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PARISH TEAM

Fr. George Kibura Njuguna, IMC – Pastor StAndrewsET@archtoronto.org

Fr. Timothy Kinyua Gatitu, IMC – Associate Pastor

Rev. Mr. Joseph Owusu-Afriyie – Permanent Deacon

Fr. Alex Osei CSSp – Ghanaian Community

Mr. Martins Igbino – Parish Council

Mr. Joseph Fragomeni – Finance Council

Ms. Carolina Chavez – Parish Office standrewparish.office@gmail.com

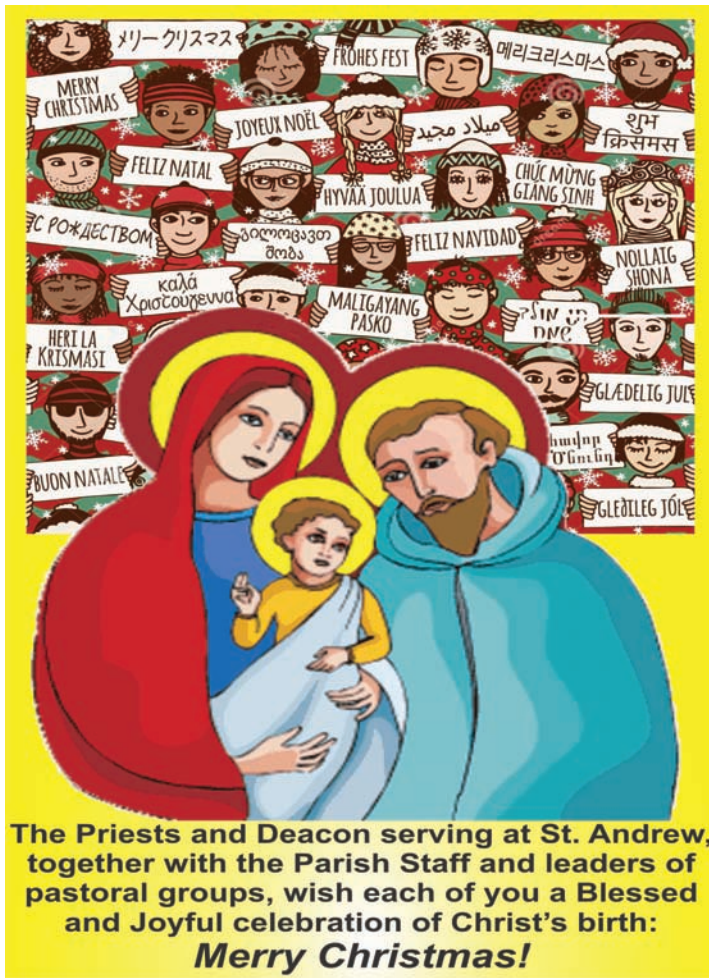
Ms. Sharanka Prince Yogarajah – Youth Coordinator sprince@archtoronto.org



Oh Come
Let us Adore Him

Welcome home to St. Andrew

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B



Gazing Upon the Mother of God

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:26-28

What an amazing experience this would have been. This humble servant of God, a young girl, was visited by the archangel Gabriel and greeted with the salutation, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." Try to imagine her experience. She was humble beyond comprehension, filled with every heavenly virtue, loved God with all her heart and suddenly came face-to-face with this glorious and most magnificent archangel. And this heavenly visitor showered the deepest of praises upon this lowly servant of the Lord.

At first, in her humility, Mary simply pondered this greeting. She pondered it in her heart through prayer and faith. Then the archangel spoke further: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Though Mary inquired further about how this could be, she quickly gave her consent: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." And it was these words of this young woman that continuously echoed in her heart throughout her life.

Mother Mary was great for many reasons. She was the Immaculate Conception—the one singularly conceived without sin in the womb of her own mother. She was the one chosen by the Father to bring forth the Savior of the World as her only begotten Son. But her greatness is especially found in her ongoing submission to the will of God. "May it be done to me according to your word." This is what she said over and over throughout her life. This is her perfect "fiat" to her God. All she knew was surrender and submission to all that God asked of her. And it is this, more than anything else that made her the worthy Mother of God.

Though none of us were immaculately conceived within our mother's wombs and none of us have remained without sin throughout our lives, we must all strive to be inspired by this holy woman. We must all ponder her deep humility and her willing acceptance of God's will in her life. And we must all strive to imitate her fiat and her perfect virtue.

Imitation of our Blessed Mother is accomplished by first coming to know her, understand her and love who she is. Gazing upon her interior beauty and holiness presents us with the vision of the perfection to which we are all called. As we prayerfully gaze upon her heart and come to understand her virtues more clearly, we will be inspired to open our own hearts so as to imitate her by the grace of God. This prayerful exercise is one of the best and quickest ways to obtain the heights of holiness to which God has called us.

Reflect, today, upon this holy daughter of the Most High. She is not one we can "figure out." Instead, she is one whom we can come to know through prayer and through God's inspiration. Ponder her prayerfully. Be open to her inspiration. And allow the Holy Spirit to also overshadow you so that you will more closely be able to imitate her in her holy virtues.

