

St. Jerome's Parish

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PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jan Kolodynski, Pastor

Mrs. Rocelyn Esposito, Parish Secretary Mr. Jorge Barbosa, Property Manager



prepare the way...

A Blessed Christmas



Let Your goodness Lord appear to us, that we made in your image, conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate Your majesty, power, and wonder nor is it fitting for us to try. But Your mercy reaches from the heavens through the clouds to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love caress us with Your tiny hands, embrace us with Your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with Your soft, sweet cries. Amen.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1155)

With prayerful good wishes for a Holy and Blessed Christmas,
Fr. Jan & St. Jerome's staff



MASS INTENTIONS December 24th – 30th

Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
9:30 p.m.
12 Midnight

Christmas Day
10:30 a.m.
† Daniel Panacci
12:30 p.m.

Wednesday (Boxing Day)
10:00 a.m.

Friday, 7:00 p.m.
† Barbara & Joseph Seevatranam

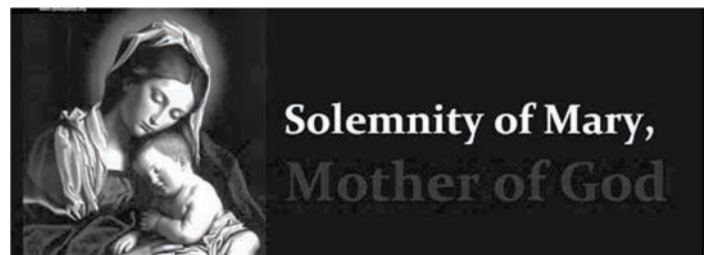
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
† Pio Jose Goveia

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
† All Souls
† Tran Thi Tan

2019 SUNDAY MISSALS NOW ON SALE!



The 2019 *Living with Christ* Sunday Missals are now available for purchase at the parish office. Cost \$5.



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) December 31 st	5:00 p.m.
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) January 1, 2019	10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Daily Mass January 2, 2019	7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS



The office will close at **Noon on Monday, December 24th, December 25th and December 26th.** Daily Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 26th.

We will be closed again **Noon on Monday, December 31st and January 1, 2019.** Daily Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. The office will be open on **Wednesday, January 2, 2019.**

PROVIDE-A-MEAL PROGRAM

Good Shepherd Centre



The next pick-up date for the Good Shepherd Centre is **Friday, January 4, 2019.** Please remember to bring your casseroles to the

church before **10:00 a.m.**

Thank you for your continued generosity!

2019 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

A reminder to all parishioners to please pick up your new 2019 offertory envelope box. Please ensure that you pick up the correct envelope number and confirm your name and address information is correct.



Please let the parish office know if there are any changes. The address on the offertory box will be used to mail out your 2018 tax donation receipt.

Any offertory envelopes not pick up before December 31st will be re-assigned for 2019.

DO USE ENVELOPES FROM A PREVIOUS YEAR, as that envelope number is re-assigned to another parishioner and your donations will not be accounted for.

I love my
Catholic Moms Group
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ST. JEROME'S MOMS GROUP

Moms of all ages are invited to join our weekly **Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** Moms Group at St. Jerome's Parish. The Moms Group will also meet on the **Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** on the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month.** The group meets once a week in fellowship to support each other, learn more about our faith and become instruments of love in our families and community. Babysitting is available. For more information, please contact Jyotsna at 289-752-6743 or Brenda at 905-454-4081.

CHARITY SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

December 29th & 30th

On the last Sunday of each month, we are asking for donations of non-perishable food items or cash donations which will be used to purchase food vouchers. This is a much needed service to assist families in need within our parish boundary and community.



THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE



An evergreen sprang from the centre of an oak cut down by St. Boniface. The oak symbolized paganism, and its death brought an end to the old ways. The new tree was "*the sign of endless life, for its leaves are evergreen.*" St. Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith.

History:

11th Century – During Advent, religious plays were performed around Europe. There was always a tree on stage, decorated with red apples, to symbolize the Tree of Paradise.

15th Century – The faithful began displaying paradise trees in their homes on December 24th, the feast of Adam and Eve.

16th Century – Decorated standing trees became popular in Germany and France. Immigrants brought the tradition to America, but the custom was not popular until the 19th century.

18th Century – The Christmas tree tradition started in Canada

The Christmas tree reminds us of:

- the tree planted in the centre of Eden
- the tree of the Cross

The decorating of the Christmas tree offers an opportunity for family prayer.

FAMILY PRAYER

We praise you for the beauty of this tree: may its evergreen branches remind us of your unending care for all people; may its lights illumine the darkness of the winter nights; may its presence bring cheer and hope for all people. Amen.

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