

# Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

R O M A N C A T H O L I C P A R I S H

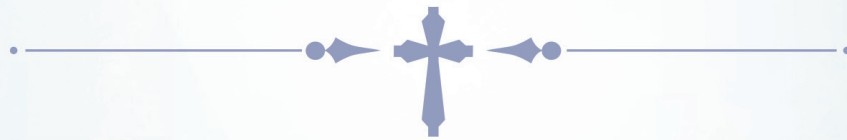
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 Frédéric Ozanam Parish Markham

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# PREPARE



“Prepare the way  
of the Lord.”

MARK 1:3





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### WEEKEND MASS

We are so happy to be able to gather once again to celebrate Mass with you! Our current restriction is 158 parishioners at each Mass. Please register for mass at [blessedoanam.ca/registering-for-mass/](https://blessedoanam.ca/registering-for-mass/)

St. Brother André Catholic High School  
6160 - 16th Avenue, Markham  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

### CONFESSION

Saturday 4 - 4:45 p.m.  
or anytime by appointment

## Praying the News | December 6, 2020

*"...according to his promise we await new heavens and  
a new earth in which righteousness dwells."  
- 2 Peter 3:13*

Dear Lord, we thank you for the gift of the thirteen newly created Cardinals. May this be a sign of hope and encouragement to your entire flock. We ask that your grace and wisdom be with them always, and with Pope Francis, and all who lead your people in faith. Please help us work together to fulfill your promise of a better world.

Jesus, we trust in you. Amen.

## Second Sunday of Advent – December 6, 2020

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020** YouTube, pre-recorded

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

12:00 p.m. + Don Ferguson

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**

5:00 p.m. + Fan Yune & Fat Voon Li-How-Cheong

+ Dionisio Perez

+ Savio D'Mello

+ Vern Bechard

S.I. - Li Tse Vee Family

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

9:00 a.m. available

10:30 a.m. + Joseph Lee

12:00 p.m. pro populo

*The BFO Decorating Committee  
would like to extend a big*

**THANK YOU**

*to all the wonderful parishioners  
who donated towards the purchase of  
poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary  
this Christmas!*

*Our worship space will look fit for a  
**KING!***



FR. MICHAEL DELLA PENNA

**Women  
of the  
WORD – TORONTO**

INVITES YOU TO A WORKSHOP ON  
**Saturday, December 12, 2020**  
9:30 am to 11:00 am

### *Courageous Joy*

The beautiful season of Advent begins. It is such a special time set aside to prepare for the birth of Our Lord. His birth is occasion for great joy, true and lasting joy! As we busy ourselves with preparations of all kinds, let us make time, above all, to prepare our hearts.

Fr. Michael Della Penna has so graciously offered of his time to be with us, to help us 'make ready a place for Christ' this Christmas. Fr. Michael is a long time friend of Women of the Word - Toronto. We are so blessed to be able to spend this time with him during the Advent Season. Fr. Michael is a powerful speaker who always engages his listeners with his thought provoking insights and deep truths, in a truly relatable manner. We look forward to his reflection on how to live our faith with courage and joy!

**Please help us spread the word  
by inviting others.**

**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
Christmas Appeal  
FINAL WEEK**

We need your help in order to provide Christmas assistance, and on-going financial help, to our neighbours-in-need. Please consider making a donation before Dec 13.

Pledge forms and details of how to donate are on our parish website. If you require a donation pick-up please e-mail: [ssvp@blessedozanam.ca](mailto:ssvp@blessedozanam.ca).

**Thank you and God Bless you for your  
generosity to those in need.**

### ADVENT CHALLENGE

by Loyola Press

To help you grow on your Advent journey, you'll find a great article included in this bulletin with helpful suggestions for you and your family. Check out more great offerings from Loyola Press at: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/>

To Register for *Courageous Joy*, please copy/paste this URL into your browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ztAKd-CorzoGtTld7MOWUqgQngr\\_i5O2ijj](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ztAKd-CorzoGtTld7MOWUqgQngr_i5O2ijj)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.





