

Today, our Advent liturgy takes on a new focus. In the past Sundays, the theme of the Saviour's 'coming' has made us aware of the unfolding of God's plan for creation. Luke's gospel of the Annunciation – emphasising the fact that the coming of the Saviour depended upon Mary's consent – reminds us of the mystery that is basic to our existence as persons, that we must all play our part in the realisation of God's final plan. Our life 'in Christ' is at once gift and task. All that we do, leading to eternal life, begins with the unmerited gifts of God's 'grace', but these gifts bring with them the tasks whereby we realise our true personhood, as followers of Christ.



To read Fr. Thornhill's entire reflection, scan the QR code or visit his website at [www.theemmausseries.com/badvento4.html](http://www.theemmausseries.com/badvento4.html)

### A Joyful Christmas Season...

As we enter into our final weeks of Advent, we continue to witness amazing acts of love and charity. This generous spirit appears often during the Christmas season but it is something that we, as the faithful in our community, should consider all year round.

In the few months of our campaign, Our Lady of Sorrows has raised **more than \$1,750,000** from less than 4% of our parish community. We are humbled by, and grateful to, our current donors and invite each and every household to contribute to the success of this initiative in a way appropriate to them. It is our goal to receive a prayerful decision from every parish household. Thank you for your consideration!

**WHY IS PLEDGING IMPORTANT?** We understand there are many requests of your time, talent and treasure. By considering spreading your gift over a five-year pledge period, you may be able to consider gifts of greater value than if you were to make a one-time payment.

Pledges are **not** legally binding. If you ever need to decrease or cancel your pledge, it is only a simple phone call – no questions asked. It is important that households consider giving over time in order to put our parish in a position to complete all of our projects in a timely manner.

This process will ensure that all pledges are documented properly for tax and auditing purposes. This will also guarantee all funds are protected to go to the areas as outlined in the case for support.

Total Pledge	Annual Amount	Monthly Amount	Weekly Sacrifice	Daily Sacrifice	Consider Sacrificing...
\$12,000	\$2,400	\$200	\$46	\$6.58	Weekly Dinner Out for Two
\$9,000	\$1,800	\$150	\$34	\$4.95	Daily Starbucks
\$6,000	\$1,200	\$100	\$23	\$3.28	Premium Cable Subscription
\$3,000	\$600	\$50	\$11	\$1.64	Monthly Gym Membership

**HOW MUCH AM I EXPECTED TO GIVE?** Stewardship is a personal decision based on prayer and reflections on the blessings you have received. We hope households will consider gifts of equal sacrifice, not necessarily equal amount. Your campaign materials will provide you with some guidance regarding a potential giving level. However, our requests are never a demand or an expectation. Please remember we need **everyone** to participate and give to the fullest extent of their ability if we are going to reach goal for the campaign and achieve our vision for Restore, Renew, Rejoice! Please be as generous as possible based on your own personal circumstances.

Thank you to all for joining us during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Additional details regarding the building project and campaign will be mailed to every family in the New Year. We appreciate your prayerful response in restoring and renewing our building for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Toronto  
 416-968-0997 [vocations@vocations.ca](mailto:vocations@vocations.ca) [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

PARISH  
 Readings ~ 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ~ Romans 16.25-27 ~ Luke 1.26-38

### Mass Intentions This Week – December 22 to 28

Please join us as we pray for the following announced intentions...

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Modestino & Esterina Viola	The family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Gloria & Alfred Wright	The family
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Elsa & Anne Bratti	Mary Lynne Bratti
Thursday	<b>Nativity of the Lord</b> <i>a very blessed Christmas to all!</i>	
Friday, 9am	✠ Elizabeth Cascagnett	Marie Clarke
Saturday, 9am	✠ Zoe Corrente	Her mother
5:15pm	✠ Donald Barrett	The family
Sunday, 8am	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	
9:30am	✠ Margaret Branca	The family
11am	✠ Isilda Gonsalves	The family
12:30pm	✠ Abel Leal	His daughter

### Priest, Prophet, King – Ends Monday, 7:30–8:30pm, parish hall

This video presentation is a great way to prepare for Christmas! **In HD on the 'big screen'.**

### Yuletide on the Cool Canadian Side – December 21, 7:30pm @OLS

Ring in the Yuletide with the Victoria Scholars as they present a concert of carols from Christmas past and present arranged by composers from Canada. Tickets (\$30/\$25) at the door.

