

# *St. Luke's Parish*

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**Pastor: Fr. Mark Van Patten - Ext. 222**

**Associate Pastor: Fr. Wenceslao Abalos - Ext. 227**

**Secretary: Anne Amore, Lois Henderson - Ext. 221**

**Pastoral Associate: John Humphries - Ext 226**

**Parish Social Ministry Coordinator: Natalie Doucet - Ext 235**

**Lay Pastoral Associate: Antoinette Agostinelli - Ext 233**

**Youth Minister: Greg Garda - Ext. 232**

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LOVE**



**HOPE • FAITH**



Christmas is almost upon us and, on this fourth Sunday of Advent, our thoughts turn to Mary our mother, who is the model of listening and waiting for the Lord to come. As she turned over in her mind what the angel’s greeting could mean she came only gradually to understand the message and the mystery of Christmas. God not only wants to become one of us, but his reason in doing so is that he wants us to become like him. In listening to the Word of God, Mary shows us an aspect of our Christian life which is of special importance. To be a Christian is to be a person who keeps their ears open to what God is calling them to do so that they can answer that call. We can ask her to help us have her attitude of listen and responding to God’s call so that we can be as ready and as willing to bring Christ into our world as Mary was.



## Mass Intentions

Monday	Christmas Day
Tuesday	Souls of <b>Steven Huta, MaryLeung, Awet Sebhat, Cristina Agostinelli, and Rajpat Kawall</b>
Wednesday	Soul of <b>Margarita Bernal</b>
Thursday	Soul of <b>Susanna Kim</b>
Friday	Soul of <b>John Frederick Jack Wilson</b>

## Entering into and Celebrating the Christmas Season

Christmas is not the end of Advent. It is a real season of the Church year. This year, let's enter a new Season, which has its own spirit and desires and graces.

Special Feasts begin the season and we continue the story, so that we enter more deeply into the story of Jesus' coming to be one with our life, but also that we might enter more deeply into how Jesus comes this year to bless each of us.

### Asking for the Grace We Desire

Sometimes we come up to the Christmas season with little or no time for formal prayer. Every moment, it seems, is filled with some preparation or activity. This year, let's *ask* for the grace or graces we desire. What is it that we are yearning for?

### Keeping Focused in the “Background”

The key to finding intimacy with God in the midst of each of our activities is to go through our day with an *awareness* of what it all means. With focus and a conscious attention to our desires, we can maintain an alive “background,” even while rushing somewhere, opening packages, eating dinner or avoiding a conflict.

For example, while going to a family dinner or while preparing a meal - even though there might be music on or other conversation happening around me - I can take brief moments to “collect” who I am and why I'm here and what I desire for this moment in this day. In a few simple deep breaths, I can say, “O Lord, as you came into our world to share our lives, please come into this day and share your peace. Please bless me, my family and friends at this meal as I hand over to you my anxieties and fears.”

### Letting Rituals and Gestures Be Open to Grace

With focused attention, we can let many very ordinary parts of our days become prayerful and rich with grace. Imagine how different this Christmas would be if we let every handshake, every hug and every kiss, be an opportunity - even for a few brief seconds - to turn to God in thanksgiving and with a prayer. “Thank you so much for Jane, she is such a gift. Please give her your freedom and peace.” “Chris is such a wonderful partner. Please fill our marriage with faith, generosity and self-sacrificing love.” “Lord, you know the struggles I have with Michael; let me be as compassionate and loving with him as you are.”

In these or similar brief prayers, our very ordinary gestures of greeting might be transformed and full of faith. Any other activity can become a ritual, if I let it have meaning such as turning on the Christmas tree lights or opening the front door and our hearts to our guests. This Christmas let us enter the season and discover all the graces waiting to be unwrapped.

John Humphries.

**PRAYER REQUEST LINE**  
905 881-2786 ext. 250

**December 24, 2017**

## **ST. LUKE'S CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S EVE SCHEDULE**

Sunday morning December 24 – Regular Sunday schedule  
**Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00 p.m. with pageant, 8:00 p.m., and 12 midnight  
with carols starting ½ hour before each Mass



**Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
10:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m.

Sunday morning December 31  
– Regular Sunday schedule  
**New Year's Eve – December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
5:00 p.m. Mass

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

## **TUNA CASSEROLE VOLUNTEERS**

A new Freezer has been ordered but will probably not be delivered until the beginning January. Thank you for your support this past year. Hoping you will continue this good work in 2018.”



## **NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE**

Now is the time to start planning for your New Year's Eve celebration! We are continuing our tradition of having a high class served dinner and dance for a very affordable price. The evening begins with arrival at 7:00 and hors d'oeuvres served while you are settling in and socializing with your family and parish friends. Then at 8:00 you will be served at your table your choice of Prime Rib of Beef or Chicken with all the trimmings. Dancing follows to the music of the DJ Greg Benoit so bring your requests! Champagne and party favours are included in your ticket. There will be door prizes and a bar to purchase your drinks of choice. Tickets will be on sale next weekend so reserve your table early. The whole family is invited! Prices are: Adults \$45 Seniors \$30 Children 11 and under \$20. For further information contact Greg at [greg.benoit@rogers.com](mailto:greg.benoit@rogers.com) or at 647-296-6851.

## **York Catholic District School Board Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten registration begins **January 8, 2015** in all York Catholic schools. We look forward to welcoming your child into our schools, where we emphasize academic success using a curriculum that is infused with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You can register your child at your local Catholic school. For more information, check the parish bulletin board or visit our website at [www.ycdsb.ca/admissions](http://www.ycdsb.ca/admissions)

## **MANY THANKS**

*From the*  
**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

The **Christmas Basket Program** was a huge success again this year. Donations from parishioners amounted to \$5,760.00

The recipients were given gift cards for (Food Basics and Walmart) so they could choose what to buy for Christmas dinner and also to buy gifts of clothing or toys for their families.

## **FRIARS' STUDENT WRITING AWARD**

It is time once again for the Friars' Student Writing Award. Students aged 14-18 are invited to write a five hundred-word essay on the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated January 18-25, 2018. The theme for this coming year is "Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power". Students should read the Scripture passage Exodus 15:1-21 and respond to the following question in the essay:

**Just as the Israelites sought deliverance from enslavement, in contemporary society the dignity of all people is threatened by new enslavements to poverty, violence, injustice and addictions. In what ways can Christians of all denominations work together to stave off these assaults to human dignity. Explain.**

Email your essay to [editor@catholicregister.org](mailto:editor@catholicregister.org) or Fax it to 416-934-3400 (include your name, email address, phone number and name of your school) by January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2108. 1<sup>st</sup> prize – an iPad Pro (128 GB), 2<sup>nd</sup> is a Kobo and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize to 6<sup>th</sup> prize is a one-year subscription to The Catholic Register.

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