

Third Sunday of Advent

We will be shut down effective Monday December 14, 2020.

There will be NO MASSES and NO COMMUNION distributed beginning Monday. THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FROM 1PM TO 7PM FOR PRIVATE PRAYER MOST DAYS.

On Christmas Eve the church will be open from 9am to noon.

On Christmas Day it will be open from 1pm to 4pm.

Please be mindful that there is a maximum of 10 people permitted at any given time.

There will be 2 masses streamed for Christmas, the 24th at 6pm and the 25th at 10am.

Songs for both Christmas masses will be: O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, Hark the Herald and Joy to the World. Please search for the lyrics online to sing along.

LIVE STREAMING COMING!

We will be streaming mass on Sundays at 10am. Please check the parish website at:

<https://olgraceau.archtoronto.org/>

and our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/olgraceau> for updates.



THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU VISIT THE CHURCH:

- Drop off your Christmas tree decorations
- Drop off your poinsettias
- Pick up your 2021 box of envelopes
- Drop off your Jesse tree donations
- Drop off your weekly offertory envelope in the basket at the front of the church by the nativity
- You can also drop your envelope in the mail slot by the Rectory door next to the garage.

2021 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Collection envelopes for the upcoming 2021 year are now available for pick up. Please take any box, as the number does not matter.

Please **DO NOT use them until January 2021**, and please **DO put your full name and address** on the first few envelopes before depositing them in the collection basket! Your information is essential in order to issue a tax receipt.

Offering
Envelopes



DONATIONS FOR 2020

The Canada Revenue Agency reminds all charitable organizations that donations for 2020 should be given in 2020. Donations received in January will not be credited for 2020. For those who are planning to make a generous donation with a view to the tax deduction for 2020, we thank you for your support, but ask that the donation arrive no later than Dec. 31, 2020.

POINSETTIAS

We invite you to bring in poinsettias in remembrance of people who will not be with us this Christmas. Just leave the poinsettia in the narthex and they will be stored until we decorate for Christmas after the fourth Sunday of Advent.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

As in past years we are looking for homemade decorations for the Christmas tree. We can go to Dollarama to buy ornaments. This is an opportunity for sharing by people of all ages. The tree will be up in the narthex on December 20. Bring them then or any day leading up to Christmas.



CALENDARS

Calendars are available today after mass. Each year Thompson Funeral Home sponsors these calendars. There is no cost for the parish.

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed, however calls and emails will be answered.

A GIFT FOR YOUR PARISH THIS CHRISTMAS

The information leaflet (with a bright red cover) is available at the back of the church and on the website. Thank you to all who have already responded to this effort.



EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

HOW IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

Do I pray? Do I use the sacraments to live a fuller life in Christ? Do I give scripture a place in my life? Do I try to know more about my faith? If I am a parent do I bring Christ with me to my family responsibilities? Does my language and behaviour honor God? Do things other than God always seem to take priority in life?

HOW IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE CLOSEST TO ME?

Do I hold on to old hurts? Am I a gossip within the family or workplace? Am I excessively demanding of others? Am I lazy at home? Does my computer or other technology get in the way of strong relationships? Do I envy other families for superficial reasons? Do I pray for my family regularly? Am I honest in what I say and do?

HOW IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS IN THE WORLD?

Can I be prejudiced? Am I quick to judge the poor or the unemployed? Do I expound easy answers to difficult questions? Do I earn my wages? Am I greedy? Am I civil when I am driving? Do I witness my faith by what I say and do? Am I honest in all of my dealings with others? Am I distracted by pornography?

HOW IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD?

Do I waste food? Do I waste other resources? Am I aware and do I try to understand the situation in other countries and regions? Do I spend time on the internet involving myself in foolish controversies? Do I pray for the unity of Christians? Do I give to those in need?

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

December 21st: 3pm – 8:30pm

December 24th: 10am – 12pm

Only 10 people are allowed in the church at any time.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

My first thought in writing this Christmas message was to not mention Covid once. Not because it isn't important, rather because it seems to shroud



everything and wouldn't it be wonderful to just set it aside for this time. But of course, as the church enters this Christmas season we do not ignore or deny the reality of our lives and that reality right now is Covid. We do cast off the shroud and open the way to the light which is the heart of Christmas.

I hope that you are able to find the ways to meet Christ this Christmas, even if much of what we normally do is not possible. The heart and the core of this holy time remains the same. It is a feast that celebrates the profound love that God has for us. He comes to us to encourage and strengthen us in the glad tidings of this time. Now more than ever we are in need of those glad tidings.

If Christmas is a little quieter than you usually like it, if the chances to connect and celebrate are more limited, remember all of that good feeling that is at the heart of Christmas in other years is truly the power of the message of Christmas touching our hearts. Maybe there will only be two at your Christmas table or in fact you are opting to spend the time alone, do not lose sight of the Christmas feast which is in the heart of the church at this time of year.

Wherever we find ourselves this Christmas let us remember the core and promise of our feast can work as well on us as ones or twos as it can as part of twenty. Let us have a Merry Christmas and rejoice in the rich promise of this holy time.

Father Frank