

**\*\*\*THIS BULLETIN IS FOR TWO (2) WEEKS.\*\*\***

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.”

**Announced Masses for the Week of December 24th, 2017**

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017**

**9:00 am** † Fr. Milaney by a friend  
† Ed Hartley by his wife & children

**CHRISTMAS EVE, Dec. 24, 2017**

**4:30 pm** Evening Mass  
**7:30 pm** Evening Mass  
**9:30 pm** Carol Singing  
**10:00 pm** Evening Mass



**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Monday, Dec. 25, 2017**

**10:00 am** For all parishioners



**Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017 - St Stephen, The first Martyr**

**NO MASS**

**Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017 - St. John, apostle**

**7:00 pm** † Shirley Redmond by Jacques Loranger & Claire Laberty

**Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**7:30 am** † Betty Ann Matthews by a parishioner

**Friday, Dec. 29, 2017**

**7:30 am** For the intentions of Stephanie, Rory, Hayden Skerkowski by Kathryn McC Calder

**Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017**

**9:00 am** † Maria Madaline & Marcus Serrao by the Serrao family

**4:30 pm** † Emmanuelle Morin by Lisa-Marie Hollis

**Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**9:00 am** † Jack Tevlin & family by Rita Cullen

† Nora Flynn by Joe & Cathy Healy

**New Year Eve's Mass, December 31, 2017**

**4:30 pm** † David Williams by his wife & children

† Fr. Kevin L. Milaney by the choir

**First Reading:** 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 David wishes to build a temple to house the “ark of God,” but God speaks to him promising to exalt and secure the house of David forever. The Lord will bring peace.

**Second Reading:** Rom. 16:25-27 God has revealed the divine plan of salvation through the coming of God's Son, Jesus Christ. It is made known to all human beings that they may believe and obey.

**Gospel:** Lk. 1-26, 28 Gabriel speaks to Mary, announcing that she who is a virgin shall conceive through the Holy Spirit and give birth to a Son. Mary agrees to God's request.

**COLLECTION FOR SUNDAY 18 Dec., 2017:**

Envelope Holders: \$2,955.20; Loose Collection: \$473.05; Christmas Offering - \$745.00; Other collections: \$280.00; Candles: \$161.75

Thank you for your generosity and support.

**\*\*The Parish office is closed between Dec. 22 until Jan. 03.\*\***

## Young Adult Faith Group

Here in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, we will be starting a *young adult faith group* for all Catholic young adults ages 15 to 35 from any parish, to go deeper in our Catholic faith.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Immaculate Heart of Mary parish hall. We plan to have a variety of activities including: prayer, spiritual discussions and presentations, socialization and fellowship. Please plan to join us and invite your family and friends.

If you are interested, please email Father Estephan Farah at: [estephan\\_farah@hotmail.com](mailto:estephan_farah@hotmail.com) with your full name, telephone number, age, your email, and the name of your parish. Thank You.

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## The Holy Family Sunday

“Simeon said, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel.”

### Announced Masses for the Week of December 31st, 2017

**Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017**

**9:00 am** † Jack Tevlin & family by Rita Cullen  
† Nora Flynn by Joe & Cathy Healy

**NEW YEAR’S EVE, December 31, 2017**

**4:30 pm** † David Williams by his wife & children  
† Father Milaney by the choir  
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**Monday, Jan. 01, 2018 - NEW YEAR’S DAY - Solemnity of Mary**

**10:00 am** For all parishioners  
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**Tuesday, Jan. 02, 2018 - St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory**  
**NO MASS**

**Wednesday, Jan. 03, 2018**

**7:00 pm** † Donald Hunt by Rita Cullen

**Thursday, Jan. 04, 2018**

**7:30 am**

**Friday, Jan. 05, 2018**

**7:30 am**

**Saturday, Jan. 06, 2018**

**9:00 am** † Marie Joachim Pinto & Maria Anton  
DeMello by the Serrao family

**4:30 pm** † Austin Rutledge by his grandmother  
† Fr. Milaney by a parishioner

**Sunday, Jan. 07, 2018**

**9:00 am** † Shirley Redmond by Carol Faure

**11:00 am** For all parishioners

**First Reading:** Gen. 15:1-6; 17:3b-5, 15-16; 21:1-7 Abraham believed God, and his faith was rewarded. Through a son born to him and Sarah in their old age, he became the father of many peoples.

**Second Reading:** Heb. 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 We are called to emulate the faith of Abraham. For God is “able even to raise someone from the dead”.

**Gospel:** Lk. 2:22-40 or 2:22, 25-27, 34-35, 39-40 Joseph and Mary take Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. Simeon recognizes him as the Anointed of the Lord and blesses him. The child returns to Nazareth and grows to maturity.



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The meeting for the Secular Franciscans will be cancelled on **Saturday January 6, 2018**. Please contact Carol David at 613 526 0705 or [caroldavid1565@gmail.com](mailto:caroldavid1565@gmail.com) for further information.

## PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

In the Christmas event, we discover the true mystery of the Incarnation: out of compassion for his created, out of love for each one of us, God enters human history and embraces our human condition in all its messiness, confusion, anxiety, and anguish.

Emmanuel —“God with us.” Christ’s birth manifests the constant and inexplicable love of God for us; his ministry as Messiah teaches us how we can transform our dark nights of despair and sin into the eternal day of God’s peace and wholeness; his embracing of the cross is the ultimate victory of life over death, of good over evil, of hope over despair. It is nearly impossible for us to fathom the depth of God’s love to become one of us, not for God’s sake, but for our sake. God takes on our life so that one day we might be recreated in his.

A certain king was rich and very powerful. But he was most unhappy, for he desired a wife. Without a queen, his vast palace was empty. One day, while riding through the streets of a small village, he saw a beautiful peasant girl. Her grace and beauty immediately captured the heart of the king.

The king wondered how he might win her love. First, he thought of issuing a royal decree commanding her to be his bride — but he soon realized that, if she were forced to obey a royal decree as a loyal subject, he could never be certain that she actually loved him. Next he considered calling on this woman in person, overwhelming her with diamonds and gold and every finery — but he knew he would always wonder whether she had married him only for the riches and power he could give her. Then he thought he would dress as a peasant and meet her in disguise — but such an approach would be too dishonest for a king. The king finally decided to put aside his royal robes, abandon his castle and go to the village and actually become one of the peasants. He lived and worked and suffered alongside of them. And in time the king won the young woman as his bride.

The great Danish philosopher and theologian Soren Kierkegaard used this parable to describe the mystery of Christmas: that the almighty Creator of all could love us enough to become one of us in order to bring us to himself. Mary and Elizabeth, in their exchange of greetings, are among the first to understand exactly what is to happen. It is the mystery of Emmanuel — “God is with us.” As the great second century bishop Irenaeus preached: “Because of his great love for us, Jesus, the Word of God, became what we are in order to make us what he is himself.”

As we read in the Gospels, the light of Christmas can appear in unexpected places, in the middle of long, hopeless nights. The light that is Christ breaks through our grief, our hurts, our divisions, our hopelessness - if we but raise a candle to catch its flame, if we open a small window in our hearts to let that light into our lives. The true gifts of Christmas that Christ gives and enables us to give transform the hearts and lives of those we love : gifts of sharing our wisdom and experience, of compassion and reconciliation, of forgiveness and affirmation. As we celebrate the dawning of the Messiah this holy night, may we not only grasp the light of God's love but may we seek to become mirrors of that light on every dark night, in every winter.

I wish you God's blessings, peace, and happiness throughout this Christmas Season and in the New Year, 2018.

Fr. Stephen Liang, M.D.Pastor

