

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

Roman Catholic Church

Archdiocesan Filipino Catholic Mission

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PARISH STAFF

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SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR!



So, as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let joy be born in our hearts not just this Christmas day, but our whole lives. Let us inspire this world, that can seem so lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in the light of our joy. Let us welcome family and friends. Let us wel-

come one another, strangers and travelers, the poor in our midst, greet them with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality those like Mary and Joseph, who are seeking room in the inn.

As your pastor, I have been touched by your generosity of your talents, time and resources throughout the year. I thank you also for your generous gifts to the parish on this Christmas.

Many thanks to our different ministries from both the OLA Parish and AFCM (Choirs, Organists, Cantors, Sacristans, Altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, Lectors, Ushers decorators, Counters) who worked so hard for this year and specially during the Christmas season.

A big thank you to those who organized our Simbang Gabi and sponsors and celebrants every evening Masses who prepared foods for fellowship and those who donated flowers for our sanctuary during this Christmas and the priests who celebrated Masses.

My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do even through the tough times. It is with humble joy that we give thanks for the honor of serving as your Pastor. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the City of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk2:10-14)

May Jesus, born in the silence of this night at Bethlehem, bless you and your loved ones with His love and peace!



Christ's Joyful Peace & Love,
Fr. Lorenzo Salandanan

SUNDAY Reflection.....

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38)



This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental

roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.



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

FROM: Fr. Lorenzo and Nora Valeria, Jhun Viloria, Lucille Sicat

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CYCLE B



PEACE ON EARTH



CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th, 2023

Regular Sunday Masses
(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

10:00am/12:00noon

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5:00 pm - Filipino Mass (Tagalog)

8:00 pm - Family Mass (English)

10:30pm—Mass (English)

Carols 1/2 hour before all Masses

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CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th, 2022

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00Noon—Mass (English)

(No Evening Masses)

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Tuesday, December 26th, 2023

Office and Church **CLOSED**

No evening Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, December 31st, 2023

Regular Sunday Masses
(The Holy Family)

10:00am/12:00noon

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7:00 pm - Filipino Mass (Tagalog)

10:30am - Mass (English)

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NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, January 1st, 2024

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 am—Mass (English)

(No Evening Masses)

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Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024

Office and Church **CLOSED**

No evening Mass

THE GIVING TREE



In this season of Advent, we are bringing back the GIVING TREE, allowing us to spread the holiday cheer and share this joyous season with everyone.

In the spirit of giving, you can bring in a present for deserving members of our community by picking one or more Recipient Cards on the tree.

Kindly make sure to attach the recipient card to your gift and place it under the tree. We will collect gifts until Friday, December 29th.

We ask that you bring your gift unwrapped or in a gift bag for security reasons and for ease of sorting. If donating food items, please ensure these are non-perishable and neatly packed.

The coming of our Savior is a precious gift to mankind. May we show our gratitude for the gift that is Jesus Christ by sharing our blessings to others.

God bless you and your loved ones, Merry Christmas!

Give
THANKS
WITH A GRATEFUL
HEART 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Marriage Sunday



MARRIAGE SUNDAY 2024

Celebration of Marriage Mass with Archbishop Francis Leo
February 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

As part of Marriage Sunday 2024 celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2024. The Mass will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass. All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversary in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass. Registration and other important information can be found at www.archtoronto.org/marriage. For questions, please email formation@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 ext. 523.

2024 Offertory Envelopes/Pre-Authorized Giving



Thank you for your continued support of our parish during these challenging times, especially through your use of offertory envelopes and/or Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). Offertory envelopes for 2024 are now available in the parish hall. Thank you for picking up your offertory envelopes as soon as possible!

PILGRIMAGE TO AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA, GERMANY, SLOVENIA, CROATIA AND BOSNIA (MEDJUGORJE)



Under spiritual guidance of Rev. Lorenzo Salandanan, Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Toronto, ON
Tour Coordinator: Ms. Patricia Martyn, 416-629-0350, pmartyn132@gmail.com
SEP 29 - OCT 12, 2024, 14 DAYS - \$5,090.00, incl. taxes and tips
Connaissance Travel and Tours, 3852 Finch Ave East, Suite #306, Toronto ON, M1T 3T9, Tel: 416 291 2676.

The devotees of Black Nazarene are inviting everyone to join us as we celebrate

THE FEAST OF BLACK NAZARENE On Sunday January 14, 2024

Procession will start at 4:30 pm inside the church followed by Tagalog mass at 5pm.

Food will be served after the mass



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