



Sat. Dec. 22
 5:00pm +**Manuel Barbosa**
 Sun. Dec. 23
 8:00am +**Claudio & Franco Filippetta**
 9:15am **For The People of the Parish**
 10:30am +**Teresa Molinaro**
 12:00 noon +**Connie Morresi**
 Mon. Dec. 24
 6:00pm +**Earl & Patricia St. Amand**
 9:00pm +**Lamberto Coloma Sr.**
 12:00am **For the People of the Parish**
 Tues. Dec. 25
 8:00am +**Michele Tersigni**
 9:15am +**Patricia, Antonio & Isabella Virgilio & deceased members of the Romanelli family**
 10:30am +**Nick Bertucci**
 12:00 noon + **Stephen De Grace**
 Wed. Dec. 26
 10:00am +**Orlando Tripodi**
 Thurs. Dec. 27
 7:00pm +**Restituta Guglietti**
 Fri. Dec. 28
 9:00am +**Alfred Costar**

Feast Days This Week

Tues. Dec. 25 – **Christmas - Nativity of the Lord**
 Wed. Dec. 26 – **St. Stephen**, the First Martyr
 Thurs. Dec. 27 – **St. John**, apostle, evangelist
 Fri. Dec. 28 – **The Holy Innocents**, martyrs
 Sat. Dec. 29 – **St. Thomas Becket**, bishop, martyr

An Advent Service for the Home

A member of the family lights all four candles on the Advent wreath.
Leader: Rejoice the Lord is at hand.
All: Come, Lord Jesus.
 (A family member reads the suggested bible passage for the day)
 Fourth Week of Advent:
 Sunday - Luke 2:1-14
Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.
All: And with your Spirit.
Leader: Let us pray. O God, we await the coming of your Son, our Saviour. In this last week of our waiting, bring us to greater love in our family by learning to give one another greater respect and honour; that our homes may be happy, joyful places into which your Son, Jesus Christ may come. Amen
All: Our Father, who art in heaven...
Leader: May the almighty and merciful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen

Blessed Christmas – The Christmas season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. But it is not just an historical celebration. Jesus continues to be born in our hearts today. He is forever, Emmanuel, God-With-Us. And with all the angels, we sing out our joyful proclamation, "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!"

Christmas Hours – The Office will be closed on Mon. Dec. 24 and will reopen on Thursday, December 27 at 8:30am. Mass will be celebrated Wednesday, Dec. 26 at 10:00am.

Children’s Liturgy – There will be NO Children’s Liturgy Program on Dec. 23/24, Dec. 29/30 and Jan. 5/6. It will resume Jan. 12/13, 2019.

Large Crowds are expected to attend the Christmas Masses. Please come early for the scheduled masses if you expect to get a seat. Please remember to observe parking regulations. Please be reminded that there is **NO PARKING** on the North side of St. Padre Pio Gardens. It is strongly recommended for safety reasons that you do not park on the South side of the street. There are 400 parking spots on the church grounds.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, December 24th – Christmas Eve
 6:00pm – A children’s nativity pageant (in song) will take place after the homily of the Mass.
 9:00pm
 12:00 midnight

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

8:00am (Italian)
 9:15am
 10:30am
 12:00 noon

Masses for New Years – New Years Day is also a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. It is a serious sin to miss Mass either on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation. Masses for New Years will be celebrated:
 Mon. Dec. 31 at 5:00pm
 Tues. Jan. 1 at 8 am (Italian), 9:15am, 10:30am and 12 noon.

Feast of the Holy Family – next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family. The blessing of families will take place at the end of all Masses next weekend.

Blessing of a Christmas Tree – Gather the family together to say a little Christmas prayer together. *“Dear Lord, the evergreen branches of this tree are symbols of your everlasting light; the sparkling lights and decorations, reflections of your presence; the gifts beneath it, reminders of your many gifts to us. Help us to keep the peace and joy of Christmas in our hearts all through the year.”* Amen

Blessing of a Nativity Scene – Make it a family project to put up your Christmas Nativity Scene. When the manger is in place, plan to have a candlelight crib procession. Gather in the room farthest from the crib and turn out all the lights in the house. Mom or Dad or an older child can carry a lighted candle and light the way as you process to the crib. You might like to sing ‘Silent Night’. A younger child can carry the infant Jesus and place Him in the manger. Then kneel at the crib and read the Gospel account of the first Christmas: (Luke 2:15-20) and say this prayer: *“Dear Jesus, bless this crib that we have set up in memory of your birth. Help us to remember each time we look at it that you came down to us at Bethlehem because you loved us. Remind us too that the presents we give and receive are given and received in the memory of your love. Bless our family and our world with peace and joy.”* Amen. Now process to the kitchen and have a birthday party for Jesus! Use the leader’s candle to light the candles on a birthday cake (on which is written, ‘Happy Birthday Jesus’). Sing the birthday song together, blow out the candles, turn on the lights and have a happy party. Talk about the first Christmas and what you think it might have been like, how Mary and Joseph looked or felt. Discuss what you could do as a family to give Jesus

Baptism – We offer our congratulations to the parents of the children who were baptized last weekend:

**Ava Aceto
Kiara Ali
Aidan Hosseinzadeh
Tristan Antonio Hanna
Avina Jeminson**

Nativity Scenes -St. Padre Pio Parish presents its Eighth Annual Display of Nativity Scenes, entitled ‘Joy to the World’. This is an entirely new display from previous years, representing many different countries and cultures, artistic styles and materials. All of them present the different ways that artists have interpreted the birth of Jesus through the ages. Jesus was born for all people, so his birth is depicted reflecting the different artistic styles found in many cultures. The display, in the cabinets at the side entrance of the church, will continue until Sunday,

January 13, 2019, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and the end of the Christmas season.

Offertory Envelopes for 2019 are ready for pickup in the Vestibule. Envelopes are sorted by envelope number. If you don’t know or remember your envelope number, there are lists available by the envelope boxes. The lists are in alphabetical order with your envelope number beside your name. If you are new to the parish and would like to start using envelopes, please ask one of the ushers to get you a new box.

Stained Glass Windows

Feeding the 5,000 – 4 portions available
Each portion is \$6,500.00. A plaque will be placed below the window, once your portion has been paid in full. This is a wonderful way to honour those who are still living or to remember those who have died. For more information, please contact the office at 905-893-7879.

Items for Completion of the Church

Narthex:	Acoustical Ceiling Panels
Back Sacristy:	Upper Storage Room with stairs
Basement:	Meeting Rooms and Kitchenette Washrooms Hall and Stage Kitchen Storage
Outside:	Outdoor amphitheatre at rear of church Top coat for paving Two wells at sides of church – rocks Landscaping (trees, shrubs, plants, flowers)

If you or someone you know would like to assist in any way with these projects, please contact the Parish Office at 905-893- 7879.

Winter – Please note that we have been notified by Landscape Ontario that there will be a shortage of salt this coming winter. We will do our best to keep the snow and ice away from all steps and walkways. Please be careful when walking on the property and be safe!

Christmas Greetings - Deacon Gary, Deacon Curtis, the Office staff and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a most joyous Christmas! May the Lord’s presence and peace be in your hearts as we celebrate His coming among us!