

## NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



### *CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.....Christmas is not cancelled!!!*

The word that keeps coming to mind during this difficult time in which we will not celebrate the “normal” Christmas is *surrender*. It has been a difficult and challenging year. There has been much illness, death, uncertainty, isolation, and unrest. People have lost loved ones and livelihoods. As we begin our journey to the cold silent cave that will hold our Savior on Christmas, we take with us our own nothingness. We can only truly approach Him if we surrender everything to Him.



Much will be asked of us in the coming weeks as we approach the Christmas season. Many people will be unable to see vulnerable family members to celebrate the holidays, some will die, and others will lie alone sick in hospital beds. There are already quarantines and lockdowns increasing across the country and in other nations.

This is the reality we face as we approach Christmas in a year that has contained much darkness. Sacrifices will be asked of us that we didn't expect or want to make. How we prepare spiritually now for these possibilities and for disappointments during the Christmas season will determine whether we are free to enter the light of Christmas, regardless of our circumstances. We must surrender everything to Christ *now*.

Obedience is not an act of coercion, it is letting go, surrendering to the ocean of God's goodness. All this leads to a fundamental change in the way we deal with the whole of reality, everything appears in a new light, it is therefore a true “conversion,” faith is a “change of mentality” because the God who has revealed Himself in Christ, and has made known His plan, seizes us, draws us to Himself, becomes the meaning that supports life, the rock on which it can find stability.

Surrender leads us to find our surety and support in God alone. We are set free from the false belief that we can make it on our own and that we don't need anyone. In reality, we need God above everything else and we need one another. There are different ways that Christ teaches us this lesson and periods of illness and uncertainty are times in our lives when we are stripped of all sense of control. This is necessary in order for God to lead us away from our will to His will.

We can get mad and frustrated—which will happen sometimes—or we can ask Christ for the grace to surrender to His plan and to offer our sufferings in union with His. This is all we can do when things happen to us outside of our control. If our country locks things down, we find ourselves in quarantine, a loved one gets sick, or we get sick, we will be presented with a choice. We can give everything over to Him or we can turn away from Him.

Advent is a season that leads us into the depths of darkness before the radiance of Christmas. This pandemic is leading us into darkness in order to bring about renewal. It is through suffering that God accomplishes His greatest and most glorious works and plans. The Cross leads to the Resurrection. The darkness of Advent leads to the joy of Christmas. The secret is that we must cling to Him in the darkness as we await the dawn.

St. Teresa of Avila once said: *“If things don't go your way this Christmas, focus on surrendering everything to Christ. Regardless of what is happening in our lives or in the world, Our Savior is coming. Advent will give way to Christmas and His radiant light and love will continue to shine out into the world”*.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone (Isaiah 9:1).*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSED NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!!!**

**FROM: Fr. Lorenzo, Fr. Samoj, Deacon Terence, Deacon Thomas,  
Br. Martin and staff.**



# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



**December 21—27, 2020**

## Monday, December 21

8:30 am + Clara Sy; John Fernandes & family; Salvador Fernandes;

## Tuesday, December 22

8:30 am - Thanksgiving Mathew family

## Wednesday, December 23

8:30 am - Thanksgiving Mathew family;

## Thursday, December 24

- Community of Prince of Peace

## Friday, December 25

- Community of Prince of Peace

## Saturday, December 26

8:30 am - Community of Prince of Peace

## Sunday, December 27

8:30 am - Thanksgiving from Amini family; + Maria de Pietro Cortellucci

## CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

Due to the extension of existing lockdown, public Masses on Christmas Eve and Day are still cancelled. Our faith is a source of hope and comfort during these challenging days of pandemic. Despite the restrictions we face, there are several ways of caring for the faithful.

1. The priests are offering Mass for the people everyday
2. The church is open for daily prayer and Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (Please see the church's schedules)
3. Livestreaming Mass (Please see the lists below)
4. Holy Communion Service (Please call the priest)

### LIVESTREAMING MASS:

St. Michael's Cathedral : [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

Vision TV: [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

EWTN; [ewtn.com/Canada](http://ewtn.com/Canada) preview

Vatican: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)



The Church is opened on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for Private Prayer— 10 people at the time

### Christmas Eve

9:00am –12:00noon  
4:00pm - 9:00pm

### Christmas Day

9:00am to 1:00pm



Light a Prayer Candle

### Sanctuary Lamps Offerings

- 1) All those sick with COVID and those taking care of them



Let us pray!

For those who are sick members of our parish and those who love and minister to them.

# HELP YOUR PARISH

DONATE

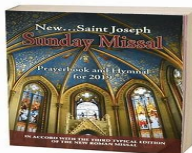
## during COVID-19

## IT'S FREE!!! FORMED

Let's make the most of your time at home to better understand, live, and share our faith! You will enjoy the movies, books, talks, cartoons, radio theater, Bible studies, devotionals, and much more on [formed.org](http://formed.org). This is free subscription. The parish shouldered the cost for one year for you to enjoy, especially during "staying at home". You are welcome to send it to anyone....

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)
2. Select your parish: Enter postal code M1V and select Prince of Peace Church from the dropdown menu
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED



## NEW SUNDAY MISSALS

2021 Sunday Missals are available for sale. Please call the parish office and make arrangements to pick one up. The cost is \$5.00 each.