"mycatholic.life"

Christmas Schedule

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

• SIMBANG GABI - MASS AT DAWN FROM DECEMBER 16 - 24 AT 5:30AM

SUNDAY DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 AM (ENGLISH) • 9:30 AM (ITALIAN) • 11:00AM (ENGLISH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM - CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS • 9:00 PM - CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS
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MONDAY DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 AM (ENGLISH) • 9:30 AM (ITALIAN) • 11:00AM (ENGLISH) • 12:30PM (ENGLISH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00PM (TWI) • 5:30PM (SPANISH)
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ON TUES. DECEMBER 26 - MASS AT 8AM ONLY - NO EVENING MASS

For those who would like to receive the Statue of Our Lady of Fátima in their homes please write your name and phone number on the list posted at the entrance of the Church.

WEEKLY LITURGY ~ MASS INTENTIONS

† = For the soul of ♥ = Special Intention

Saturday, Dec 23 - St. John of Kanty

5:30 am - Simbang Gabi - Mass
 8:30 am - Thanksgiving for Christine Morgan, by Alma & family
 5:30 pm - For blessing of the wedding of br. Bede and Chinwe,
 by Legion of Mary

Sunday, Dec 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent – CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30 am - Simbang Gabi - Mass
 8 am - † Gertrude Morgan (12yrs death anniv.), by Alma & family
 9:30 am - *(Ita. Mass)* † Rosa Lagane & Joe Cuda, by Maria Persampieri
 † Uliana Lucia Del Basso, by Maria Pia Di Nardo
 11 am - For the people of the Parish
 12:30pm - **(No Mass)**
 2 pm - *(Twi Ghana)* **(No Mass)**
 5:30 pm – (Christmas Children Mass) † Harry and Anne McAvoy,
 by Carol Anne McAvoy
 9 pm - **Christmas Vigil Mass**

Monday, Dec 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY

8 am - † Christina, Louie, Tony, Eugenio & Zia Gilda, by Mary,
 Yollie and Carmie
 9:30 am - *(Ita. Mass)* Thanksgiving for Emmanuel Anochie, by family
 11 am - For the people of the Parish
 12:30pm - † Lancy Lawrence Desa, by family
 2 pm - *(Twi Ghana)*
 5:30 pm - *(Spanish Mass)*

Tuesday, Dec 26 - St. Stephen - BOXING DAY

8 am - † Teresita Balauag (6 yrs death anniversary), by family
 7 pm - **(No Mass)**

Wednesday, Dec 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8 am - † Julia Sealy, by daughter Dianne
 7 pm - † Rosa and Felicio Persampieri, by Maria Persampieri

Thursday, Dec 28 - The Holy Innocents

8 am - † Antonio Concepcion, by Consolacion Concepcion
 7 pm - Prayers for speedy recovery for Marina & Dave, by
 parishioners of St. Andrew's

Friday, Dec 29 - St. Thomas Becket

8 am - † Mercedes Pulla, by José Pulla
 † Gloria Cachola, by Arthur and Lilian
 7 pm - † Emmanuel Santiago, by Delos Reyes family

Saturday, Dec 30

8:30 am - Thanksgiving, by Duraisamy family
 5:30 pm - *(No Intention)*

Sunday, Dec 31 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

8 am - Thanksgiving for Dela Rosa & Rabino's family, by family
 9:30 am - *(Ita. Mass)* † Rosa & Felicio Persampieri, by Maria Pesampieri
 11 am - For the people of the Parish
 12:30pm - Thanksgiving for the past year, by Champion family
 2 pm - *(Twi Ghana)*
 5:30 pm – *(Spanish Mass)* **(No Mass)**
 9 pm - **Adoration**
 10 pm - **New Year's Vigil**



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is looking for new members who will commit to the Mission of the Society and its Values, and are interested in developing their spiritual life. Vincentians attend meetings, pray with and for each other, visit the poor and serve in any way they can. Our Mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. The Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, age, gender or political opinions.

Feel free to reach out to me with your questions or if you would like to attend our next meeting in the New Year. Email alonzid@gmail.com Dina Alonzi, President, SSVP at St. Andrew's Church.



Baptism
 November & December 2023

We would like to congratulate the parents of the Newly Baptized Children.

November: Finn Jordan Contiga, David Ikpomwonas Iyase, Jesse Okemi Izevbizua, Nolan Anthony London, Elliana Izabel Owusu, Maia Andreas Valdes Ogaz, and Ifeanyichukwu Emmanuel Okonkwo.

December: Aisosa Aaron Aiworo, Osayamen Owen Aiworo, Tajae Chinasa Dinnia, Sophie Omosede Idahosa, Patricia Kate Batara Labugen, Fawas Enitan Omisore, Oluwanishola Samuel Omisore, Mireille Leana Galamgam Seangoy and Cypriam Genesis Ssemwogerere.



New Year's Schedule

SUNDAY DEC. 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

- 8:00 AM (ENGLISH)
- 9:30 AM (ITALIAN)
- 11:00 AM (ENGLISH)
- 12:30PM (ENGLISH)
- 9:00PM - ADORATION
- 10:00PM - NEW YEAR'S VIGIL

MONDAY JAN. 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

- 8:00 AM (ENGLISH)
- 9:30 AM (ITALIAN)
- 11:00AM (ENGLISH)
- 12:30PM (ENGLISH)
- 2:00PM (TWI)
- 5:30PM (SPANISH)

ON TUES. JAN 2 - MASS AT 8:00 AM ONLY - NO EVENING MASS



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