

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year

祝聖誕快樂
新年快樂

God Is Always With Us 主與我們同在

Nativity of the Lord

What we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God.

(Tit. 2:12)

For our salvation God gave us everything He had – He gave us His only Son, Jesus.

How do we say 'Thank you' for a gift like that? Recognizing the magnitude of God's gift, this Christmas should change the orientation of our lives. Christmas calls us to make stewardship a way of life.

聖誕節

教導我們棄絕不虔敬的生活，和世俗的貪慾，有節制地，公正地、虔敬地在今世生活。(弟鐸書 2：12)

爲了我們的救援，天主給了我們祂全部所有的 祂給了我們祂的唯一聖子，耶穌。對於這樣貴重的禮物，我們應當如何來感謝呢？在今年的聖誕節，認識天主這一偉大的禮物，將會改變我們生活的導向。聖誕節是呼叫我們度一個聖善的生活。

New Year Mass Schedule

Dec 31 Wednesday (New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Mass)

9:00 a.m. English Mass

Pastoral Care Team offering Thanksgiving Mass

5:00p.m. Chinese Mass

Jan 1 Thursday (New Year's Mass)

9:30 a.m. English Mass

11:00 a.m. Chinese Mass

慶祝新年彌撒時間表

12月31日(星期三)

早上 9 時除夕-歲末謝主英文彌撒

晚上 5 時牧靈關愛組謝主中文彌撒

1月1日(星期四)-元旦求恩彌撒

早上 9 時 30 分英文禮儀

早上 11 時中文彌撒

Theme Sharing

Feast of the Holy Family

Today's celebration of the above Feast is a timely reminder that we need to follow the examples of the Holy Family and to live in intense family love which is rooted in our heavenly Father.

All the readings of today's Liturgy of the Word touch upon the family. In the first reading, Hannah's incessant prayers to God for a male child are answered. She gives birth to a son, Samuel and then offers the child in the Temple for the service of God. In the second reading, John reminds us that we are not just members of our own family. We are children of God and we belong to his big family as well, and this status confers immense dignity on us. In the gospel, we see how Jesus, as a human, grows up like one of us. From his birth until his death on the cross, Jesus faces challenges in life as we all do with obstacles, joy, hope, understanding as he matures in age, wisdom, and increases in divine and human favour. In the words of the Opening Prayer, let us pray to our heavenly Father: "Help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love; and bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home. Amen."

Pope's Monthly Prayers Intention

January General and Missionary

Intention

Universal: Peace

That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

Evangelization: Consecrated life

That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

2015 Year Of Consecrated Life

The Virgin Mary, model of consecration and discipleship

Mary is the one who, from the moment of her Immaculate Conception, most perfectly reflects the divine beauty. "All beautiful" is the title with which the Church invokes her. "The relationship with Mary most holy, which for every believer stems from his or her union with Christ, is even more pronounced

in the life of consecrated persons ... Mary's presence is of fundamental importance both for the spiritual life of each consecrated person and for the solidity, unity and progress of the whole community". Mary in fact is the sublime example of perfect consecration, since she belongs completely to God and is totally devoted to him. Chosen by the Lord, who wished to accomplish in her the mystery of the Incarnation, she reminds consecrated persons of the primacy of God's initiative. At the same time, having given her assent to the divine Word, made flesh in her, Mary is the model of the acceptance of grace by human creatures. Having lived with Jesus and Joseph in the hidden years of Nazareth, and present at her Son's side at crucial moments of his public life, the Blessed Virgin teaches unconditional discipleship and diligent service. In Mary, "the temple of the Holy Spirit," all the splendour of the new creation shines forth. Consecrated life looks to her as the sublime model of consecration to the Father, union with the Son and openness to the Spirit, in the knowledge that acceptance of the "virginal and humble life" of Christ also means imitation of Mary's way of life. In the Blessed Virgin Mary, consecrated persons also find a Mother who is altogether unique. Indeed, if the new motherhood conferred on Mary at Calvary is a gift for all Christians, it has a specific value for those who have completely consecrated their lives to Christ. "Behold your mother!" (Jn 19:27): Jesus' words to the disciple "whom he loved" (Jn 19:26) are particularly significant for the lives of consecrated persons. They, like John, are called to take the Blessed Virgin Mary to themselves (cf. Jn 19:27), loving her and imitating her in the radical manner which befits their vocation, and experiencing in return her special motherly love. The Blessed Virgin shares with them the love which enables them to offer their lives every day for Christ and to cooperate with him in the salvation of the world. Hence a filial relationship to Mary is the royal road to fidelity to one's vocation and a most effective help for advancing in that vocation and living it fully.

