

# *St. Lawrence Martyr Church*

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## **PASTORAL TEAM:**

Rev. Fr. Thomas Lim, *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Anish K. Antony C.F.I.C., *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch, *Chaplain to the Faithful participating in the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass*

Julia Di Paolo - *Secretary*

## *The BIRTH of The LORD*



*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life,  
and this life is in His Son. John 5:11*

## THE BIRTH OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) – DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



Luke's account of the birth of Jesus stresses especially the poverty of the family: Christ comes to the poor and is greeted by the poor. Mary and Joseph are displaced persons, and can find no decent place for the baby to be born. There is no space in the living-quarters and he has to be put in a feeding-trough among the animals. He is greeted not by the rich presents of the magnificent wise men from the East, but by impoverished hired shepherds, guarding flocks in the winter night. He is born to be the patron of the homeless and of displaced persons.

But Jesus is also the fulfilment of the hopes of the Old Testament. The families both of John the Baptist and of Jesus are eminently faithful to the prescriptions of the Law, waiting for the salvation promised to Israel. In the Temple Jesus will be greeted by Simeon and Anna, the representatives of fidelity to the Old Law. The birth of Jesus at Bethlehem shows that he is born as the heir to the promises to David, that God would build David a house of everlasting sovereignty, whose king would be the son of God and would call God his Father.

“Non temete, ecco vi annunzio una grande gioia, che sarà di tutto il popolo: oggi vi è nato nella città di Davide un salvatore, che è il Cristo Signore. Questo per voi il segno: troverete un bambino avvolto in fasce, che giace in una mangiatoia”.

Soltanto la contemplazione può semplificare la nostra preghiera per arrivare a constatare la profondità della scena e del segno che ci è dato.

Una mangiatoia, un bambino, Maria in contemplazione,

Giuseppe meditabondo: “Veramente tu sei un Dio misterioso!”. Il Padre, il solo che conosce il Figlio, ci conceda di riconoscerlo affinché l'amiamo e lo imitiamo.

Nessun apparato esteriore, nessuna considerazione, nel villaggio tutto è indifferente. Solo alcuni pastori, degli emarginati dalla società...

E tutto questo è voluto: “Egli ha scelto la povertà, la nudità.

Ha disprezzato la considerazione degli uomini, quella che proviene dalla ricchezza, dallo splendore, dalla condizione sociale”. Nessun apparato, nessuno splendore esteriore.

Eppure egli è il Verbo che si è fatto carne, la luce rivestita di un corpo. Egli si trova nel mondo che egli stesso continuamente crea, ma vi è nascosto. Perché vuole apparirci solo di nascosto?

Egli fino ad allora era, secondo l'espressione di Nicolas Cabasilas, un re in esilio, uno straniero senza città, ed eccolo che fa ritorno alla sua dimora. Perché la terra, prima di essere la terra degli uomini, è la terra di Dio. E, ritornando, ritrova questa terra creata da lui e per lui.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### **SATURDAY DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO**

- 5:00 P.M. - For the People of the Parish (Children's Mass)
- 7:00 P.M. - For the People of the Parish (English)
- 9:00 P.M. - For the People of the Parish (Latin)
- 12:00 A.M. - For the People of the Parish (English)

#### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> – DOMENICA**

- 8:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners
- 10:00 A.M. - Per Tutti I Nostri Parrocchiani
- 11:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners
- 1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo
- 5:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

#### **MONDAY DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> – LUNEDÌ**

- 8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne
- 11:00 A.M. - Pro Populo

#### **TUESDAY DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> – MARTEDÌ**

- 8:30 A.M. + Elisea Bonificio
- 11:00 A.M. - Pro Populo

#### **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> – MERCOLEDÌ**

- 8:30 A.M. + Marie Therese Furtado
- 11:00 A.M. - Pro Populo

#### **THURSDAY DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> – GIOVEDÌ**

- 7:00 A.M. - Joanna Corriero
- 8:30 A.M. + Lillian Marjorie Laporte

#### **FRIDAY DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> – VENERDÌ**

- 8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne
- 7:00 P.M. + Lumina Domingez & + Luisa Saguling

#### **SATURDAY DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> – SABATO**

- 8:30 A.M. + Randolph Josiah
- 10:00 A.M. - Pro Populo
- 5:00 P.M. - Nazar Da Silva
- 11:30 P.M. - For the People of the Parish (English)

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.



