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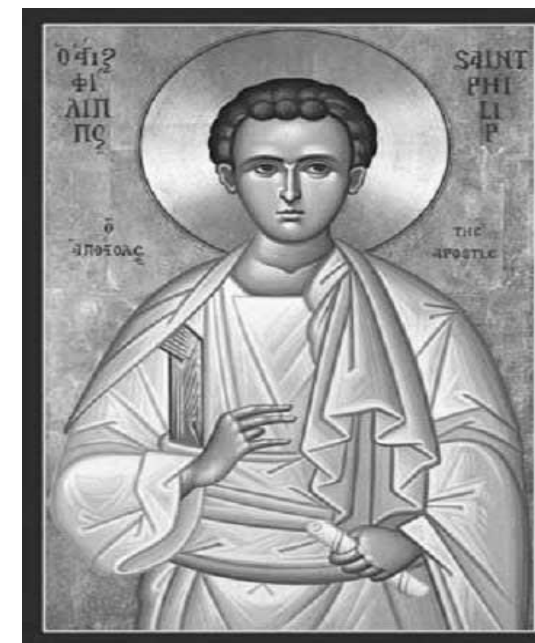
St. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

1314 Oxford St. Oshawa, ON. L1J 3W6
Phone: 905-725-3275 Fax: 905-434-7531

Email: stphiliptheapostleos@archtoronto.org
Website: www.stphiliptheapostle.com

PASTOR: Fr. Jorge Lopez
Email: pastor.stphilip@archtoronto.org

IN RESIDENCE:
Sr. Maria, Sr. Cristina
Religious Community: CMSSTCJ



Mass Times

Weekday Masses

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m.

Friday: 6:00 p.m.

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: 15 minutes before each mass or by appointment

Weekend Masses

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Baptism

Infants and young children of registered parents are eligible to have their child baptized. Baptisms are celebrated by appointment only and require a meeting with the priest.

Marriage

Weddings for registered parishioners are generally celebrated on Saturdays. A Marriage Preparation Course is required. Please contact the pastor a minimum of one year before the planned marriage date.

Ministry to the Sick

Please call the Parish Office to arrange for visits, Communion, or Sacrament of the Sick. If you are admitted to the Hospital, kindly identify yourself as "Catholic" at the time of admission

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services

Resurrection Catholic Cemetery,
355 Taunton Rd. E., Whitby, ON
905-668-8912

SCHOOLS

Msgr. Philip Coffey - 905-723- 4241
Msgr. John Pereyma - 905-432-8470

For more information on Catholic education in our community or to reach your local school board trustee, contact the Durham Catholic District School Board at 905-576-6150 or www.dcdsb.ca

We welcome new parishioners. Please register in the vestibule or call the parish office

Praised by Jesus Christ

My dear brother and sisters,

I wish to bring warm Christmas greetings to all of you and your families as faithful Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto. This is always a very special time of year, a beautiful season for us to celebrate, reflect and joyfully retell the Greatest Story ever told – the Birth of Our Saviour Jesus in Bethlehem.



I hold a special place in my heart this Christmas for the people of the archdiocese as it is my first with you as your shepherd. It has been a joy getting to know so many of you since my arrival in March and know that all of you, whether we have met or have not yet has the pleasure of doing so, remain close in prayer this Christmas.

Each time we hear the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, it provides for us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on His coming into the world. The long and no doubt difficult journey made by Mother Mary and her spouse, the good St. Joseph from Nazareth; looking desperately for a suitable dwelling and settling on a simple manger. The angels who proclaimed his birth. We reflect on the shepherds and wise men who followed the star and came to worship Our Lord in his innocence and vulnerability as they found him in his Mother's arms.

I would like to invite you to consider two simple ideas this Christmas as you and your loved ones enjoy this special time of year.