Diocese & Other News

101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees Mass

Couples for Christ, the Diocese, and the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society will host Mass to celebrate 101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees, as per the Papal Office, with Bishop Frederick Henry presiding, on January 19 at 7.00pm. at St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary. The Mass will be an experience of the true diversity of our Christian brethren in the Roman Diocese and the Catholic Church, with many communities participating.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place between January 18 to 25. The Catholic prayers for Christian Unity (with other Christian traditions participating) will take place on Thursday January 22nd, 7:00pm with Bishop Henry leading the service at St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary.

Parish Activities

A Heartfelt Thank You From Our

Pastor Fr. Joseph Nguyen

I would like to sincerely thank Fr. John Mak, Fr. Bill Trienekens, Deacon John Wu, Deacon Edward Lam, Sisters, Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Lay Groups and all parishioners for their continued support to our parish throughout the year. According to the Year of Consecrated Life, your generosity and sharing with others of God's gifts, is a perfect example of our response to the call of Jesus: "You are my witnesses." Love is the soul of mission and we are first and foremost invited to be credible witnesses by the way we live as Disciples of Christ. Keep up your good work! May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit and wishing you a joyful and peaceful New Year!

Tuesday Evening Mass Cancelled

Tuesday Evening Marian Devotion Mass will be cancelled on December 30.

January's Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

The January's Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be led by the Pastoral Care Team on January 3. Pastoral care Team would like to invite all parishioners join with them to thank God and pray to Him that we follow His will in the coming year. Father Nguyen will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Movie Night: "Letters to God"

This is inspired by a true story. 8-year-old Tyler faces his daily battle against cancer. Surrounded by a loving family, and he prays to God by sending daily letters addressed to God in Paradise. Postman Brady is confused and conflicted over what to do with these letters. Yet his own beleaguered life is since redirected to good purpose. Can Tyler overcome the obstacles in his life?

Date: Jan 3, 2015 (Saturday)

Time: 6:00pm Potluck and
6:30pm start of movie

Place: Upper Hall of OLPH

Together in Action 2014

".....Faith Working Through Love."

(Galatians 5:6)

Donation envelopes can be picked up from both the front and the side entrances.

Weekly Activities

Wednesday December 31

New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Mass

9:00 a.m. English Mass

Pastoral Care Team Thanksgiving Mass

5:00 p.m. Chinese Mass

Thursday January 1

New Year's Mass

9:30 a.m. English Mass

11:00 a.m. Chinese Mass

Saturday January 3

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Time: 10:00a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Place: OLPH Church

Legion of Mary (meeting)

(Immaculate Heart of Mary

Praesidium)

Time: 11:00a.m.

Place: K of C Room at OLPH Church

Movie Night – "Letters to God"

Time: 6:00 p.m. potluck

6:30 p.m. movie

Place: OLPH Upper Hall

Young Adults choir practice

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: OLPH Lower Hall

Sunday January 4

Parenting Workshop for Parents and

Young Adults: Love's gift

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00p.m.

Place: OLPH Upper Hall

R. C.I.A

Adult Catechumenate Class

(Cantonese, Mandarin and English)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Sunday School

Time: 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Office Building
K of C Room at OLPH Church

Youth Choir-choir practice

Time: 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Place: Office Building

Queen of China Meeting

Time:12:30p.m.-2:00p.m.

Place: Board room

K of C Matteo Ricci 10119 meeting

Time:12:30p.m.-2:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church K of C room

Family Fellowship Meeting

Time:12:30p.m.-3:30p.m.

Place: Lower Hall

Stories Faith Sharing

The Best Gift

On Christmas Eve, a young boy with light in his eyes
Looked deep into Santa's, to Santa's surprise
And said as he sat on Santa's broad knee,
"I want your secret. Tell it to me."
He leaned up and whispered in Santa's good ear
"How do you do it, year after year?"
"I want to know how, as you travel about,
Giving gifts here and there, you never run out.
How is it, dear Santa, that in your pack of toys
You have plenty for all of the world's girls and boys?
Stays so full, never empties, as you make your way
From rooftop to rooftop, to homes large and small,
From nation to nation, reaching them all?"
And Santa smiled kindly and said to the boy,
"Don't ask me hard questions. Don't you want a toy?"
But the child shook his head, and Santa could see
That he needed the answer. "Now listen to me,"
He told that small boy with the light in his eyes,
"My secret will make you sadder and wise.
"The truth is that my sack is magic inside
It holds millions of toys for my Christmas Eve ride.
But although I do visit each girl and each boy

