



# Parish Week

Sunday, 15 December 2019

## Saturday, 14 Dec. / St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Audrey)
- 12.00 pm funeral Mass: † Lydia Marquez
- 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Loretta D'Mello (friends)

## SUNDAY, 15 DEC. / ADVENT 3-A

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Kevin Anthony Pierre (family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Gumersindo Figueroa (Ellen Cruz & family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: Int. Wedding Anniversary  
Ray & Dolly Aglipay (family)
- 1.00 pm Knights of Columbus
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Monday 16 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Peter Joseph (Mom Agnes)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Petra Zulueta (Rosalina Mopas)

## Tuesday, 17 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Francisco Lagundi (Susan & Ur Buyser)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Eddie Juan (wife Shirley & children)

## Wednesday, 18 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Rita Bastiampillai (Caroline)
- 6.45 pm St. Maria Goretti School Christmas Carols
- 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Birthday Thanksgiving  
Arnold & Donald (mom Lillian)  
- St. Maria Goretti School Family Advent Mass

## Thursday, 19 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † James Selvanayagam (George & family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Bernardo Villaron (family)

## Friday, 20 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Luigi Deccico (Irma Pisciola)
- 11.00 am ► Ina Grafton Nursing Home Mass
- 7.00 pm Mass: † All Souls (Villaron family)

## Saturday, 21 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Gabriel & Frances Andreas (Charles)
- 3.30 pm Finance Council
- 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Lillian D'Souza (friends)

## SUNDAY, 22 DEC. / ADVENT 4-A

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

■ *Fr. Armand Joseph Desaulniers: death anniversary (1988)*

- 9.00 am Mass: † William Woods (Alice Larkin)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Josefina Ombac (family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: Andrea Besario (family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

# The Advent Wreath

## Third Sunday of Advent

At the beginning of Mass, the Priest will call a family to light the Advent Candle. At the end, the congregation prays:

**Father, You called us to share Christ's ministry to a troubled world. Fill us with Your Spirit, so that we may faithfully proclaim Your Word in all we say and do, until Your Kingdom comes on Earth.**

**We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Today's Candle lighters are:

- 5.00 pm **Delma Singh & Shirley Persaud**
- 9.00 am **Daphne, Alice & Angela**
- 10.30 am **Felicitas Flores**
- 12.00 pm The **Bruni** family
- 7.00 pm The **Suico** family

## Pray for the Deceased

### Marianito Alviso

**Peter Manuelpillai Francisca Obona Omo  
Erlinda Parrenas Matthew Robert Jamieson**

**The 7 victims of the private airplane crash  
near Kingston, Ontario**



## Christmas Collections

### 21 / 22 December: Offertory

On 23/24 December, the collection taken by the Greeters at the Preparation of the Gifts will be for the *Regular Sunday Offertory*.

### 24 / 25 December: Offertory & Christmas

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas collection for our Special Church Needs will be taken after Communion at our Christmas Eve & Day Masses, 24/25 December.

### 28/ 29 December: Offertory & Maintenance

On 30/31 December, the collection taken by the Greeters at the Preparation of the Gifts will be for the *Regular Sunday Offertory*. The 2<sup>nd</sup> collection taken by the Greeters (after Communion) will be for the support of our major parish projects through the *Maintenance Collection*.

### 31 December / 1 January: New Year

At our New Year's Eve and Day Masses, 31 December & 1 January, the collection taken by the Greeters during the Preparation of the Gifts will be for the *New Year Collection*.

## COMING UP

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- 24 Dec. **Christmas Eve** Masses begin at 7.00 pm
- 25 Dec. Christmas: Feast of the **Nativity of Our Lord**
- 29 Dec. Feast of the **Holy Family**

## 2020

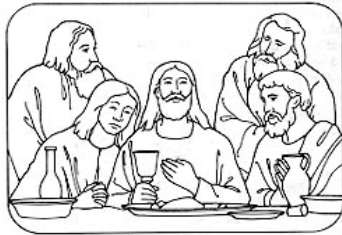
- 1 Jan. The Solemn Feast of **Mary, Mother of God**

## Website [stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org](http://stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org)

For more information on these and other parish activities, see pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.

# Sacramental Preparation

## Reconciliation, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion



Students in our parish Catholic Schools receive RECONCILIATION and FIRST COMMUNION preparation in Grade 2. The parish will take care of the immediate instruction; families of enrolled students will be given a calendar at their Information Night.

