

# **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## **SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, 2012**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Howard Carter, Karen Williams, Olga D’Rosario, Kathleen Angus, Christopher Chiu, Tony Logtenberg, Angeline Nazareth, Gloria Moo Choy, Gloriana Augustin, Pat Dean, Rosalina Asilador, Howard Phillips, John Dias, Elsa So, Luciano Garcia, Theresa Chen, Stanol Charles, Clotilda Ho Chou Liu, Bernadette Ah-Chong, Ellen Slark, Erlinda Quintana, Clinton Ashton Wong

**PRAY FOR THE DEAD:** Francis D’Souza and Terrance Delgado, and for those who have no one to pray for them.

**SCHOOL CONFESSIONS AND ADVENT MASS THIS WEEK** – Confession will be in the church for Mother Teresa School on Wednesday and Mass at 9:30 on Thursday. Families of students are always invited to participate at our school masses.

### **FAMILY PRAYER AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

All glory and praise to you, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for sending your Son in human flesh. He became one of us in order to make us your children, and he died upon the tree of the cross to bring us life. We praise you for the beauty of this tree that we have decorated: may its branches remind us of your unending care for all people; may its lights illumine the darkness of winter nights; may its presence bring cheer and hope for all people as we gather in the presence of your Son. We ask that you strengthen our love in our family and among our friends, and grant that we may always rejoice in the gift of salvation Jesus has given us. Glory and praise to you, almighty God, through Jesus Christ our Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

**ADDITIONAL CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS** will be on Christmas Eve following the 9:00 a.m. morning Mass and from 4:00-5:00.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES** - 8:00 p.m. preceded by the blessing of the Nativity at 7:30. There will also be a Mass at Midnight.

**MASSES ON CHRISTMAS DAY** are as on Sundays (9:00, 10:30 and 12:00)

**MASS ON BOXING DAY AND JANUARY 2** will be at 9:00 a.m. only.

**MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD** – a holy day of obligation in Canada, will be at 5:00 p.m. New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day at 10:30 and 12:00 Noon. There will be no 9:00 a.m. Mass.

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** Monday December 24 at 12:00 Noon until Thursday December 27 and closed Monday December 31 at 12:00 Noon until Wednesday January 2.

**ALL PARISHIONERS SHOULD BE REGISTERED** and are asked to support the parish and the needs of the Church by using Sunday Offertory Envelopes and for making up for an absence during vacation. New parishioners are asked to register in the parish office.

**THE YEAR OF FAITH** will continue until November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King. Pope Benedict announced The Year of Faith in his Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei. May we open our hearts to a deeper relationship with our Lord and learn more about the truths of the Catholic Faith by studying the Catechism. May the year be a moment of grace and commitment for an ever fuller conversion to God, to strengthen our faith in him and to proclaim him with joy to the people of our time.

**WEBSITE FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO** is [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org) It is worth visiting regularly to keep informed about various activities within the Archdiocese.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 7TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE**, Monday December 31, 2012 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church Hall. Start planning now to ring in the New Year. Get a table together with your family and friends and join the festivities. Contact Dominic Florio 905-477-1399 or Stephen Chung 905-946-8034.

**SUNDAY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES for 2013** will be delivered by the Knights of Columbus to those who live within the geographical boundaries of the parish. Many thanks to the Knights! Others should pick up their boxes from the table at the entrance of the church as soon as possible. Additional boxes of envelopes are available from the parish office.

**CATHOLIC LIGHTHOUSE MEDIA** has come to our parish. This is a kiosk of audio discs to purchase and share. Each CD is \$5. Enjoy the Year of Faith.

**A PARISHIONER OFFERS TRANSPORTATION TO A SENIOR** who may need a ride to Mass. Call the parish office for details.

**FOR INFORMATION ON WORLD YOUTH DAY 2013 IN RIO DE JANEIRO** visit the Office of Catholic Youth [www.ocytoronto.org](http://www.ocytoronto.org)

**THE PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE** – The Legion of Mary will bring Our Lady to your home, we encourage the family recitation of the rosary.

**STRENGTHENING THE CARING COMMUNITY** is the screening program of the Archdiocese of Toronto which helps all volunteers in parishes to prepare for their various services and ministries. Some volunteers need to receive criminal record checks renewed every 5 years. Every few years volunteers are asked to reflect on their ministries by completing a short review form. This year Lectors, Ushers and Catechists will be asked by the leaders of their groups to complete a review and reflection. Thanks to all who volunteer in our parish!

**OUR PARISH PRAYER GROUP WILL PRAY FOR YOUR INTENTIONS** if you could write out your requests for particular intentions and place them in the box located near the statue of our patron, St. Thomas the Apostle.

**CANADIAN HEARTS AND HANDS** is open to receiving volunteers from our parish to assist at the following projects on Sundays in the GTA: St. Vincent's Kitchen in Oshawa, Happy Hour at Tendercare Living Centre in Scarborough, Good Shepherd Centre in downtown Toronto and Good Neighbours Club in downtown Toronto. Thanks to Les Rodrigues and the many volunteers who have been working with people on these projects for several years. For more information check [www.candianheartsandhands.ca](http://www.candianheartsandhands.ca) or contact Les Rodrigues [I\\_s\\_r\\_3\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:I_s_r_3_@hotmail.com)

**PROVIDE A MEAL** is a monthly opportunity for the people of St. Thomas the Apostle to bring a frozen shepherd's pie which will be picked up by the Good Shepherd Centre and provide a meal there for those in need. The empty containers are available for pick-up the first weekend every month and the donated pies are collected in our freezer the second weekend every month. Thanks to the many parishioners who have been participating for years to help meet the needs of the homeless and disadvantaged who live in the city. For more information contact Rosemarie Ling (416)495-1067.

**ST. THERESE VOCATION SOCIETY** is a group in the Archdiocese of Toronto whose members pray daily and offer sufferings and sacrifices for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, through the intercession of St. Theresa of Lisieux. There are no dues or meetings – only a promise to pray for vocations. Brochures, including “how to register” are on the table at the entrance of the church. Registration on-line at [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)