

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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 Frédéric Ozanam Parish Markham

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THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



The angel said to them, "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." - Lk 2:10-11



BLESSED FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

WITH HEARTS AND HANDS WE SERVE

PASTOR

Fr. Ricardo Davis  ext. 8
fr.rick@blessedoanam.ca

OFFICE INQUIRIES

office@blessedoanam.ca  ext. 0

SACRAMENTAL INQUIRIES

firstcommunion@blessedoanam.ca  ext. 7
confirmation@blessedoanam.ca  ext. 6

YOUTH MINISTRY

youth@blessedoanam.ca  ext. 6

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

socialcommittee@blessedoanam.ca

COMMUNICATIONS

communications@blessedoanam.ca

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ssvp@blessedoanam.ca  ext. 5

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Joseph CES	905-294-4045
St. Julia Billiard CES	905-471-8221
St. Kateri Tekakwitha CES	905-471-4477
Sir Richard W. Scott CES	905-472-3964
St. Brother André CHS	905-294-7671

WEEKEND MASS

Masses are celebrated at St. Br. André CHS, located at 6160 - 16th Ave., on Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASS

Mass is celebrated every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12:10 p.m. at the Rhenish Church of Canada, located at 2667 Bur Oak Ave. (Bur Oak & 16th Ave.)

CONFESSION

Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment. Please contact Fr. Rick to make arrangements.



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Joseph Virgilio B.A. LL.B.
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The Nativity of our Lord – December 25, 2022



A Christmas Message from Fr. Rick...

Dear Friends: I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful and blessed Christmas—one filled with many graces and blessings as well as lots of love and laughter. My prayer and hope for you is that you also experience much joy this Christmas. There is so much to be joyful about when we consider how far we have come as a community, and how much things have slowly been getting back to some sense of normalcy in a post-pandemic world.

One of the main misconceptions about joy is that authentic joy is not so much an EMOTION as it is a DECISION. In other words, true and lasting joy is much more of a disposition towards life rather than a feeling—i.e., a decision we make about how we choose to relate to the world and the kind of attitude by which we choose to live our lives; because authentic joy doesn't really depend on the things that happen to us, but on how we RESPOND to the things that happen to us.

And so, as we prepare to enter the beautiful mystery of Christmas, let us strive to cultivate joy in our lives, and to choose to be joyful in all things and at all times; to make joy a way of life, for there's lots to celebrate and be joyful about if we take the time to look carefully. And as someone once said: "If we wait to be happy, we'll wait forever. But if we learn to be happy now, we'll be happy forever."

May God bless you and keep you safe this Holy Season, and may the Birth of our Saviour bring you all an abundance of joy this Christmas and always. 😊 Fr. Rick



The next
**CHURCH BUILDING FUND
SECOND COLLECTION** is
JANUARY 7, 2023

Thank you for your generous support!



First Saturday Adoration
will resume
February 4th, 2023,
immediately following the
5 p.m. Mass.

Please note there will be **NO WEEKDAY MASSES** from
December 28th to 30th, 2022.

The regular schedule will resume on January 4, 2023
at the Rhenish Church, 2667 Bur Oak Ave. at 12:10 p.m.

2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Thank you to everyone who has picked up their box already. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible.

If you would like to begin using envelopes, kindly visit our office desk during Mass times, or email us at: office@blessedoanam.ca

If you'd like to make donations through our pre-authorized debit program (PAG), the form can be found on our website at <https://blessedoanam.ca/contribute-to-our-parish>. Please print, complete, and drop off at our office desk during Mass times. Don't forget to include a void cheque or document from your bank verifying the account.

As always, we are very grateful for your generous and ongoing support of our parish. Together we will build our church and community!

Christmas Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

4 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 10 p.m.

Christmas Day

10 a.m. | 12 p.m.

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Year's Eve

4 p.m. | 6 p.m.

New Year's Day

10 a.m. | 12 p.m.

CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS FOR 2022

will be mailed out in February 2023.

If your mailing information has changed, please inform the office at office@blessedoanam.ca, to ensure that you receive your receipt for income tax purposes.

Our next bulletin publication
will be on the weekend of January 14/15th.

A Prayer for Christmas

Merciful God, who made that first Christmas night so **beauteous** and **bright**, we ask You to bless us once again with Your **gentle** yet **powerful** Presence. As we experience the cold nights and bitter winds of this world, remind us that You have not left us alone, but have promised to be our **Emmanuel, God-with-us**. You once slept in a stable in Bethlehem, while shepherds and Magi visited You. Now, You dwell in glory in the Holy Eucharist, waiting once again for us to adore You. Please **fill us** with Your gift of **heavenly peace**, and **open our eyes** to Your Presence in our midst. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer from **Fr. Adam Pantaleo**, Associate Priest at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica



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A Celebration of Marriage in the Archdiocese of Toronto

MASS WITH BISHOP VINCENT NGUYEN

Sunday, February 12, 2023
2:30 p.m. Mass

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
65 Bond Street, Toronto

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Special recognition for married couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ anniversaries in 2023.

Everyone is required to register as seating is limited.
Designated seating available for milestone anniversary couples only.

Visit www.archtoronto.org/marriage for more information and registration.



Archdiocese
of Toronto



December 25, 2022 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

[IS 52: 7-10](#); [PS 98: 1-6](#); [HEB 1: 1-6](#); [JN 1: 1-18](#)

It is Christmas! Our Gospel reading on this festive holy day is the opening words of the Gospel of John. St. John says, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him." That is why we celebrate today. Pope Francis opened his sermon on Christmas day last year by saying this: "In the darkness, a light shines. An angel appears, the glory of the Lord shines around the shepherds and finally the message awaited for centuries is heard."



At Mass on Christmas Eve we hear, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." It is this joy we need to feel, this joy we need to carry to others. Many have expressed the joy of today. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said this about Christmas: "Joy is the true gift of Christmas. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."

The angel Gabriel greeted our Blessed Mother Mary with the Greek word, *Kaire!* That means "Be joyful." God is near us today; He is so near that He became a child. Let us take that joy and share it with others; let us take that joy and change our lives and the lives of others. When we say "Merry Christmas" let us mean it with every fabric of our being.

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



**January 1, 2023 — The Octave Day of Christmas
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God**
[NM 6: 22-27; PS 67: 2-3, 5-6, 8; GAL 4: 4-7; LK 2: 16-21](#)

The blessing included in the First Reading from the Book of Numbers is one with which most of us are familiar. “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you...” In the Jewish culture this has been known for centuries as the Aaronic blessing as it was dictated by God Himself to Aaron. It is important to note that it begins with “The Lord bless you.”



All blessings come from God. One error we make is to conclude that blessings always mean happiness or security or prosperity. God knows what blessings we need, even if we do not. The key for us is to be grateful for whatever blessings we may have. That mind set is at the hub of stewardship — knowing all blessings come from the Lord, and our need to be appreciative of them.

To be “kept” by the Lord is to turn our lives over to Him, to know that He is with us and that He loves us, blesses us, and does indeed “keep” us ever in His care. The truth is that to be blessed by God is one of the greatest gifts we can receive. It is available to all of us without exception.

During this continued Christmas season, it is well to remember and repeat the classic statement by the character Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens’ immortal *A Christmas Carol*: “God bless us, every one,” for certainly He does.

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

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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Stewardship

CORNER

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." JOHN 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

That we may open our hearts to receive more fully all of God's simple and abundant blessings.