## Confirmation

Students in our parish Catholic Schools receive CONFIRMATION preparation in Grade 7. The parish will take care of the immediate instruction; families of enrolled students will be given a calendar at their Information Night.

## Saturday Catechism

Students who are not in the Catholic Schools in our parish receive RECONCILIATION, 1<sup>ST</sup> COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION preparation on Saturday. The catechists, **Mukesh Kapadia** and **Fr. Elias**, provide the instruction and calendar.

## Sunday Missals

The new Sunday Missals have arrived for the next liturgical year, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent on 1 December 2019. Pick up your copy at the table in the Vestibule for \$5.

## Sunday School *Christmas / New Year break*

The last *Sunday School for Kids* before Christmas: at the 10.30 Mass on **15 December 2019**.

The Sunday School will resume: at the 10.30 Mass on **5 January 2020**.

## Church Christmas Decoration

*16 December, after 7 pm Mass*

The decoration of our Church in preparation for Christmas will be held Monday evening, 16 December, after the 7.00 pm Mass.

## Stewardship

2020 Sunday Envelopes

Parishioners are invited to pick up their *2020 Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Vestibule after Mass. The envelopes are for registered parishioners only; if you are new to the neighbourhood and have not yet registered, *welcome!* Come to the Office window, fill out a *registration form*, and join our parish.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your weekly stewardship!

Wait until New Year

Kindly wait until 1 January 2020 to begin using your new envelopes. If you misplaced your box for the current year, visit the Office after any Sunday morning Mass and we will look after you.

<i>Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Mt 6:21</i>	My Offering	
	Name: _____	_____
	Address: _____	Amount: _____

# ADVENT PREPARATIONS

## Christmas Flowers

Parishioners are invited to sponsor this year's display of CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS in our Sanctuary. Donation envelopes are at the Office window.



If you wish to *dedicate* your flowers, please fill out the "Christmas Flower" form in the donation envelope. Dedications will be accepted until noon on Monday, 20 December.

The forms are intended to remember *one person* for each pot donated. If you wish to honour more than one person, you may submit the name of a pair who share a common family name; or, for many persons, "For the members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Family."

## St. Vincent de Paul *Advent Appeal*

During Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we recall many in our community who are less fortunate and who could benefit from our prayers and almsgiving.

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society seeks your support for the help we provide to the poor. Envelopes will be made available at the doors of the Church so that you can help us to extend Christ's love to our neighbors who are in need.

## Finance Council *21 December*

The next Finance Council and R&R Committee meeting will be at 3.30 pm on Saturday, 21 December.

## Fragrance Irritation and Allergies

The chemicals used in many cosmetics may cause allergic reactions in some people, including breathing problems, asthma and dermatitis (itchy rash). Please refrain from wearing cosmetics with discernable fragrances to Church.

## Prayer for Life

*Eternal Father, Source of Life, open our hearts to see and desire the beauty of Your plan for life and love. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that our love will be generous and self-giving, and we may be blessed with joy. Grant us great trust in Your mercy. Forgive us for the times we have not received Your gift of life, and heal us from the effects of the culture of death. Instill in us and in all people a sense of the sacredness of every human life. Inspire our efforts to protect and care for the most vulnerable, especially women who are pregnant and their unborn children; the sick; and the elderly. Strengthen us in the hope that with You nothing is impossible. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who by His Cross makes all things new. Amen.*







*Above:* **Daniel Gordon Murdoch Jr.** rests peacefully in his father's arms after his Baptism at the 12.00 noon Mass on 1 December 2019.

*Below:* The LAST SUPPER picture in the Byron family home represents our appreciation on the gift of the Eucharist, and its central role in our spiritual life.







Our two new Altar Server Novices, **Zian Byron** and **Macario Francis**, in front of their trainers and senior servers: **Claudine Tadeo**, **Bryan Harack**, (**Fr. Edwin**),

**Joshua Rebello** and **Kevin Abraham**, following the Installation Rite at the 12.00 noon Mass held on Sunday, 1 December 2019.