**2023 SUNDAY MISSALS:** St. Joseph Sunday  
ls are available for sale at \$5 each.

**I ♥ MY CHURCH**

**2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP!**

Parishioners are asked to pick up their 2023 Offertory Envelopes in the parish hall.

*Thank you for your support!*



#### **Weekly Offertory**

Last Week's Collection: \$7,122.95  
Christmas Flowers: \$745.00

*thank you*

## THE BIRTH OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) – DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



Dear Friends in Christ, I once had the opportunity to visit a place called "Boys Town USA" during a retreat I had many years ago, while in Omaha, Nebraska. Boys Town was originally established as an orphanage for boys by Father Edward J. Flanagan on December 12, 1917. The little humble orphanage, which started with only five orphans, eventually became famous in 1938 when MGM Studios made a movie about it with two of Hollywood's biggest stars, Spencer Tracey and Mickey Rooney, playing the main roles in the movie.

As many people know, every orphanage is filled with countless heartbreaking stories, with young boys and girls experiencing pain, suffering, abuse and brokenness from many different, multiple sources. Boys Town was no exception!

One of the stories that really touched me while I was there involved a young boy named, Michael. At the time of the story, Michael was about twelve years old and had been in Boys Town since he was eight. Michael's parents underwent a very acrimonious divorce battle. They literally fought for everything - the house, the money, the cars, furniture, etc., - including who would get custody of Michael. Eventually Michael's father was granted full custody and Michael had no choice but to go and live with him. Given his utter unhappiness about the whole situation, Michael started to act out in order to try to assert some control over his life. Michael became so uncontrollable that his father decided to leave him at Boys Town after deciding that he did not want anything more to do with his cantankerous son.

After being in Boys Town for about four years, Michael one day decided to pack his bag and leave it in order to confront his dad and ask him a question. While he was leaving the orphanage, Michael was stopped by John, one of the staff members. John asked Michael, "Where are you going?" Michael responded, "I want to go home and ask my dad a question." John asked him, "What is it that you want to ask your dad?" Michael replied, "I want to ask my dad if he loves me!" Upon hearing this, John suggested that Michael follow an alternative plan of action. John told Michael, "Why don't you send your dad a letter. We can wait a few days and then follow up the letter with a phone call. You can still get your answer that way." Michael thought it over and agreed with John's idea. Michael quickly wrote his letter, mailed it and then waited anxiously for a few days before calling his father.

The day came when Michael was ready to call his dad. With John by his side to give him support, Michael picked up the phone and dialed his father's number. The phone rang once, twice, a third time... When his father picked up the phone, Michael nervously began by saying, "Hi dad, it is Michael." "Yes, son; I know," replied his father. "Well, did you get my letter?" asked the boy. "Yes, son, I got it..." "And.... do you have an answer for me? **Do you love me?**" After pausing for what seem like eternity, Michael's father responded, "It's a hard question, son! I cannot answer that question! I don't have an answer for you!" When Michael heard his father's response, he bid his father goodbye. Michael slowly hung up the receiver and began to cry in John's waiting arms.

That Michael asked his dad, "**Do you love me?**" should not surprise any of us. The young boy's desire to be seek love and to be loved is the same innate desire that resides within the depths of every human heart. It originates from the fact that we were all created in the likeness and image of God (cf. Gen. 1:27) - a God who is perfect love (cf. 1 Jn 4:16). Yet how many times have we, like young Michael, been painfully disappointed in our own search of love - perhaps by our own parent(s), husband/wife, child/children, family and friends, etc.? Yet is there a single person in the entire universe who will never disappoint us should we ask the question, "**Do you love me?**" The answer, of course, is an emphatic yes! We will never be disappointed by our eternal and loving Father!

The manifestation of Our Father's love is ultimately seen in the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Nativity of Our Lord is the Father's way of saying to us, "I love you so much, I gave you my son, the Word made flesh;" Emmanuel, God with us. John the Evangelist reminds us: "*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life*" (Jn 3:16). And elsewhere he noted: "*In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins*" (1 Jn 9-10).