First, God sent his only begotten son Jesus to be the **light of the world**. As Christians, we carry the light of Jesus in our hearts. It is a flame that burns eternal. We need to let this light grow inside all of us, especially when we face the many challenges and darkness of the world. Just as Mother Mary did in giving her "yes", so too must we surrender daily, passionately and wholeheartedly to the holy will of the Lord and allow His Son to enter more deeply, and dwell with his grace in our lives. This way he will enlighten our days and transform our lives.

A second point. Yes, we possess the divine light within each one of our hearts, the light of faith and devotion, of charity and grace; but as we know ever so well, unless we allow it **to shine unto others**, darkness will prevail. Our challenge, at Christmas and throughout the new year, is to radiate this light and share it with others. Like all spiritual gifts, the more we use them and share them with others, the more they grow within us. As we share our faith and love, our care, forgiveness and hope with our sisters and brothers, the more we shall receive.

How exactly might we share this light with those who are struggling – at home, our families and our communities, with our loved ones and the stranger among us? How can this light illuminate lives in our country, bringing hope, meaning, kindness and care to others in messy and complicated situations? The secret is that it is **not our own light but that of Christ** and his light is creative and unlimited, generous and transformative.

When we **share our faith** in Christ with someone who does not know him or knows him poorly, we provide an opportunity for Christ's light to shine in that person. When we **reach out to the needy**, the abandoned, the ill and the vulnerable in the name of Christ, it provides an occasion of Christ himself to shine in their lives. When we **refuse** all violence, vindictiveness, unforgiveness and greed, this allows light to enter, enhance and brighten, his light in us grows and dispels the darkness of our soul.

And so, just as Our Lady and St. Joseph did, let us make that faithful journey to Bethlehem. O Come Let Us Adore Him. Christ the Lord. They came from far and wide to honour and worship him. We proclaim Happy Birthday to Jesus. We thank him for giving us the precious gift of – his saving light in our daily life.

Dear Good people of Toronto – let the brilliance of that light shine brightly in and around you and may the abundance of God's overflowing love be lavished upon you and your loved ones throughout this Christmas Season and the New Year.

Sincerely Yours in Jesus with Mary,

Most Rev. Francis Leo - Archbishop of Toronto



Sunday December 31 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

9:30am

(1) Sr. Maria (In Thanksgiving)

(2) Souls of the Vu Family

(3) Thanksgiving for favour received

Monday January 1 (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)

12:30pm

†Dominico Tran Van Ty

Tuesday January 2

6:00pm

†Maria Nguyen

Friday January 5

6:00pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6:30pm

Khoa Tran (In Thanksgiving)

Sunday January 7 (Epiphany)

9:30am

(1) For Family Peace

(2) Souls in Purgatory

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Update

On December 12, 2023 the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

Recipients include Aboriginal Legal Services located in Toronto, Ontario, that will receive \$538,000 to help fund their Indigenous family dispute resolution program called Giiwedini Anang.

Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit:

www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation



Sacrament of Confirmation

If you have a child who is ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, registration will be open in January. We ask that all candidates attend Sunday mornings Mass at 9:30am. There will be a registration session on Friday February 2, 2024 at 7pm to meet with parents and children together.

Coffee Sunday

Next Sunday January 7, 2024 is Coffee Sunday. All are welcome! We are still looking for more volunteers. Please call the office if you are interested.

Baptism Catechises

There will be two blocks of **baptismal catechises** this new year 2024. The first will be on **February 3 & 10** from **10am-12pm**. Parents and godparents must attend all meetings, the 2 catechises. If they are out of town, they must show proof of having received baptismal preparation at their local parish. Please email me if you would like to register your child. Once made the catechesis, you can choose which Saturday at 11am you would like to baptize your child. The registration deadline will be February 3. Our next session will be on **September 7 & 14** from **10am-12pm**. The same applies for this other block of catechesis. Please inform your family of these two sessions and tell them that if they wish to baptize their child to choose either to come in February or in September.