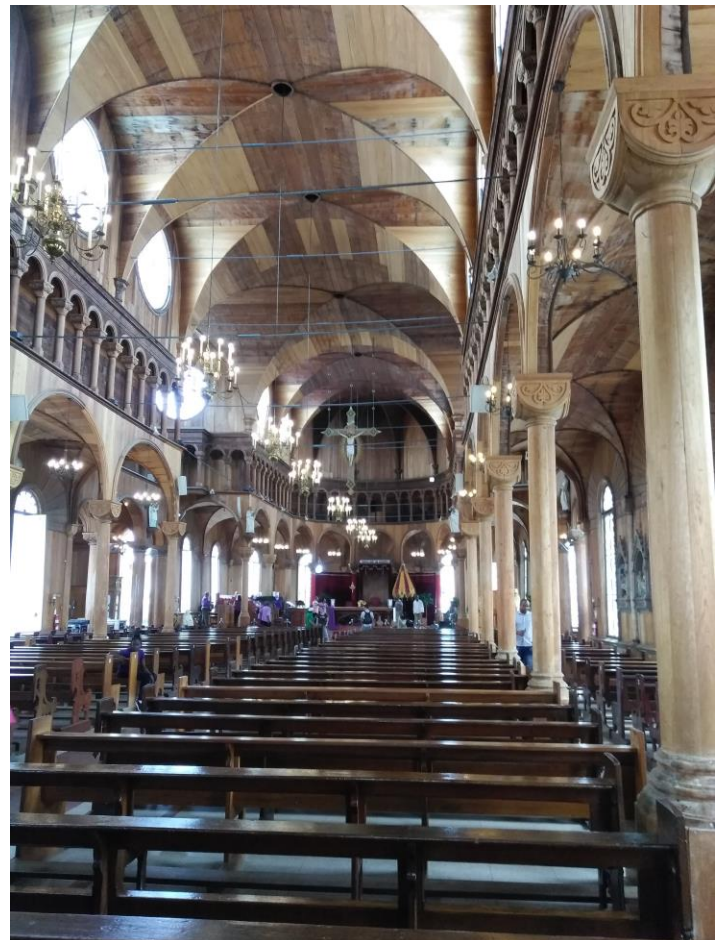
# Advent

By Renee Swope, "The Manger of My Heart"

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.  
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.  
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,  
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent  
Your Son from Heaven.  
The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.  
You came as a baby born in a manger.  
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,  
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.  
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,  
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped  
Himself in rags of earth. Immanuel, God with us,  
Your presence came that night.  
And angels announced, "Into your darkness,  
God brings His Light."  
"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.  
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.  
Make me like those shepherd boys,  
obedient to Your call.  
Setting distractions and worries aside,  
to You I surrender them all.  
Surround me with Your presence, Lord,  
I long to hear Your voice.  
Clear my mind of countless concerns  
and all the holiday noise.  
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.  
In the midst of parties and planning,  
I want to feel Your hush.  
This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.  
Invade my soul like Bethlehem,  
bringing peace to every part.  
Dwell within and around me,  
as I unwrap Your presence each day.  
Keep me close to You, Lord.  
It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.



*Right, top:* Office Team member **Victoria Chapman** after Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul on Henck Arron Street in Paramaribo, Suriname. *Below:* Inside the Cathedral.



# Youth Ministry

In a recently published book entitled, *Lost in Transition: The Dark Side of Emerging Adulthood*, the main author, Christian Smith, reports on findings regarding the religious beliefs and practices of 18 to 23-year old Americans. Their research demonstrates that very few young adults interviewed about religion make reference to historical and theological ideas when discussing it. Their main understanding of the purpose of religion is to help us be good and happy.

Moreover, they identified five major issues facing young people today that are particular relevance to our mission at the Newman Centre:

1. Confused moral reasoning
2. Routine intoxication in order to acquire a fake feeling of happiness
3. Materialistic life goals
4. Casual sexual experiences
5. Disengagement from civic and political life.

The authors do not blame everything on the emerging adults. They recognize that they are being shaped by a culture that many adults have themselves created.

Saint Cardinal Newman's canonization on 13 October 2019 is of particular relevance to the aforementioned crisis. Views regarding religion in 19<sup>th</sup> century England were far from perfect. In particular, the holy clergyman was very precise in his criticism of liberalism in religion in his famous "*Biglietto Speech*," given on the occasion of his appointment as a Cardinal of the Catholic Church on 12 May 1879. He wrote:

"[*Liberalism holds that*] There is no positive truth in religion, but that one creed is as good as another... It is inconsistent with any recognition of any religion as true. It teaches that all are to be tolerated, for all matters of opinion. Revealed religion is not a truth, but a sentiment and a taste; not an objective fact, not miraculous; and it is the right of each individual to make it say whatever strikes his fancy. Devotion is not necessarily founded on faith. Men may go to Protestant Churches and to Catholic, may get good from both and belong to neither. They may fraternize together in spiritual thoughts and feelings, without any views at all of doctrines in common, or seeing the need of them. Since, then, religion is so personal a peculiarity and so private a possession, we must of necessity ignore it..."