I don't always leave them a gaily wrapped toy.
 Some homes are hungry, some homes are sad,
 Some homes are desperate, some homes are bad.
 Some homes are broken, and the children there grieve.
 Those homes I visit, but what should I leave?
 "My sleigh is filled with the happiest stuff,
 But for homes where despair lives toys aren't enough.
 So I tiptoe in, kiss each girl and boy,
 And I pray with them that they'll be given the joy
 Of the spirit of Christmas, the spirit that lives
 In the heart of the dear child who gets not, but gives.
 "If only God hears me and answers my prayer,
 When I visit next year, what I will find there
 Are homes filled with peace, and with giving, and love
 And boys and girls gifted with light from above.
 It's a very hard task, my smart little brother,
 To give toys to some, and to give prayers to others.
 But the prayers are the best gifts, the best gifts indeed,
 For God has a way of meeting each person's need.
 "That's part of the answer. The rest, my dear youth,
 Is that my sack is magic. And that is the truth.
 In my sack I carry on Christmas Eve day
 More love than a Santa could ever give away.
 The sack never empties of love, or of joys
 `Cause inside it are prayers, and hope. Not just toys.
 The more that I give, the fuller it seems,
 Because giving is my way of fulfilling dreams.
 "And do you know something? You've got a sack, too.
 It's as magic as mine, and it's inside of you.
 It never gets empty, it's full from the start.
 It's the center of light, and love. It's your heart.
 And if on this Christmas you want to help me,
 Don't be so concerned with the gifts `neath your tree.
 Open that sack called your heart, and share

Your joy, your friendship, your wealth, your care."
 The light in the small boy's eyes was glowing.
 "Thanks for your secret. I've got to be going."
 "Wait, little boy," said Santa, "don't go. Will you share? Will you help? Will you use what you know?"
 And just for a moment the small boy stood still,
 Touched his heart with his small hand and whispered, "I will."

Read More Know More

The Origin And Change In The Relationship Between God And Humans. How God Prepared the Way for a Savior

The Reconciliation Between God And Humans

Jesus Christ is the Savior foretold by the Prophets. He is the One every person needs, and is the awaited Messiah. Jesus is eternal God and the Son of God the Father. Jesus came to the earth and lived a human life, teaching us how to live under all circumstances, expressing filial love to the heavenly Father, renewing humans in the way to live as children of God, and giving us the direction on the road to our heavenly home.

God's plan for human salvation is perfectly accomplished in Jesus Christ. Those who believe in Jesus, whether they lived in the past, present, or future will be saved.

How was Jesus born?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. His mother was a virgin named Mary who, through the power of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and gave birth to Jesus. (Lk. 1,26-38; Mt. 1,18-23) Joseph was the husband of Mary and Jesus' stepfather. (Lk.4,22)

What is the meaning of the name Jesus Christ?

The name Jesus in Hebrew means "God saves" or "Savior Lord." The word Christ is a Greek word meaning "The Anointed One." The Hebrew word for Christ is Messiah expressing the idea that the person holds the highest position. (Mt. 3, 16-17; Lk.4, 18; Hb. 1, 8-9)

What was the purpose of Jesus' birth on earth?

Jesus came in order to help people obtain a new life and become children of God.

When is the birth of Jesus celebrated?

December 25th, Christmas Day, is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Where did Jesus grow up?

Jesus as a youngster lived in Egypt and later returned to Judea where he grew up in Nazareth of Galilee. So He was called Jesus of Nazareth. (Mt. 2, 13-15; 22-23)

主日分享

聖家節

今天我們慶祝聖家庭節。我們的家庭也應該追隨聖家家庭的榜樣，生活在強烈的家庭之愛內，建立於由天主父那裏得到的愛。

今天的三篇讀經都向我們宣講家庭關係的問題。第一篇讀經介紹亞納向天主堅持不斷的祈禱，而得到天主的恩賜，生了一個男孩，撒慕爾，現在她將孩子抱到聖殿，把他獻給聖殿服務天主。第二篇讀經提醒我們：我們是天主的子女——我們不只是人類家庭的成員，我們還是天主家庭的成員，這個身份給以我們無上的尊嚴。福音則告訴我們，耶穌真正的吸取了我們人性的存在，從懷孕到死亡，他經歷了所有的我們每一個人應該經歷的成長過程。他竟然也是慢慢成長起來的，不僅是年齡方面，而且在智慧和恩寵各方面。這樣的耶穌是一個真正的人耶穌；他也經驗了我們所有的人一樣的困難和喜樂、希望和人在成長過程中特有的穎悟。