St. Augustine once famously wrote in his autobiography, "*Great are you, O Lord, and exceedingly worthy of praise; your power is immense, and your wisdom beyond reckoning.... You arouse us so that praising you may bring us joy, because **you have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.... O Lord my God, tell me what you are to me. Say to my soul, I am your salvation. Say it so that I can hear it. My heart is listening, Lord; open the ears of my heart and say to my soul, I am your salvation. Let me run towards this voice and seize hold of you.***" And therein lies the key to the fulfillment of our desire to seek love and be love; every single person will in one manner or form be disappointed unless he/she has found and encountered the love of God!

Let us this Christmas stop looking for love in all the wrong places and instead set our eyes to God, the Father, who tells each of us, "Yes, I do love you! Go and pick up the Infant Child for He is the manifestation of my perfect love for you! Go to Him!"

On behalf of Fr. Anish, Fr. Russell and Julia, I wish to extend a very warm Christmas blessing to you and all your loved ones. Be assured that all your intentions will be especially remembered in every Holy Masses that are celebrated this Christmas weekend. May the Infant Child, Jesus, abundantly shower His love upon you!

Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*



## THE BIRTH OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) – DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



**Vocations Corner** ... We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. Email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

**Stewardship Reflection...** The great saints of the church speak of an intermediary coming of Christ, the coming of Christ to our present lives. Jesus says in the Book of Revelation, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you" (Revelation 3:20). We can let him into our lives as stewards by realizing it is not ourselves ministering to our neighbour, but the love and presence of Christ within us.



## Good News!

December 25, 2022 • *Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (A)*  
Isaiah 52:7-10 / Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18 or John 1:1-5, 9-14  
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Every year, pundits lament the glitter of our commercialized Christmases. Beneath all such trappings, however, our cultural Christmases are really disguised and unrecognized celebrations of God-made-flesh.

"'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse" is really the story of a Santa-type God who slips into our lives with great generosity, though we seldom notice as we go through life half asleep. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is about a misfit reindeer with a "wrong-colored" nose who is rejected by the other reindeer and not welcomed into their games. But then he becomes the means of saving a foggy Christmas Eve with his shining light of a nose. Rudolph is like the stone rejected by the builders that becomes the cornerstone—Jesus, who saves us not only at Christmas but all year long. Frosty the Snowman brings happiness to boys and girls for a time, but then he begins to melt, only to promise he'll come again another day—all a hint of the hope offered by Jesus, who continues to come in resurrection and life. And Ebenezer Scrooge, whose withered and crusty spirit is transformed into generosity and love in *A Christmas Carol*, all without his ever realizing what is taking place until, of course, it happens. Then he proclaims he will honor Christmas in his heart the whole year long—a transformation that God brings about in each of us.

Christmas celebrates God-made-flesh in Jesus, something that took place then and echoes now for all of time and in all of life. ●

St. Teresa of Avila:

“Christ has no body on earth now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth. Yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now.”

### NEW YEAR'S EVE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

5:00pm - English Mass  
11:15pm Prayers / 11:30pm - English Mass

### NEW YEAR'S DAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> *THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)*

8:30am - English Mass  
10:00am - Italian Mass  
11:30 am - English Mass  
1:00pm - Latin Mass  
\*\*\*\*NO 5:00 PM MASS \*\*\*\*

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> TO JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>

## Programs at SLM

### The Celebration of Wedding Anniversaries

Anniversary blessings are given to all celebrating couples after the Holy Communion at all Masses of the **last weekend of the month.**



### How does the program work?

- Married couples who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries are asked to contact the office.
- Please provide your names, the number of years of marriage you are celebrating, and the weekend mass time which you usually attend.

### Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) Program

Our Parish offers the PAG Program. Those who wish to sign-up may do so by filling out a registration form found in our website or in the church foyer. Please submit forms with a void cheque to the office or place in the offertory basket at any time. PAG allows you to support your parish when you are away. For more information, please contact our church office. *Thank You!*



## Join our Pastor Fr. Thomas Lim

PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY & GREECE  
In the Footsteps of St. Paul

June 02-15, 2023, 14 days  
Flyers/registration forms are found at the lobby of the Church or visit  
[St Lawrence Martyr Website](http://StLawrenceMartyrWebsite)  
To book call Sisca 4167318252

**Saint Lawrence, our Patron Saint, pray for us!**