

# ST. ISAAC JOGUES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Paul Dobson

ASSOCIATE PRIEST: Fr. Tom Kluger

DEACON: Rev. Mr. Rudy Ovcjak DEACON: Rev. Mr. Ken Sylvan

YOUTH MINISTER: Shelly Coish SECRETARY: Pat Smith Robertson



*prepare the way...*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

 <b>Mass Intentions &amp; Parish Activities</b>
<b>MONDAY 25 DECEMBER -- CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10:00am Mass: Pro Populo & + Carlos & Olimpia Sousa and deceased family members 11:30am Mass: + Virginia Cambare
<b>TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER -- ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</b> 10:00am Mass: + Marlene Dubeau & Margaret Massey
<b>WEDNESDAY 27 -- ST JOHN, APOSTLE &amp; EVANGELIST</b> 7:30am Mass: Special Intentions 12:00 noon: Multiple Mass Intentions
<b>THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER – THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</b> 7:30am Mass: + Charles Alves
<b>FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER</b> 7:30am Mass: + Clayton James
<b>SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER</b> 8:30am Mass: Multiple Mass Intentions 4:30pm Mass: + Zobeda Razak Jardine.
<b>SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER -- THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b> 8:30am Mass: + Selwyn & Lionel Dias 10:00am Mass: Pro Populo 11:30am Mass: Magdalene Mansey 4:30pm Mass: Maurice & Norma Pilkington

**THIS WEEK THE SANCTUARY LAMP  
BURNS IN HONOUR OF  
SYDNEY, CELIA, KNOPFLER & SAMANTHA DIAS**

**FROM THE PARISH PRIEST**

### GOD HAS BECOME A MAN

In today's Gospel we hear the account of the Annunciation to Our Lady. This is such a familiar story that we can run the risk of taking it for granted. But what a wonderful event it is—truly amazing, when one only begins to reflect even a little on it! Why else did God take such pains to prepare fallen humanity? It was because of His plan for the *Incarnation* of His Divine Son. The Incarnation is a fact which we cannot fully grasp. How can Almighty God, infinite and omnipotent spirit, become a part of His own creation? Without God's revelation of this, we could never have imagined it. God began to prepare us for this wonderful truth as far back as the Fall of our first parents, when He said to Satan: *"I will make you enemies of each other; you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel"* (Genesis 3:15). In this way, however obscurely, God was promising both that rescue would come to us, and that it would come from one of Adam and Eve's own descendants. From this, the first announcement of the Saviour, the Church has ever since called Our Blessed Lady the "New Eve", for it is from her offspring that we have been rescued from eternal death. Throughout the many following centuries, God often spoke through those whom He chose to bear His message of salvation: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Later still, God chose Moses to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. It was to be a

long and painful journey in which God taught them patience and obedience, giving them the Commandments and the Ark of the Covenant as a sign of His favour. The Ark of the Covenant was the most sacred sign of God's presence, containing as it did the original tablets of stone on which God had given His Law to the chosen people via Moses on Mount Sinai. Centuries later, King David wanted to build a permanent dwelling place for this sacred Ark, and planned a fitting Temple. But as we hear in today's First Reading, God sends the prophet Nathan to tell David that he cannot build such a place. God cannot live in a temple made by human hands. Yet God still shows great favour to David. Nathan tells him that there will always be a king among his descendants. The fulfilment of these two statements is found in Mary and Jesus. Mary becomes the living temple of God's dwelling-place, when the Son of God enters into her womb and becomes her Son. This is why we call her the "Ark of the Covenant", in whose most holy body Our Lord becomes man. This is the real heart of the Incarnation—that *God actually became man*. It is a mystery too great for us to grasp, but it is revealed to us by God Himself in the message brought by the Angel Gabriel to our Blessed Lady in today's Gospel. Moreover, Jesus is the "Son of David" and fulfils God's promise to King David, that his royal line would never fail.

