

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

Through an apostolic letter titled *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis surprised everyone by declaring a Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. We note that this declaration coincided with the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870. Pope Francis said the figure of St. Joseph has been on his mind in a particular way during the coronavirus pandemic, a crisis which showed how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history." This statement of the Pontiff, calls to mind the sacrifices of our health workers, supermarket workers, caregivers, cleaning personnel and transport workers, public safety officials, etc. They have made us understand that in the midst of this pandemic, "no one is saved alone." They are like St. Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," as an intercessor and source of support and guidance. Furthermore, His Holiness, said that through the figure of St. Joseph we are taught that God can work "even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses...that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture." It seems that everyone is having real trees for this year's Christmas. It is difficult to get one. But thanks to Monique Rampton at the Morden Nurseries & Garden Centre, we have a beautiful tree for our church! Kudos also to Jewel White and Elaine Caxias for pouring their artistic abilities into decorating the tree! It's elegant in simplicity..... In behalf of the entire parish community, I would like to

express gratitude also to those who lighted the candles of our wreath in the 4 succeeding Sundays of Advent: Maggie Wall (representing all the adult and Canada-born members in our community), Jedd and Adi Lao (representing the children), Luis and Barbara Hernandez (representing all married couples and the immigrant-parishioners), and Ronee Cabrera (representing the youth).

Christmas Midnight Mass will be streamed live on the parish Facebook page at 8:30 PM on the 24th. Members of the music ministry will sing you Christmas songs before the celebration.

Christmas Day Mass on the 25th will be at 2 PM.