讓我們用今天彌撒的集禱經向天父祈求：天主，你以聖家作我們家庭生活的美好榜樣。求你賞賜我們，一生追隨聖家互愛互助的美德，將來也能歡聚天庭，共享永福。亞孟。

錄自梵蒂岡電台

教宗及福傳祈禱意向

一月祈禱及傳教意向

祈禱總意: 為和平

願來自不同宗教傳統的信友，與所有善心人士，能為促進和平而共同努力。

福傳意向: 為奉獻生活

在這奉獻生活年，願男、女修道者能再發現跟隨基督的喜悅，並盡力以熱

誠服務窮人。

2015 奉獻生活年

童貞聖母，獻身與作門徒的典范

聖母自她無玷受孕的剎那開始，便完全反映天主之美。教會以「至美者」稱呼她。「每一信友從與基督的相契中，與聖母產生的關係，在獻身者的生活中更為明顯確實…聖母的臨在，不論對獻身者個人的靈修，以及其團體的堅實團結和進步，都是最重要的。」（注四八）

事實上，聖母是完全獻身的至高典范，因為她既完全屬於天主，又完全專注於天主。她為上主所簡選，以完成降生的奧跡；在此她提醒獻身者，天主的主動是首要的。同時，她同意聖言在她體內成胎，樹立了人類接受恩寵的楷模。

聖母與耶穌和若瑟隱居納匝肋，而耶穌公開生活中的關鍵時刻她也都在場；

她展現了無條件地跟隨並勤於服務的榜樣。在聖母這「聖神的宮殿」（注四九）內，全新的受造光輝四射。獻身者以她為至高模范，向父自獻、與子相契、向聖神開放；在接受基督的「童貞的和貧窮的生活」（注五〇）之同時，也自然地包含效法聖母的生活方式。

獻身者在聖母身上又能找到獨一無二的母性。如果說在加瓦爾略山上，賦於她新的母職是為全體基督徒的，那麼，對獻身者而言，則更具價值。「請看，你的母親」（若十九 27），耶穌對「祂所愛的門徒」（若十九 26）所說的話，對度獻身生活的人而言，是特別有意義的。一如若望，他們同樣受命接納聖母到自己家中，按照自身的聖召孝愛她、效法她，同時也經驗她特殊的母愛。童貞聖母與獻身者共享的一份愛，足以使他們將每日生活獻給基督，並與祂合作拯救世界。由此看來，聖母赤子般的關係，是忠於聖召的街路，也是在此路上精進而止於至善的有效助力。（注五一）

堂區活動

星期二黃昏彌撒取消

12月30日(星期二) 晚上黃昏彌撒取消。

阮明聰神父的衷心感謝

我誠意感謝麥神父、Fr. Bill Trienekens、鄔執事、林執事、所有修女、堂區牧民議會、所有善會及各位教友對堂區的支持及付出。

為響應奉獻生活年，大家的付出，慷慨地與他人分享天主的恩賜，正如主耶穌基督教導我們，為主作見證，在愛德的引領下，善盡宗徒的使命，共同用行動去見證基督，以彰顯天主的愛。大家繼續努力吧！

願主耶穌基督的恩寵與你們的心神同在，並祝大家新年平安快樂！

一月份顯供聖體

永援聖母堂一月份的顯供聖體將由牧靈關愛組帶領，時間為一月三日。牧靈關愛組誠意邀請所有教友一起參與，藉以感謝天主恩賜給我們的主耶穌基督，並祈求天父在新的一年賜與我們更多的恩寵，跟隨祂及奉行祂的旨意。阮神父將為教友聽告解。

電影晚會：給天主的信

改編自真人真事。八歲的泰勒身患癌症，但他天生樂觀，和家人生活相依快樂。他更向天主祈禱，每天寫信寄去天堂。郵差布萊迪對於發放這些信件感到不知所措。但他的渾噩生活從此得著方向。泰勒的病情會如何？

日期：一月三日(星期六)

時間：晚上六時 Potluck、六時半放映

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

2014 教區公益金

「讓我們一起來行動」

主題：「…以愛德行事的信德。」
 迎拉達書：第五章六節截至 9月9日，捐款已累積至 28,680 元。捐款信封可在聖堂入口處拿取。

就讓我們立即行動，慷慨解囊！

活動一週

星期三 12月31日

除夕-歲末謝主英文彌撒

時間：早上 9 時

牧靈關愛組歲末謝主中文彌撒

時間：晚上 5 時

星期四 1月1日

元旦求恩彌撒

時間：早上 9 時 30 分英文禮儀

早上 11 時正中文禮儀

星期六 1月3日

顯供聖體

時間：上午 10 時至 11 時

地點：永援聖母堂

聖母軍

(聖母軍聖母無玷聖心支團)

