

St. Bernard de Clairvaux Church

1789 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M6L 1E3

Tel: 416-241-6738 • Fax: 416-241-8776

E-Mail: stbernarddeclairvauxto@archtoronto.org

Website: www.stbernarddeclairvauxto

Pastoral Team:

Fr. Boniface Perri, Pastor

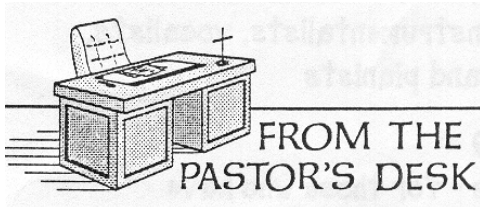
Fr. Jose Johnny, Associate Pastor/Chaplain to Sacred Heart Kerala Community

Fr. Francesco Pica, In Residence

Gina Orofino, Parish Secretary Brenda Carvalho, Bookkeeper



*Oh Come
Let us Adore Him*



This year, my brother said that there was no point for me to buy the siblings anything and to just get some gifts for my nephews and nieces. And you know, that made me feel sad. I know it's not just about the giving and receiving of material things; it's really about the love and concern that the gifts represent. It really is true, giving of gifts is just as enjoyable as receiving them. (So much to my brother's surprise and annoyance that I did not follow his orders. I got him a gift!)

Christmas cannot be explained without love. It was out of Love and not necessity that Jesus, second person of the Blessed Trinity came down from Heaven and was incarnate, literally He took on flesh, so as to be with us, teach and heal us and most importantly to save us from our sins. It is out of love that Mary accepted and cherished Him with love beyond all telling and it was out of love that the wise men came bearing gifts as if to a king, for so indeed He was. The great King of Heaven and Earth but most importantly the king of our hearts.

And like the wise men every year we too, to make a choice to leave our ordinary routines and all the things we normally do at Christmas to come to the Nativity's manger and be with the Christ child, and to bring to Him the gift of our worship and adoration, of our very heart. In this our love is complete. In this we are filled with the peace and joy of the Christmas season: it is not a vague Christmas spirit that we experience but it is the love of the Lord. Someone once asked me what I think it would be like to be with Jesus and honestly, I think it would be like having that presence of the Lord we feel at Christmas but having it in a more glorious and direct way. Filled with this love let us share it with our family, with our parishioners and all so that reaching its fullness, our joy may be complete.

Merry Christmas! And may God bless you all!!

Fr. Boniface

P.S. I also hope you do get at least one gift this Christmas!

*A tutte le famiglie della nostra
comunita' parrocchiale,
Tanti e tanti auguri
per un felicissimo e Santo Natale*



MARY, is often associated with mercy and rightly so. As Jesus lay in the Manger with no more than the breath of the donkey and ox to keep Him warm, Mary wanted to alleviate all that caused the Blessed Lord harm and to comfort Him. Whenever we are moved to do the same with those we see, that is true mercy in action.

Mary also held up Her Divine Son to the Wise Men showing Him to them and to all who come seeking God. In this way, Mary acts as the perfect model and Mother of the Church and all of us Her children, both showing Christ to all who come to us, so that they may know and Love Him and in imitation of our Blessed Saviour to show mercy to them as well. In this way, Mary fulfills the two great laws of Christ: to Love God in all our strength, mind and soul and to Love our neighbour as ourselves.

As a true disciple of her Blessed Son she stays close to Him throughout her life and this finds her standing at the foot of the cross. At that moment, Jesus gave us Mary as our Mother too, after he had been nailed to the cross, He addressed her in these words "women behold your Son" then he said to John "behold your mother". Jesus looks at us one by one; behold your mother, he says. John took her into his home, received her lovingly and cared for her with the greatest respect. He brought Mary into his home, into his life. Spiritual writers have seen words of the Gospel as an invitation to all Christians to bring Mary into their lives.

Our Lady, close to her Son, fulfills her mission as mother of all by interceding continually for them. On this Solemnity of Our Lady, we begin the new year. Truly there could not be a better start of the year and all the days of our life, then being very close to Mary. With the confidence of children, we go to her, so that she may help us to live holiness every day of the year.



We thank everyone for your contributions towards our new Nativity Set.

This new set will serve our parish with joy for years to come. With your generosity, we have raised enough funds to pay for it in full.

Thank you for this Christmas gift to the parish, it means a lot!

Thank you letter from the Good Shepherd Ministries dated December 1, 2022

Dear Rev. Perri and Parishioners:

I want to tell you how much it means to all of us at Good Shepherd Ministries that you participated in our annual Thanksgiving food drive. With your generous collection of non-perishable food items, you are helping to provide meals to individuals who are homeless and at-risk.

As winter draws closer and the weather turns colder, the bleak reality that surrounds the homeless is heightened. While we enjoy the comfort of our homes and loved ones, we never forget people isolated from family and friends, people who struggle each day with hunger, addiction, illness and despair.

That is why we are all very thankful for your kindness and support. Your food drive collection will be instrumental in helping us to provide nutritious meals to those in our community who are homeless and hungry.

Our work is far from done, but together we have made great strides in making a difference in the lives of those who are vulnerable, marginalized and who need our support.

Thank you!

Sincerely, Adrienne Urquhart

Director, Fundraising & Public Relations

2023 Offertory Envelopes

Your 2023 Sunday donation envelopes are available for pick up. **Please do not use your old envelopes.** Check that your name, address and envelope number are correct. If your name does not appear on any of the boxes, if you are a new envelope user or if you are interested in Pre-Authorized Giving, contact the parish office.

Thank you for your generous financial support.

Sono pronte le buste per l'offerta domenicale 2023.

Vi preghiamo di prelevare il vostro pacchetto.

Se iniziate quest'anno ad usare le buste, chiamate in ufficio per registrare. Grazie a tutti per il sostegno finanziario che date alla parrocchia.



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DEC. 24th TO SUNDAY, JAN. 1st, 2023

Sat 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**

5:00 pm

7:00 pm

12:00 pm

Sun 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:00 am

10:30 am

12:00 pm

Mon 26th 9:00 am Giovanni Monte

Antonio Simone

Tues 27th 8:00 am Beniamino & Liberata Alonzi

Nazzareno Tari

Adolfo Molella

Enzo & Georgia Simone

Wed 28th 6:30 pm Holy Rosary

7:00 pm Deceased Children of the Parish

Thur 29th 8:00 am Beniamino & Liberata Alonzi

7:00 pm Zita Lena (2 yr. Memorial Mass)

Fri 30th 6:30 pm Holy Rosary

7:00 pm Thanksgiving for the Monte Family

Sat 31st 5:00 pm Vigil Mass for Mary Mother of God

Sun 1st **MASS FOR MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

9:00 am

10:30 am

12:00 pm



“The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus...

He has entered our history;

He has shared our journey.

He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light.

In Him was revealed the grace,
the mercy and the love of the Father.”

Pope Frances

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