

# St Francis of Assisi Church

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SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8 & 10.30am.

(Confessions are available after each Sunday Mass)

WEEKDAYS: Monday no Mass, Tuesday to Friday 7am, Saturday 8am

Thursday 6-7pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

## NEWSLETTER

## 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (year B)

To prepare for Sunday Mass it is a good idea to read and give thought to the readings in your missal or Bible. Here are some questions to ponder.

**First Reading** [Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11] He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken. Give some thought to how you may do that.

**Second Reading** [1 Thessalonians 5:16-24] "Never try to suppress the Spirit" Do you accept that the Spirit of God is working in you, when you pray or show kindness?

**Gospel** [John 1:6-8, 19-28] "There stands one among you - unknown to you." Do you recognize Christ in all the different faces and ways he comes to you each day?

## EMMANUEL – THE COMPASSION OF GOD

When someone is ill or in need we naturally have a strong desire to do something to help them. If there is something we can do, we feel much more satisfied, but that's not the point. Simply to be with them, to show them our support is the most important thing. That is real compassion. The compassion of God is Emmanuel - God is *with* us.



God is with us and that is something real. One of the more tangible effects of this union among ourselves is that it makes us present to each other even miles away. Everything we do, good or bad, affects all the others. For us in the Christian Church there is no such thing as a private act that doesn't touch others, whether it be sin or virtue, or anything else. This is both a wonderful consolation and a challenge. A consolation because we know we carry each other in love and union, beyond all distance – and even more than that, beyond death itself. It is the teaching of the Church that the bonds of affection we form in this life do not end with death, but continue afterwards. But this union is also a challenge, knowing that everything we do, be it ever so private, is either bad or good affecting the overall health of the body of Christ – affecting others right across the world.

What is important is hidden to the eyes. Only with your heart can you see rightly. This is not pretence, this is not imagination. To pray for those who are ill is not a polite attempt to pick them up, our prayers contain the power of Christ to heal in body and soul.



**CHRISTMAS NOVENA** a very prayerful way to prepare for Christmas

Each morning we have a Mass at 6am with a special homily and our novena prayer -

though on Sunday we have Mass at the usual times.

**Farewell Mass for Fr. Charles Dominique** MMFriday January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Cathedral  
Let us come out in numbers to bid farewell to Fr. Charles on the eve of his reassignment to Grenada.

## **CHRISTOLOGY** A CERTIFICATE COURSE OF FIVE SATURDAYS

OFFERED BY THE CATHOLIC FORMATION INSTITUTE

**SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

Who do YOU say that I am?

Who is Jesus Christ?

Who is Christ for us today?

**Facilitated by Reverend Dr. Winston Layne in the Upper Room, St. Patrick's**

**Email: [formationinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:formationinstitute@gmail.com) or Tel: 426-3510 to register**

### **BUT WHAT IS CHRISTOLOGY?**

*Christology* is essentially the theological study of the person of Jesus Christ. That is to say, who was/who is Jesus Christ? Was He Man, or God, or both? In this introductory course to Christology we will attempt to trace the Church's understanding of Jesus Christ throughout the course of history and find an intelligent way of answering the question, "*Who is Christ for us today?*"

This quest will engage our minds in a serious conversation with the Holy Scriptures, the Church's Tradition, and Culture. The outcome of this engagement should be the strengthening of our faith in Jesus Christ and a willingness to proclaim Him boldly and become his disciple.

### **S. V. P. FAMILIES IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS**

Please be generous with your contributions both financial and bringing non-perishable items for our hampers.

**COLLECTIONS** last week's collection came to **\$2,860.85**

**Please would you also pray for these people who are ill :** We pray especially for little Sebastian Peichl, Richard Roach, Shenicia Hurley, Stanislaus Alexander, Jacqueline Coles-Austin, Dorothy de Gale, Norma Laura Herrera, Basil Cozier, Paddy Melville, Kathy Winterhall, Kenneth Miller, Carlos Phillips, Phillip Alleyne, Lucille Alleyne, Joan Mahon, Mervin Mahon, Carolina Restrepo, Marie Edmund, Carlyle Glean, Taylor Pluna, Peter-Xavier Iweze, Lourdes Rouco, John Griffith, Shimisha Butcher, David Gittens, Annie Bromham, Alison Howard, Noel Shirley, Natari Edwards, Carol Rowe, Marie Cornibert, Aurelija Vasilev, Anna Teelan and Joyce Blennman

All services held in St Francis Church may be viewed on the Internet: <http://iwcpinc.com/portfolio-view/church-st-francis/>  
A shortened form of Fr Michael's homily can be found in the Advocate on Sunday

## *Christmas Schedule*

### **4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **December 23/24**

Saturday 5pm Mass

Sunday Morning  
Masses at 8 & 10.30  
(Bishop Jason's farewell  
at 8am Mass)

**6pm**  
**Christmas Mass**  
**for young families**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

11.30pm Carol Service  
12 Midnight Mass

### **CHRISTMAS DAY** 8 and 10.30am Mass

**BOXING DAY**  
(Tuesday)  
9.30 am Mass

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:  
Mass at 7am

Saturday  
no morning Mass

### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 31**

**Feast of the  
Holy Family**  
Saturday 5pm Mass

Sunday Morning  
Masses at 8 & 10.30

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE** (Sunday)

**10.30pm Mass**  
followed by refreshments in the  
garden to greet the New Year and  
watch the fireworks over the sea

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:**  
**Feast of Mary**  
**the Mother of God**  
Mass at 9.30 am