**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.**

 **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, December 30, 5:00 p.m. Mass + For Souls of Luca and Anna by Anna Nguyen**

**Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m. Mass + For the Souls of Rosa and Paulo and all the Deceased relative of the Guzzo family**

**Prayers and Birthday Blessings for Christina and Nataline by Mom**

**New Year’s Eve, 5:00 p.m. Mass – The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and World Day of Peace**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**New Year’s Day, Monday, January 1, 10:30 a.m. Mass - The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and World Day of Peace**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Tuesday, January 2, No Mass – Memorial of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors**

**Wednesday, January 3, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Thursday, January 4, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**First Friday, January 5, 7:00 p.m. Mass**

**Holy Hour Adoration and Confessions from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**First Saturday, January 6, 5:00 p.m. Mass – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, January 7, 9:30 a.m. Mass – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**+ For the Soul of Christopher Joseph by Martin and Joanne Elsaesser**

**11:00 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY REFLECTION: What is given in this reflection passage is a shortened version of the gospel reading. You are invited to read the remaining verses (36-40) in your own Bibles. The Presentation in the Temple has a profound significance. Jesus, the Son of God, obeys the Law of God as he is presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. His parents are faithful Jews, who abide by the religious laws of the time. This first entry of the Son of God into the house of God speaks of his willingness to do the will of the Father. The old man Simeon is inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak about the child, and about his mother. Simeon points to Jesus as the fulfilment of the hopes and longings of his own people, and of all peoples. He is to be the 'glory of Israel', but also a 'light for the nations'. Simeon tells Mary that the child is to be 'a sign of contradiction'. We can accept or reject him. Mary, who said her generous 'Yes' to God, will be drawn into the suffering of her Son. What does this gospel tell us about the coming of Jesus? What does this gospel tell us about the role of parents? Let us pray for all parents, that they will lead their children in goodness and truth. Let us ask for understanding of the place of suffering in Christian life.**

**St Peter's clothing drive: St Peter's Parish will be holding a winter clothing drive for those in need at all masses Dec 30/31, Jan 6/7 and 13/14.   We are asking for gently used adult winter coats and scarves, children and adult hats and mitts.  Children's snowsuits are provided by the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund. Please drop off items in the gym.  Donations go to Society of St Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your ongoing support. Serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.**

**PEACEMAKERS: We have a mission to make Christ and his love known in the world. We take Mary as the great example of how ordinary people can have an extraordinary effect when they consent to work as instruments of God’s love. It is quite appropriate for her feast day to be set aside for prayers for peace, since those who bear witness to Christ are meant to be peacemakers, bearers of the promise of God’s everlasting peace to our troubled world.**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD REFLECTION: Most of this gospel reading for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the octave day of Christmas and the first day of the calendar year, has already been heard as the gospel for the Dawn Mass of Christmas Day. The final verse is added today. It is particularly appropriate, since this is the eighth day, the octave day, of Christmas. But there is a more important reason why reading these verses today, one week after Christmas Day, is different. We are asked to focus on the role and on the behavior of Mary, the mother of the Messiah. This feast on the octave day of Christmas was instituted in the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council. It replaces the feast of the Circumcision of our Lord. It is most appropriate that we should focus on Mary on this day. The coming into a human life of the Son of God could only happen with the collaboration of this humble woman of Nazareth. God respects our human freedom. Mary was invited to work for God in this unique way. Her response to the invitation was a courageous and generous ‘yes’. Her fiat is a turning point in history for it enables the Son of God to become a human being. Her fiat is an example to all those who, like Mary, endeavor to do the will of God by following Jesus. On this solemn feast we continue to commemorate the birth of Jesus. We acknowledge the consequences of this birth for us, as St Paul writes in the reading from the Letter to the Galatians: ‘at the appointed time God sent his Son, born of a woman’ in order to redeem us and offer us adoption as children of God. Our first reading, from the Book of Numbers, invokes God’s blessing on God’s people as the new year begins. Do we appreciate the courage and love of Mary and see her as an example? Do we imitate Mary’s silence and her pondering of God’s goodness in her heart? We pray that we may follow the example of Mary, the first servant of Jesus Christ, who listened for God’s word and responded with generosity. We open our hearts to God at the beginning of a new year; that God may bless us and keep us day by day.**

**Thank you from Fr. Allan: Thank you to everyone for your faithful participation in our Advent and Christmas season liturgies and for all who help make them so inspiring.  Also, a special thanks for the many prayers, cards and gifts given to me at Christmas.  God bless you all! Fr. Allan MacDonald, CC**

 **COLLECTION AMOUNTS REPORT: December, 2023**

 **December 16 /17: Envelop Holders: $845.00 Loose Collections: $499.05**

 **Direct Deposit (ETF): $490.00 Online Donation: $558.95**

 **Vigil Lights $80.00 St. Vincent de Paul $265.00**

 **Pot luck Dinner / 50 – 50 draw - $192.50**

 **Grand Total: $1, 886.55**

 **December 24 /25: Envelop Holders: $595.00 Loose Collections: $421.45**

 **Clergy Support $80.00 Funeral $260.00**

 **Vigil Lights $146.00 St. Vincent de Paul $193.00**

 **Christmas Collection $4, 735.00**

 **Grand Total: $6, 430.45**

 **~ THANK YOU for your generosity and support ~ HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

