

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2013

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Howard Carter, Karen Williams, Kathleen Angus, Christopher Chiu, Tony Logtenberg, Angeline Nazareth, Gloria Moo Choy, Gloriana Augustin, Pat Dean, Rosalina Asilador, Howard Phillips, John Dias, Theresa Chen, Bernadette Ah-Chong, Ellen Slark, Clinton Aston Wong, Vincent Castelino, Bob Hustins, Longman Leung, Maria Luu Thi Tien, John Mackenzie, Eva Moss, Francisco Castor, Patty Wong, Ygia Koundjian, Carolyn Smart, Margaret Wong, Anita Poon, Nancy Yeung, Oscar Salazar, Alberto Vizcarra

PRAY FOR THE DEAD: Gasper Figueira, Oscar Salazar, Alberto Vizcarra and for those who have no one to pray for them.

“**ADVENT** is a period of devout and expectant delight: Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time.” (The Roman Missal) May this season of Advent find us watching in prayer “as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY will be on Monday, December 9 this year. A “Living Rosary” will begin at 6:30 before the evening Mass.

SCHOOL CONFESSIONS AND MASS THIS WEEK will be for St. Benedict Catholic School – Confessions will be on Wednesday and Mass will be at the school on Thursday at 9:30. Parents are welcome to attend the Mass and are encouraged to help their children prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

DAY OF CONFESSIONS throughout parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto will be on Wednesday, December 11. Additional confessions will be before and after the noon and evening Masses. Cards with “An Examination of Conscience” are available for adults and youth.

ALTAR SERVERS – Boys as young as grade 4 who would like to become Altar Servers should contact Fr. Andrews to begin preparation. This involves a serious commitment and support from parents.

ONE TIME SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CANADA’S ABORIGINAL PEOPLES this weekend. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have requested this special collection throughout Canada at all parishes. Cardinal Collins: “While many First Nations, Inuit and Metis have found success in their work, hope in their families and fulfillment in their lives, far too many still live in a shadow of a painful past and struggle with crippling issues. These are not Aboriginal challenges alone. They are challenges that go to the heart of the Gospel and Jesus’ message to ‘love one another as I have loved you.’”

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“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister in order to help our world of today to truly “prepare the way of the Lord”? If God is calling you, contact Fr. Hansoo Park 416-968-0997 email vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

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.

CHRISTMAS CAKES AND CARDS are available for purchase after Mass in support of the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 8TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE TUESDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2013 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. Tickets are on sale after Mass or contact Dominic Florio 905-477-1399 or Stephen Chung 905-946-8034.

ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION will be the weekend of December 15 for the Christmas baskets and for the good work of the Society in our parish throughout the year. Thanks to those in our parish who work with the needy in our community throughout the year and to all parishioners who so generously support this good work.

WEBSITE FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO is www.archtoronto.org It is worth visiting regularly to keep informed about various activities within the Archdiocese.

RECOLLECTION FOR MEN at St. Justin Martyr Parish 10:00 – 12:00 Noon: December 14, featuring spiritual talks, time for reflection, Confession and Adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Reconnect with God and learn to apply the Catholic faith to the challenges men face. Integrate your work, faith, family and relationships.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS are selling raffle tickets for a Toshiba 32 inch LED flat screen TV, to support our charities.

The tickets are \$5.00 each they will be sold after all the Masses, the draw will be at our New Year Party.

ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO TO HOST 2014 STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE July 4-6, 2014 drawing thousands of youth to Toronto. The weekend conference will include inspiring talks, opportunities for prayer and dialogue led by internationally renowned speakers, musicians and clergy. Additional details will be released as they are available.

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

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.

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.

RETROUVAILLE is a live-in weekend program followed by a number of post sessions to help married couples through difficult times in their marriage relationships. It attempts to provide the tools to rediscover each other and examine their lives together in a new and positive way. For confidential information or to register, contact (416)281-6007 or www.torontoretrouvaille.com

CATHOLIC TEACHERS REQUESTING PASTORAL LETTERS OF REFERENCE – Please contact the office several weeks ahead of the time the letter is due. It is expected that Catholic teachers are practicing their faith and be registered members of the parish.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BOOKLETS on the New Evangelization include five titles. They are on the table where the Catholic Lighthouse Media kiosk is located. Each booklet is \$2.00. Thanks to the Knights for making these available for our parishioners. They are also available on-line in PDF format <http://www.kofc.org/en/cis/index.html>

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 or contact Les Rodrigues l_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.