# The Advent Challenge: Making Space for the Christ Child

*"This age detests the things that silence brings us to: encounter, wonder, and kneeling before God."*

*- Cardinal Robert Sarah*

## Step #1 Detox from Sin

- **Start and end Advent with Confession.** Make a fresh start by cutting out what is clearly hindering us from our goal. Bookend this Advent with sanctifying grace! Click [here](#) for examinations of conscience for the whole family.

## Step #2 Detox from Noise

- **Add space at the beginning and end of each day.** Remove all screens from bedrooms. Consider a family charging station for all phones and "media free" hours from X pm - X am. Buy alarm clocks if needed! For more tips, check out the book, "[How to Break Up with Your Cell Phone](#)" by Catherine Price.
- **Significantly reduce neutral media as a family.** This is a big one. What you read, watch, listen to, and do all affect your soul. Commit as a family to removing bad media and reducing neutral media (eg social media, music, sports, news, video games, tv shows, podcasts, etc). Come up with a specific and measurable goal for each family member or the entire family (eg no social media apps on phones, pause your Netflix account, only one sports game per weekend, total media time not to exceed XX minutes per day unless the entire family is watching, etc).
- **Discuss taking the [Marriage 4:29 Social Media Pledge](#) with your spouse.**

## Step #3 Fill the Space with God

- **Stick to a daily prayer schedule.** Develop a routine of daily prayer for Advent. Commit to adding one aspect of the following Daily Plan of Life (Back Cover of the [Paradisus Dei Prayer Handbook](#)) to you and your family's routine this Advent:
  - a. Morning, Midday, and Night Prayers
  - b. The Rosary
  - c. Lectio Divina
  - d. Liturgy of the Dinner Table
  - e. Practice of the Presence of God



PARADISUS DEI



- **Read together.** “A reading Catholic is a contagious Catholic,” says Scott Hahn. Have each family member choose the life of a saint or other spiritual reading for Advent. Here are a few recommendations:

Adults - [Rejoice! Advent Meditations](#), [Joy to the World](#)

Teens - [Life Teen Collection](#), [Go Bravely](#), [I Choose the Sky](#)

Children - [ABC Get to Know the Saints with Me](#), [A is for Angel](#), [Saints Chronicles 5 Set](#)

- **Check in and reflect.** Consider setting aside one meal a week to discuss as a family how the challenge is going and share highs and lows. **Ask: What might God be teaching you this week?** If you or your kids are “feeling the burn,” talk to your spouse about it and consider how best to love them through it.

#### **Step #4 Fill the Space with Family**

- **Eat dinner together.** Commit to being together (without the media) for dinner. An Advent Wreath and [Catholic Advent Calendars](#) can help bring joy to the table.
- **Play together.** Instead of TV or phones, consider a family walk to see Christmas lights, a group game, or creating a skit to show the grandparents or the grandkids at Christmas!
- **Watch the media together as a couple or a family.** Here are a couple of movie review sites: [Plugged In \(Focus on the Family\)](#), [The Dove Foundation](#), [Catholic News Service Movie Reviews](#)

#### **Other Tips:**

- **Add reminders in the home.** Nativity scenes, an Advent wreath, special candles, or seasonal artwork can remind the family it's Advent - and time to make space for the Christ child!
- **Make it a team effort.** Ask another family to help you make space for Christ in your home. Help them in return.
- **Don't give up!** If you don't pray and watch too much Netflix one day, don't give up! As Mother Teresa said, “Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”



# York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1  
Tel: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051, 1-800-363-2711, Voice Mail Box: 17133  
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Dear Blessed Community Members,

The Advent season has arrived, bringing a reminder of the sacred meaning of Christmas and signalling the start of a new liturgical year.

While our Advent celebrations will look different this year due to the pandemic, these changes do not take away from the spirit and purpose of the season. Advent, the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, is observed in commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world. As Catholics, it is a time to pause, reflect and renew our faith, as we await the birth of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

More than ever this Advent season, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our community members for their endless support of our schools and Catholic community. With your ongoing encouragement, our students continue to experience a fulsome spiritual journey in Christ's name, while they work to achieve academic excellence.

May this blessed Advent season fill your hearts with hope, love, joy and peace as we prepare for Him who is our salvation.

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. P. Ecker".