### "God Is Born" Celebrating Polish Christmas in Song – Jan. 4, 4pm @OLS

The OLS Chorale and Toronto Ecumenical Chorale join with the Novi Polish Choir and the Toronto Sinfonietta to present this annual Christmas concert celebrating Polish Christmas. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors. Free for children under 12. A portion of the proceeds will go to the OLS capital campaign, Restore, Renew, Rejoice! For more information and tickets, contact Gordon Mansell at 416-769-3893 or email [gdmansell@sympatico.ca](mailto:gdmansell@sympatico.ca)

### Christmas & New Year's Schedule

#### Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24

9am – regular weekday Mass

#### Nativity of the Lord\*

Vigil Masses at 5pm, (Cantor), 7pm (Cantor+Chorale), 11pm (Cantor+Sr. Choir)

Music & carols begin 30min prior to vigil Masses

#### Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25

#### Nativity of the Lord\*

Regular Sunday schedule (8, 9:30, 11am, 12:30pm)

#### New Year's Eve – Wednesday, December 31

9am – regular weekday Mass

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God\*, World Day of Peace – 5:15pm vigil Mass**

#### New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God\*, World Day of Peace**

Regular Sunday schedule (8, 9:30, 11am, 12:30pm)

\* Indicates a holy day of obligation. As Catholics, we are required to attend Mass on these special feast days.

### Salt + Light – Christmas in Harvard Square – December 21, 9pm

This Christmas allow yourself to be transported to the threshold of heaven as Saint Paul's Choir School debut their first Christmas recording. Join us for a special broadcast featuring select performances and behind-the-scenes interviews from the making of Christmas in Harvard Square.

### Oratory Marriage Preparation Course seven Mondays, begins Jan. 26

Registration takes place at the first session. Sessions run from 7:30–9:30pm. Cost is \$150 per couple. Holy Family Parish Hall, 1372 King Street W. For more information call the Oratory at 416-532-2879 or email [mail@oratory-toronto.org](mailto:mail@oratory-toronto.org)

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2014

The Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau,  
 President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops



As I write this Christmas message, barely a week has gone by since Remembrance Day, a day marked by the still fresh memory of the recent assassinations of two members of the Canadian Armed Forces. This year, Christmas in Canada will take on a different shading, muted and somber, because of these events which have saddened our hearts and our spirits. Many voices proclaimed that Canada "lost its innocence" in October 2014. I understand and sympathize with that feeling. However, we should remember that our country's history has been scarred by many episodes of sporadic violence: the kidnapping of Chief Donnacona by Jacques Cartier, the assassination of Member of Parliament Thomas D'Arcy McGee, the violent death of demonstrators during the Winnipeg general strike, the assault on the Quebec National Assembly, the Montreal massacre at the École Polytechnique. These examples, among many, should dispel our illusions. And it's not just our past. Our present also confronts us with gang crimes, sexual assaults, family violence and workplace harassment. All of this convinces me that, sadly, we are not as innocent as we like to believe.

The good news is that Christmas carries with it this marvellous, nearly unbelievable hope: that innocence can be recovered. In a world marked by violence, disfigured by the scars of wars, of murders, of exploitation and injustice, a Child is born to whom has been given the unexpected title of "Prince of Peace". Newborn children make us dream of innocence. Faced with a defenceless child, our hearts are softened, our passions calmed, our fantasies made warm and loving. But the Child of Bethlehem is not only a source of dreams: he calls us to decision, to a foundational commitment in favour of truthful love. He himself would grow up to become the Prophet of a new world where justice, peace and joy would reign. On the Cross, he confronted human violence at its worst ... and responded with mercy and forgiveness, thus uncovering for the world new ways to reconciliation and freedom. His Resurrection revealed to his friends the ultimate meaning of life, woven through with surprising grace and life-giving Spirit. This is the mystery we celebrate at Christmas.

For in Jesus, innocence can be recovered, healed and renewed. Each of us is invited to open our hearts to this Good News, to make it our own, to share it with family, with friends, with an entire country. We celebrate Christmas at the time of year when nights are longest. Is this not a sign that innocence can surge forth at the very moment we believed it lost? Let us therefore not be afraid to wish each other a joyful Christmas. Let us especially not be afraid to live it!

*Paul-André Durocher*

4 December 2014