

# LONDON EAST CENTRAL CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA - ST. MARY - ST. PATRICK

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### PARISH STAFF: PASTOR

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#### ADORATION CHAPEL

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm beside St. Mary Church



#### <u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u> December 22, 2024 Micah 5.2-5a; 1 Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45

Today, is the last Sunday before the arrival —the Advent— of God in Bethlehem. So as to be the same as us in everything, He wanted to be conceived —as any other person— in the womb of a woman, Virgin Mary, but by the action and grace of the Holy Spirit, as He was God. Soon, on Christmas Day, we will celebrate His birth with great joy.

The Gospel today presents us with two people, Maria and her cousin Elizabeth, who show us with their example the spiritual attitude we should have towards this event. It should be- attitude of dynamic faith.

Elizabeth, with sincere humility, "filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, (....) 'how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:41-43). Nobody had explained anything to her. It was her faith alone, the Holy Spirit that had made her see that her cousin was the mother of her Lord, of God.

Knowing the attitude of total faith on Mary's part, when the angel announced that God had chosen her to be his earthly mother, Elizabeth is eager to proclaim the happiness and joy that faith gives. She underlines this saying: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Lk 1:45).

#### <u>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas):</u> December 24/25, 2024

Today, the Savior has been born. This is the good news of this Christmas Eve. Like in every Christmas, Jesus is born again in the world, in each home, in our heart.

But unlike what our consumerist society celebrates, Jesus is not born in an environment of waste, purchases, comfort, whim and meals. Jesus is born in the humility of the Nativity scene.

And he does it this way because he has been refused by men: nobody had wanted to house them, neither in homes nor in hostels. Mary, Joseph and the just born Jesus felt what rejection, lack of generosity and solidarity mean.

Later on things will change with the Angel's announcement: "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 Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2:10). Everybody will run towards the Nativity scene in order to adore the Son of God. A bit like in our society where many people are marginalized, because they are poor, aliens or simply different from us, while we celebrate Christmas speaking words of peace, solidarity and love.

## SUNDAY MASSES: SATURDAY

5:00 pm - OLC (Pl) 5:00 pm - St. Mary (En) 5:00 pm - St. Patrick (En)

SUNDAY

8:00 am - OLC (En) 10:00 am - OLC (Pl) 10:00 am - St. Mary (It) 10:00 am St. Patrick (En) 12:00 pm - St. Mary (En) 12:00 pm - OLC (Pl)

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY

7:00 pm - St. Mary (En)

TUESDAY

7:00 pm - OLC (Pl) 7:00 pm - St. Patrick (En)

WEDNESDAY

9:00 am - St. Patrick (En) 7:00 pm - St. Mary (It)

#### THURSDAY

9:00 am - St. Patrick (En) 7:00 pm - OLC (Pl)

FRIDAY 7:00 pm - OLC (Pl) 7:00 pm - St. Mary (It)

#### SATURDAY

9:00 am - OLC (Pl) 1st Saturday of the month

# CONFESSIONS OL CZESTOCHOWA

Saturday at 4:00 pm & before weekly Mass

**ST. MARY** Saturdays at 4:00 pm & before weekly Mass

**ST. PATRICK** Tuesday at 6:00 pm Saturday at 4:00 pm

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ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS	
December 16 to December 22, 2024	December 30, 2024 to January 5, 2025
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve*5:00pmIntentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick*8:00pmIntentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick† Bill & Susan Heemans; Int.of FamilyWEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25: Christmas Day*10:00amIntentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024 New Year's Eve*5:00pmMass of Thanksgiving for the Year 2024"May the Lord bless you and keep you;May the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace!"
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26:St. Stephen, Martyr9:00am† Katherine Blake† Sylvia Bettridge	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025New Year's Day*10:00amFor God's Blessing in the New Year 2025Intentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 <u>The Holy Family</u> 5:00pm Intentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick	THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 20259:00am† Katherine Blake† Katherine Komorowski
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29The Holy Family10:00amIntention of the JubileeYear "Pilgrims of Hope"Let's be united spiritually with Pope Francis & Universal Church as we begin the Jubilee!PILGRIME	SATURDAY, JANUARY 4Epiphany of the Lord5:00 pmIntentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick† Katherine KomorowskiSUNDAY, JANUARY 5Epiphany of the Lord10:00 amIntentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS - ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH**

ADVENT WREATH - blessing! Heavenly Father, we look forward to the celebration of Christmas and to the coming of the Lord in Glory. Bless this Advent Wreath and all of us. May this light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you Jesus. CHRISTMAS IS FINALLY HERE...

All four weeks of Advent, we have been waiting and praying for the coming blessings of Christmas. And now Christmas is here! Today, the angels are bringing us the good news of great joy for all the people - for to us is born this day, in the City of David - a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. The Good News of Great Joy, is for all people of God. Christmas rings out "Joy to the World" but how do I make this joy my own? Let us celebrate Christmas together as a Family of People of God.

<u>CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024 - at St. Patrick</u> <u>Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24</u> 5:00pm - Families with children 8:00pm - Solemn Christmas Mass <u>Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25</u> 10:00am - Solemn Christmas Mass

*Emmanuel: God is with us! May He be with us at Christmas & all the Year through!* 

# **HOLY YEAR JUBILEE 2025**

Pope Francis asked all Bishops to mark the beginning of the Holy Year in every Cathedral around the world on the <u>Feast of the Holy Family</u> (December 29). Also on that day, united with our Diocese we will have a special celebration at our Family of Parishes. We are invited to be "Pilgrims of Hope", celebrating and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. May God's grace strengthen us to do our part in this time of God's favour.

# <u>NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNING</u>

As the calendar advances through the end of one year and the beginning of another, it is good to evaluate the past and anticipate the future. Christ wants to open us up to new possibilities, new birth, new year and new life.

We invite you to St. Patrick's Church on **Tuesday**, **December 31 at 5:00pm** to our thanksgiving Mass. Let us welcome the New Year 2025 with a special celebration and Mass at **10:00am**, **Wednesday**, **January 1**.

# CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

Christmas is the time of giving - don't forget your own parish at Christmas. The envelopes are in your set and also at the back of the church. We thank you for all your donations you have made this year to support our parish, missions, St. Vincent de Paul & the Michaelite Fathers. Remember, if you want to make your donation to the church for 2024, it must be in by December 30. Thanks!