時間：上午 11 時(開會)

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

電影晚會 — 「給天主的信」

時間：下午六時 (potluck)

約六時半放映

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

永援聖母青年團練習聖詩

時間：下午 6 時

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

星期日 1月4日

親子關係工作坊：「愛的禮物」

時間：下午 2 時至 6 時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

成人慕道班 (粵語及英語)

時間：上午 9 時 30 分至

下午 12 時 30 分至

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

主日學

時間：上午 10 時至下午 12 時 30 分

地點：寫字樓大廈，聖堂騎士會室

青年聖詠團練習聖詩

時間：上午 11 時至下午 12 時 30 分

地點：寫字樓大廈

聖母會開會

時間：下午 12 時 30 分至下午 2 時

地點：聖堂會議室

利瑪竇騎士會 10119 開會

時間：下午 12 時 30 分

地點：聖堂騎士會室

公教家庭開會

時間：下午 12 時 30 分至 3 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

靈修小故事

聖誕狂歡會

村莊裡有一位傻小子去參加村莊聖誕狂歡會，每個人都拆開廣場大聖誕樹下的禮物。而傻小子一向是眾人的笑

柄，他受盡了其他年輕人的譏諷。在聖誕狂歡會上傻小子越來越沮喪，當人們從樹下拿出一份又一份禮物時，禮物沒他的份。最後禮物差不多要發完了，但是到了最後一刻，人們從樹下拿出最後一份最大的盒子，並且念到他的名字。當聽到自己的名字，傻小子臉上一下亮了起來，像閃耀的星星一樣，他走到前來，臉上帶著孩子般的驚喜。他接過禮物，解開緞帶打開盒子，卻發現禮盒是空空的，他的臉色一下沉下來，原來由人跟他開了一個又大又殘酷的玩笑。

然而這就是魔鬼撒旦跟每一個以為不用靠基督就能進入天堂的人開的玩笑。

撒旦給人的又大又漂亮的禮物盒子，裡面是要人離棄天主；撒旦給人的又大又漂亮的禮物盒子，裡面是世界的享樂；撒旦給人的又大又漂亮的禮物盒子，讓人滿以為不用順服耶穌基督都可以進天堂。當你走到人生的盡頭，你將要發現這盒子是空的。那時已經太遲了。現在就歸向基督，以免你在天主審判時被撒旦愚弄像那個傻小子。你願意現在歸向主耶穌嗎？

知多一點點

天父與人類關係的起源與演變及如何準備救世主的來臨

天父與人類關係的重整

耶穌基督是先知們所預言的救主，是每一個人及萬民所需要，和期待的救星。耶穌是永恆的天主，是天父的兒子。

耶穌來到世上，度我們人的生活，為教導我們如何在一切事上，孝愛天父，重新作天父的好子女，並給我們指出回到天鄉的路。

天主對世人的救恩計劃是經過耶穌而完成的，而且在過去、現在和將來所有信耶穌的人身上生效。

耶穌是怎樣誕生的？

耶穌誕生在猶太的白冷，他的母親名叫瑪利亞。她是童貞女，卻因天主的德能—聖神—懷孕而生耶穌(路—26~38;瑪—18~23;)。若瑟是瑪利亞的丈夫及耶穌的養父(路四22)

「耶穌基督」，這名字有什麼意義？

「耶穌」之名，按希伯來語是「天主拯救」或「救主」之意。「基督」是希臘話，意謂「被傅油的」與希伯來語「默西亞」同義，表明祂的尊高職位(瑪三16—17;路四18;希—8~9)。

耶穌降生的目的是什麼？

耶穌降生，為使人類重獲新生，作天父的子女。

何時慶祝耶穌的誕辰？

每年的十二月二十五日—聖誕節慶祝耶穌的誕辰。

耶穌在世時在那裡成長的？

童年時與父母逃往埃及，以後回到猶太，定居於加里肋亞省的納匝肋，所以被稱為納匝肋的耶穌(瑪二13~15;22~23)。

心靈小品

救主聖誕日

聖誕佳節教導我們，對周圍的人，好似基督對待別人。

在一切的節日中，這是最甜蜜的，使我們思想天主的愛。

我們在收到的禮物之中，想到最大的禮物，是天主將獨生子捨下。

我們要使這聖誕佳節，充滿著想念基督的情懷。

讓主有福的愛，使我們心中更因這佳節歡樂。

我們或作得不完全，但還是需要作可愛的事。

求主幫助我們，在愛心與捨己與饒恕中，更像主自己。