(*Wilfred Ward, The Life of John Henry Cardinal Newman*, p.460).



The rejection of religious truth, perhaps more prominent today than in Newman's time, is antithetical to the Gospel that Jesus Christ preached while journeying towards the cross. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus said to his disciples, "*I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me*" (John 14:6). Jesus Christ did not come to teach us how to be nice. He came to die for our sins and to teach us how to be holy so that we can get into heaven.

By **Fr. Peter Turrone**, NEWMAN CENTRE, Toronto. Published in THE TORCH, the Newman Centre newsletter, Fall 2019 issue.

## DECEMBER: Advent/Christmas feasts

Feasts occur throughout December, covering most of our observance of Advent, and the start of the Christmas season.

- 6 **St. Nicholas**: Sainly Bishop of Myra (now in Turkey); inspiration for our modern Santa Claus.
- 7 **St. Ambrose**: Bishop and Doctor of the Church; he said: "We loved them in life; let us not forget them in death."
- 9 **Immaculate Conception of Mary**: God kept Mary free from Original Sin by virtue of the merits of her son, Jesus. Mary was Immaculate from the first moment of her conception.
- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**: Her Basilica in Mexico City is the busiest shrine of Mary in the world.
- 13 **St. Lucy**: Virgin and Martyr.
- 25 **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**, Christmas Day.
- 26 **St. Stephen**: First Martyr of the New Testament.
- 27 **St. John the Evangelist**: The youngest Apostle, writer of the Fourth Gospel and three Epistles.
- 28 **Holy Innocents**: The youngest Martyrs for Jesus.
- 29 **St. Thomas à Beckett**: Bishop and Martyr.





## El Salvador *The Martyrs*

16 November 1989

It is the middle of the night at the Jesuit residence on a university campus. It's dark outside, and all is quiet. The university is located in the heart of an urban metropolis which is fast asleep at this hour. Likewise, the six resident Jesuits are peacefully at rest.

The community, like many university communities of Jesuits, counts among them the rector and vice-rector of the university, a couple of professors, and others who work in social programs at the university. In a small house next door are a university employee and her daughter. It's a familiar scene, recognizable to any alumnus of a Jesuit university.

Suddenly, the sound of fists pounding on the doors of the residence pierces the midnight silence. Shouting ensues, and five of the six Jesuits emerge from the back door, groggy-eyed and clothed in nightgowns. Armed men command them to lay face down in the grass.

An order is given. Each one is shot in the back of the head. Startled by the noises, the oldest member of the community emerges from the doorway, but he sees the carnage and turns back inside. He makes it only a few steps before soldiers confront him, take aim, and fire.

At the cottage next door to the Jesuit community, another soldier is standing guard over the community cook and her daughter. "Leave no witnesses" was the directive. He shoots them both.

So it came to be that in the early morning hours of 16 November 1989 at the University of Central America (UCA) in the city of San Salvador, American-trained Salvadoran soldiers massacred this group of eight, adding them to the list of over 75,000 victims of a civil war that raged for over twelve years.

Let us remember the names of all six Jesuits who were killed, plus the cook and her daughter.

**Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J.**

**Ignacio Martín-Baro, S.J.**

**Segundo Montes, S.J.**

**Amando López, S.J.**

**Joaquin López y López, S.J.**

**Juan Ramón Moreno, S.J.**

**Elba Ramos**

**Celina Ramos**

Beyond the UCA martyrs of El Salvador, we have various other examples of the dangers of preaching the Gospel:

The first American-born martyr, Stanley Rother, was killed working with Mayans in a Guatemalan village in 1981.

In 2014, Fr. Frans van der Lugt, a Jesuit priest, was shot and killed by jihadist terrorists in the garden of a community center in Homs, Syria.

In March 2016, four Missionaries of Charity sisters (the order founded by Mother Theresa) were among a group of 16 people murdered by ISIS gunmen in Aden, Yemen.

*The Jesuit Post*, 16 November 2017





*Above: Pope Francis greets religious leaders during a meeting with Christian leaders and the leaders of other religions at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, 22 Nov. 2019.*

*Below: Pope Francis receives a welcome banner from the theology faculty at Jesuit-run SOPHIA UNIVERSITY in Tokyo 26 Nov. 2019*

