# The Roman Catholic Communities of BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, BURFORD & ST. ANTHONY DANIEL PARISH, SCOTLAND

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#### **PASTORAL TEAM**

Father Andrew Czarny, Pastor Gigi Pace Tavernese, Office Administrator blessedsacramentburford@hamiltondiocese.com Susan Elliott, Parish Accountant



Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.

# BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

\*1st Friday of every month is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following 8:30am Mass \*1st Saturday of every month is Mass at 9:00am followed by the Rosary and Confession \*Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday 4:15 pm-4:45 pm



#### <u>Liturgical Calendar</u>

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day Mass 9:30am

Tuesday, December 26Adoration 6:00pmMass 7:00pm† Deceased members of the Szabo & Sprencz familiesoffered by Pearl Szabo and family

Wednesday, December 27 Mass 8:30am ~ All Souls in Purgatory ~

**Thursday, December 28** Mass 8:45am † Sharon Lord offered by Pearl Szabo and family

**Friday, December 29** Mass 8:30am † Sergio and †Antonio DaSilva offered by Beatrice DaSilva

Saturday, December 30 Mass 5:00pm † Joe, † Casmiro and † Beatrice Silva along with † Vasco and † Delia Almeida offered by Horacio and Rosa Silva

> Sunday, December 31 Mass 9:30am Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ All Our Parishioners ~

New Year's Eve Mass 5:00pm

## We Are Stewards

Thank you for your generous donations during Christmas

## Thought for the week

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; PS 89:2-5, 27, 29; ROM 16:25-27; LK 1:26-38

There is just one day left until the celebration of Christmas begins. Let's live this last day of Advent well. We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of the Blessed Mother's "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward. After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example today. This Christmas let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. He will give us all the help and strength we need.



## Thank you OFFETORY ENVELOPES 2024

Please pick up your new box set of envelopes at the back of the church. Use the 2024 envelopes beginning in the New Year. Please note, the last day for contributions for 2023 tax receipts will be December 29<sup>th</sup> 2023. Any contributions received after December 29<sup>th</sup> will be recorded for 2024. Your contributions have been greatly appreciated.

## ST. ANTHONY DANIEL PARISH



Liturgical Calendar

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day 11:30am

Sunday, December 31 Mass 11:30am ~ All Our Parishioners ~

#### St. Stephen

### December 26th

One of the first seven deacons of the Christian Church, Saint Stephen is also the first Christian to be martyred for the Faith. Because Stephen is mentioned first among the seven men ordained as deacons in Acts 6:5-6 and is the only one singled out for his attributes ("a man full of faith, and of the Holy Ghost"), he is often regarded as the first deacon as well as the first martyr.

The story of Saint Stephen's ordination as a deacon is found in the sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, which also recounts the plot against Stephen and the beginning of the trial that resulted in his martyrdom. Not much is known about Saint Stephen's origin. He is first mentioned in Acts 6:5, when the apostles appoint seven deacons in order to minister to the physical needs of the faithful. Because Stephen is a Greek name (Stephanos), and because the appointment of the deacons occurred in response to complaints by Greek-speaking Jewish Christians, it is generally assumed that Stephen was himself- a Hellenist Jew. In any case, Stephen's ministry was conducted among Greek-speaking Jews, some of whom were not open to the Gospel of Christ. Stephen is described in Acts 6:5 as "full of faith, and of the Holy Ghost" and in Acts 6:8 as "full of grace and fortitude," and his talents for preaching were so great that those Hellenist Jews who disputed his teaching "were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit that spoke" (Acts 6:10). Saint Stephen is the Patron Saint of: Stonemasons, deacons, casket makers, horses, and headache sufferers.



Christmas prayers offer a beautiful way to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and the many blessings we have. There is no doubt this year has been a difficult one for all of us. As we remember the love of God and the gift of Jesus this holiday season, we are able to focus on the hope and joy that we have despite the circumstances that may be surrounding us. Prayer also provides a wonderful opportunity to pause the busyness and remember the greatest of all and what truly matters in life. As we approach the holiday season, we are faced with yet another opportunity to pause in the midst of all the excitement, decorations, and commercialization, to consider again the origin of Christmas - the One whose birth we celebrate. Whether you say a prayer on Christmas Eve, before you open presents on Christmas morning, or around the family dinner table, prayer can offer beautiful reflections of hope, thanks, and joy. Use prayer to remember the true meaning of the season and why we can celebrate, regardless of what struggles and hardships we may have faced this year.

O Lord Jesus Christ, true God from true God, you became a little child for us so the world you made would be saved. Just as a child is born to us and a Son is given to us, may we be born again through you and always remain in the number of God's faithful children; through your merits, O blessed Savior, with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen

