nations stands at the gate and knocks... Arise by faith, run by devotion, open by acceptance. Mary speaks: 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done unto me according to thy word.'"*

Again and again, we must shake our minds from its indifference, we must allow our heart's pulse to run, and our feet to tremble. This is the moment in which the entirety of Creation holds its breath: "Will she say yes?" Just try to imagine the explosion of joy that rocked the heavens in hearing her reply...

Now, we must learn to perceive this same dramatic moment in each one of our lives. Our Savior is born and has come to live amongst us. This is the Christmas mystery that we celebrate. The Lord has entered into our world and now comes to each one of us, inviting us to follow him. It is impossible to remain neutral or indifferent before this event! It is a reality that demands an answer! The heavens and the earth wait with their breath held!

Will you say yes? Will you allow this young child to reign in your heart? Will you allow Christ to enter into the world through your life? Will you work without rest so that his love might reach, conquer, and transform the culture that surrounds you? Will you pledge to stand by His side, in good times and in bad, whether it be before kings that kneel or kings that crucify?

One's "yes" to the Lord means accepting his Plan and placing ourselves trustingly into his hands. We will pass through moments of light and darkness; still, we must always remember who it is that has called us by name and the great love that he has shown us. Pope Benedict XVI, in his most recent book, sheds light on this journey, reflecting on Mary's own experience after the Annunciation.

In the final sentence of Luke's Annunciation narrative, we read: "And the angel departed from her" (Lk 1: 38). The great hour of Mary's encounter with God's messenger—in which her whole life is changed—comes to an end, and she remains there alone, with the task that truly surpasses all human capacity. There are no angels standing around her. She must continue along the path that leads through many dark moments—from Joseph's dismay at her pregnancy to the moment when Jesus is said to be out of his mind (cf. Mk 3: 21; Jn 10: 20), right up to the night of the Cross.

How often in these situations must Mary have returned inwardly to the hour when God's angel had spoken to her, pondering afresh the greeting: 'Rejoice, full of grace!' and the consoling words: "Do not be afraid!" The angel departs; her mission remains, and with it matures her inner closeness to God, a closeness that in her heart she is able to see and touch.

Catholic-link.org Garrett Johnson

2022 Envelopes


2022 envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please ensure you put your name and address on the first 3 envelopes beginning with January 1st, 2022. All those with pre-authorized giving are asked to pick up envelopes as not all collections are covered by your pre-authorized giving.


We appreciate your financial support and thank you for your ongoing generosity!



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