



Amidst all the festivities we must not lose sight of the first Christmas Day and the birth of Christ as a vulnerable infant in the simple trappings of a stable in Bethlehem. The gospel describes the harshness of the situation into which Jesus arrived. How, as a helpless baby, he was born in a stable, the child of poor parents and his first visitors were shepherds. In this way he accepted us as we are, and identified with the outcast, the marginalized, the poor and lowly. Like the shepherds we ponder the mystery of the Christ Child, the Son of God entering our world as one of us, clothed in our human flesh with all its limitations and weaknesses. Just as the angels praised the glory of God made visible in the child Jesus with songs of joy, so too must we. In the mystery of the baby breathing in the manger we are reminded that God breathes his spirit into the darkness of our lives. The coming of Jesus among us can change our view of life, restore our sense of self-esteem, and enable us to be channels for bringing his love and peace to others.



Mass Intentions

Monday	Soul of Steven Huta
Tuesday	Souls of Argentina Tollis, Franciso Shin, Lester Gerrior and the Intention of Grace Shin
Wednesday	Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	Soul of Michelle Vaira
Friday	Soul Susanna Kim

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
905 881-2786 ext. 250

Imagine the Freedom

Merry Christmas! Our Advent wait is over; a child is born to Mary. A great Light has appeared, a Light so bright that the darkness could not overcome it. Our God has taken human flesh and dwells amongst us. Alleluia, alleluia, sing from the roof tops, sing to the heavens, we join the angels in their unending praise of God and fall on our knees to adore this child, this child who leads us into promised lands and lush gardens of new life. Let us shed the chains holding us down and take the hand of this child.

It truly is a blessed day, a day to be celebrated and proclaimed. Jesus is here. God is here. Life is here. And what are we to make of it all? How can we receive our newborn king and what gift shall we offer?

There are infinite ways to receive the gift of Jesus as he comes to us from the moment we open our eyes in the morning till we close them again for the night, but of all the gifts we receive, there is one that is above the rest and that is simply to receive God's unconditional love. We receive this love in the sunlight streaming in through the window, in the hug of a loved one, before the Tabernacle and in the Eucharist. We receive the love that surpasses all others and it fills, transforms and cleanses us.

In return what gift shall we give? What gift is fit for a Saviour King? There is but one gift that suffices and that is a sharing of the unconditional love that we have so abundantly received. Our fundamental identity is unconditional love, and we are only truly ourselves when our actions extend from this centre.

Imagine the freedom of living and loving unconditionally, with no need to count the cost and keep score. Imagine what our life would be like if we simply loved without reservation. How surprised would the world be around us this Christmas? Yet this is the good news, God has come with one goal, to love us unconditionally. What a fool God is to come to us as a tiny babe...without armour, without wealth, without power: with only the love of a poor family to protect him. We too are called to be fools, fools for Christ, to be foolishly in love with ourselves as we are wonderfully made, to be foolishly in love with our families, friends, neighbours and the stranger.

Imagine the freedom, not of winning the lottery for we have already won; imagine the freedom of loving as Jesus does, for there is no greater gift we can lay beneath the tree this Christmas, there is no greater gift we can give to ourselves, our world and our God than unconditional love.

John Humphries.



New Year's Eve – December 31st
5:00 p.m. Mass

New Year's Day – January 1st
10:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m.



NEW YEAR'S EVE
DINNER DANCE

Plan now and put your party together!
You will be served hors d'oeuvres on arrival at 7:00 pm and prime rib of beef or chicken with all the trimmings to your table at 8:00 pm. Later there are door prizes and dancing for the rest of the night to the music of Greg Benoit. Champagne at the turn of the New Year is included in the price of your ticket. Prices are: Adults \$45, Seniors \$30, children 11 and under \$20.

Tickets are available with Greg Benoit 647-296-6851, greg.benoit@rogers.com .

The Iraqi Catholic Community invites you to a special Mass in honour of the
WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND
REFUGEES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017 AT ST. LUKE'S PARISH
CELEBRANT: BISHOP WAYNE KIRKPATRICK
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We would like to thank everyone who so generously supported our Christmas sale. The Good Sheppard Centre, Covenant House & Yellow Brick House are grateful to share the \$2000 in sales.
Wishing you all a blessed Christmas.

REMEMBER

**MASS ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH
AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH WILL
BE AT 9:00 AM.**

**** THERE WILL BE NO EVENING MASS ON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH**

PART TIME JOB AT ST. LUKE'S LODGE

St. Luke's Lodge – 49 Green Lane is looking for a back – up Superintendent.

The work schedule is to cover when the regular Superintendents are on vacation (three weeks per year) and when off duty (Four days in a row Thurs. at 3:30 p.m – Monday at 3:30 p.m. two times per month – or 8 days a month.) Ideally this person would live close to the Lodge as they would be available for emergencies and building/security checks.

Duties include: Basic cleaning of the lobby glass, emptying waste baskets and recycling. Wet mop the entrance area and elevator lobbies as needed. Snow removal of the sidewalks and salting as necessary. Light maintenance – plunge toilet, wet dry vacuum if there is flooded area. Check washrooms for ample toilet paper and paper towels.

A police background check is required.
If you are interested, or know someone nearby, please contact Patricia McLeod – Building Administrator / Property Manager at 905 – 886 – 3333 (Mon. Wed. or Thurs.)

**From the
Pastor's Desk**

Thanks to everyone for their cards and good wishes. On behalf of Fr. Wen, the staff and myself we wish you a Merry Christmas.
Fr. Mark