James Ecker

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**James Ecker, Trustee – Markham Area 2: Wards 4,5,7 & 8**  
(Milliken/Markham/Unionville)  
[james.ecker@ycdsb.ca](mailto:james.ecker@ycdsb.ca) Tel 416-873-8002

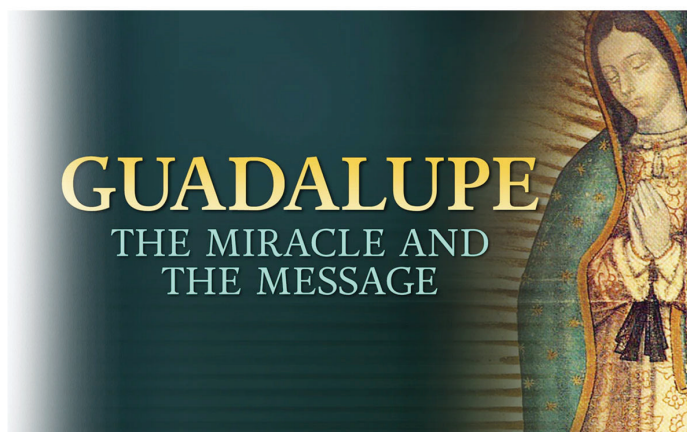


December 6, 2020

### WATCH

#### **GUADALUPE: THE MIRACLE AND THE MESSAGE**

As we celebrate the patroness of the Americas this week, enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego—an encounter that has converted millions.



### FORMED<sup>™</sup> *Now!*

#### **FORMED NOW! DO WE MAKE TOO MUCH OF MARY?**

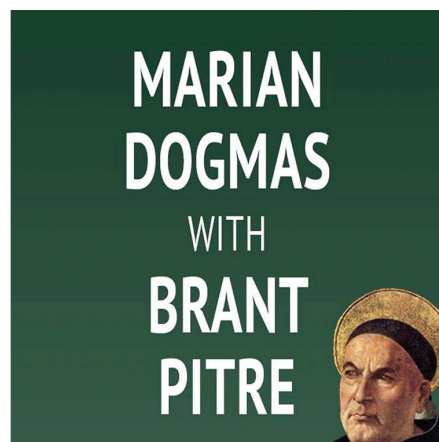
Throughout our Marian feast days, you might wonder why Catholics think so highly of Mary. Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss our Lady's esteemed place among the saints.

### LEARN

### LISTEN

#### **MARIAN DOGMAS WITH MATT FRADD & BRANT PITRE**

Listen in as Matt Fradd and Dr. Brant Pitre explore the Church's understanding of Mary's role in the Church.



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To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.



**December 6, 2020 — Second Sunday of Advent**

**IS 40:1-5, 9-11; PS 85:9-14; 2 PT 3:8-14; MK 1:1-8**

We serve a merciful and patient God. In His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us.



The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, Whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

St. Peter describes the loving kindness of the Father in our Second Reading today, saying God “is patient with you, not wishing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance.” Yet, in the same passage we receive this warning: “The Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar... and the earth and everything on it will be found out.”

How are we to assimilate these two truths — the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves “in holiness and devotion.” Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent “reset” — to return to living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us.

In our Gospel passage from Mark, John the Baptist instructs us to “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” We must make good use of the gift of time we have been given this Advent season. Let’s be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading the of Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service.

In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.

— *Stewardship Reflections by* [\*Catholic Stewardship Consultants\*](#)

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# STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving  
knowing that all that I am and all that I have is a gift from you.

In faith and love, help me to do your will.

I am listening, Lord God.

Speak your words into the depth of my soul,  
that I may hear you clearly.

I offer to you this day all the facets of my life,  
whether it be at home, at work, or at school –  
to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy.

Give me the wisdom and insight  
to understand your will for me  
and the fervor to fulfill my good intentions.  
I offer my gifts of time, talent, and possessions to you  
as a true act of faith,

to reflect my love for you and my neighbour.

Help me to reach out to others as you, my God,

Have reached out to me.

Amen.

*Prayer used with permission from Stewardship and Development Office, Archdiocese of Chicago.*



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