### OUR LADY QUESTIONS BUT DOES NOT DOUBT

So Our Lady's response to the Angel Gabriel is very important in so many ways. What should she say? What does the Angel's message mean? She is "deeply disturbed", because it is clear that God has shown her great favour and is now asking her to do something tremendous, and beyond her power to grasp fully. She must trust Him even though she does not know what it means. And how is she to bear a Son when she has promised her virginity as an offering to God? Some suggest that such a vow or promise of virginity by Our Lady is not likely, that it would not have been authentic among the Jews of her time. Yet this is not so. John the Baptist also remained unmarried in a state of consecration to God, and so, of course, did Our Lord Himself. Even if unusual, it is not impossible. Our Lady questions how she is to be a mother if she is also to remain a virgin. This is not to doubt God's word, simply to ask for clarification that she is not being asked to dispense with her special consecration to God. She learns from the Angel that she will remain a virgin precisely in order to be God's Mother. Her virginity is not barrenness, but allows her a greater dedication to God than marriage would bring. Finally, in the Incarnation we recognise the wonderful truth that God our creator and redeemer chooses to share our own nature. Human nature has been raised to unimaginable dignity because God Himself shares it with us! That is the magic of Christmas!

### FEASTS OF THE WEEK:

**St Stephen (1st c.)** A renowned preacher and one of the first seven deacons chosen by the Apostles, his success in converting others led to him being brought before the Sanhedrin. His masterly witness to Our Lord's Divinity resulted in his being sentenced to death by stoning, the first person to die for the Faith.

**St John** the "Beloved Apostle" and Fourth Evangelist, was the brother of James the Greater and son of Zebedee the Galilean Fisherman. Out of humility he never reveals his name in his

Gospel but always refers to himself as “the disciple Jesus loved”. This was because John understood Our Lord more than anyone other than Our Blessed Lady. It was to John that Our Lord committed His Mother as He hung dying on the cross. John also wrote three Epistles and the final book of the Bible, the “Apocalypse” or “Book of Revelation”. He was the last of the Apostles to die, and the only one who did not die a martyr’s death.

**The Holy Innocents** were put to death, as St. Matthew recounts for us, by King Herod. Though too young to give witness to Christ by their lives and by speech, their young deaths witness to Christ and were inflicted on account of hatred of Christ. Therefore the Church honours them.

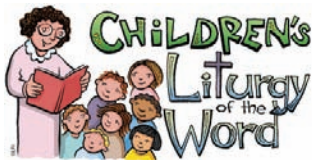
**Please Notice This**



The office will be closed from noon **Friday, December 22nd through Sunday, January 7th.** The office will reopen on Monday, January 8th, 2018 at 9:00am.

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God’s plan for her life and she said “Yes!”...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God’s Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call **Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto, 416-968-0997**

email: [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)  
 website: [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)



Children’s Liturgy is for those in Junior Kindergarten up to and including grade 3 (ages 4 to 8 years). **Children under the age of 4 years are welcome, but MUST be accompanied by an**

**adult.** Both adult and youth volunteers are needed to assist at the 10:00am Mass. High school students are welcome and can use the hours toward their required community service.

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**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:**

Don’t forget to make a good confession in preparation for Christmas, having your soul made ready like the stable in Bethlehem, to receive the Lord. Our regular parish schedule for the Sacrament of Forgiveness is: Saturday 9:00 to 9:30am, 3:45 to 4:15pm.

Sunday: 15 minutes prior to each Holy Mass.  
 (Any time by appointment)

**Smile of the Day:**

How does Santa Claus take instant pictures?  
*He uses a North Pole-roid camera.*

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**



*“Therefore the Child to be born will be called holy, The Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)*

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES**

Sunday 24 December  
 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm  
 & 12 Midnight

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

Monday 25 December  
 10:00am & 11:30am

**NO 8:30am OR EVENING MASS**

**FEAST OF ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR**

Tuesday 26 December 10:00am

**ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**

Wednesday 27 December – 7:30am & 12 noon  
 Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
 between the Masses

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS**

Thursday 28 December – 7:30am

**MEMORIAL OF ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR**

Friday 29 December 7:30am  
*Fifth Day of the Octave of Christmas*

**Saturday 30 December 8:30am**

*Sixth Sunday of the Octave of Christmas*

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

Saturday 30 December 4:30pm  
 Sunday 31 December 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30am

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

*Holy Day of Obligation ~ New Year’s Eve Mass*  
 Sunday 31 December 4:30pm

*New Year’s Day Masses*

Monday 1 January  
 10:00am, 11:30am & 7:00pm (no 8:30am Mass)

**TUESDAY 2 JANUARY**

10:00am - *St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors*

**WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY**

7:30am & 7:00pm – *Christmas Weekday – The Most Holy Name of Jesus*



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