

**CHRISTMAS – WELCOMING UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

*I think we all believe in God in our own way.  
Or want to. Or need to. Only so many of us are afraid to.  
Unconditional love is pretty terrifying.  
We don't think we deserve it. It's human nature to run.  
But God always finds us. God never gives up.  
I used to think that's what other people were for.  
Lovers, friends, family. But I had it all wrong.  
Other people are as imperfect and as frightened as we are.  
We love, but not unconditionally.  
Only God is unconditional love, and he doesn't force us to love Him back.  
He's very big about it. I have a lot of reservations about God.  
What intelligent, caring person doesn't lately?  
But the way I see it, God doesn't have any reservations about me.  
It's very one-sided. It's unconditional.  
Besides, He's God. I'm not. (Terrence McNally, Love! Valor! Compassion!)*

Indeed, the gift of unconditional love is difficult for us to conceive. Yet this is exactly what is offered to us each year at Christmas. In the mystery of the Incarnation, God embraces our humanity, takes on our very flesh in Jesus. This may literally sound “too good to be true”. Yet true it is. In our darkness, our fear, our disappointments, God comes close to us. He shares our life, our dreams, our sorrows, our tears. Jesus comes as a tiny baby, poor and vulnerable, so that we might know God who is close to us in our own needs. As we welcome Jesus, we receive the one who allows us to share in the riches of God's infinite love.

In the name of the pastoral team, the parish staff, the wardens and pastoral council, and all of us here at St. Monica's, we wish to you and your families a joyful Christmas, a happy and holy New Year. As we welcome friends and family in this season into our hearts and homes, as we reach out to the poor and needy in our midst, let us remember that we also welcome Christ, the gift of the Father's unconditional love. Together, may we bear common witness, in word and deed, to the Christmas message of “Peace on earth and good will to all!”

*Father Raymond Lafontaine, Pastor*

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE:**

**CHRISTMAS:**

Saturday, 23 December: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass: 4:00 PM  
Sunday, 24 December: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass: 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve Mass: 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Mass: 9:00 PM

Monday, 25 December: Christmas Day Mass: 10:30 AM

**NEW YEAR'S:**

Saturday, 30 December: Sunday Mass - Holy Family: 4:00 PM

Sunday, 31 December: Sunday Mass – Holy Family: 10:30 AM

New Year's Eve – Mary Mother of God 4:00 PM

Monday, 1 January 2018: New Year's Day – Mary Mother of God: 10:30 AM

***MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!***

## MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 23 TO 31, 2017

### **Saturday, , December 23: St. John of Kanty**

**4:00** Angelo Caucci & Tito Forlini By Teresa Caucci  
Vincenzo & Antonietta LaPosta By Concetta LaPosta  
Brenda Chan By Carol & Terry

### **Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent-Christmas Eve**

**10:30 a.m.** – Sunday Mass  
**7 & 9 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Masses

### **Monday, December 25: Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day**

**10:30** Christmas Day Mass

### **Tuesday, December 26: St. Stephen**

**8:00** For all parishioners' intentions

### **Wednesday, December 27: St. John**

**8:00** For all parishioners' intentions

### **Thursday, December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**8:00** Lorenzo Galvan By Daughter Raquel Galvan & Drex Meriales

### **Friday, December 29: St. Thomas Becket**

**8:00** Amelia Brocca By her Daughter  
Giuseppina Fiori By her Children

### **Saturday, December 30: Holy Family**

**4:00** Caterina & Ascenzio Francescangeli By Maria Buonamici  
Giovanni & Palma Farinelli By the Farinelli Family  
Iole Falciani By Luciano & Franca Falciani & Family

### **Sunday, December 31: Holy Family**

**10:30 a.m.** – Sunday Mass – Holy Family  
**4:00 p.m.** – New Year's Eve-Mary Mother of God

### **Monday, January 1: New Year's Day-Mary Mother of God**

**10:30** For all parishioners' intentions

### **Tuesday, January 2: St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen**

**8:00** For all parishioners' intentions

### **Wednesday, January 3: The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

**8:00** Deceased Members of Cinelli Family By Maria Raffaele

### **Thursday & Friday, January 4 & 5: Weekday Masses**

**8:00** For all parishioners' intentions

### **Saturday, January 6: Epiphany of the Lord**

**4:00** **In Loving Memory:** Adamo Francescangeli, Giuseppe Onesi, Antonio Bei, Domenico Amoruso

### **Sunday, January 7: Epiphany of the Lord**

**8:30** Anna Agresti Ferrante By Angela & Patrick  
Teresina Supino By Maria Raffaele Cinelli  
Anna Donato Colatruglio By Daughter Maria  
**11:00** Giuseppe Onesi By Bernardina Fiori  
Gelsomino Mattei By Giuseppina Fiori & Family  
Family of Elisa Francescangeli By Elsa Francescangeli

**Thank you for your on-going support of our parish.** Collection for the weekend of December 16-17, 2017 totalled **\$3,922.50.**

**Regular Printing of the Bulletin Resumes on January 6/7, 2018.**

## **HOLIDAY OFFICE**

## **HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS-NEW**

**YEAR:** The parish office will be closed from Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. The office will reopen again on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.. In Case of Emergencies, please call 514-481-0267, just leave a message and someone will call you back.

## **FAITH & JUSTICE**

## **COMMITTEE-HOCKEY**

## **TICKETS IN AID OF**

**ZAMORAN:** The Faith and Justice Committee will be raffling off two tickets to a Canadians Hockey Game January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The tickets also include food and nonalcoholic drinks. The value is \$350. The tickets are \$10 each and will be on sale after each mass until January 14<sup>th</sup> – when the winning ticket will be drawn.

## **FAITH FIRST AND**

**LITTLE GIFTS:** Our Faith First and Little Gifts programs are now on Christmas recess. Our programs will resume on the weekend of January 13/14, 2018.

## **WORLD DAY OF PEACE** **JANUARY 1**

## **TAX RECEIPTS 2017**

Please note that all donations must be in no later than December 31 in order to receive a tax receipt for 2017. Donations received after this date will be credited to 2018.