

The Catholic Register.

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The Catholic Register Co., 40 Lombard Street, Toronto.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

Calendar for the Week.

- Dec 24—Fast Day. Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord. 25—Christmas Day. 26—St. Stephen, Protomartyr. 27—St. John the Evangelist. 28—Holy Innocents. 29—St. Thomas of Canterbury. 30—Of the Octave of Christmas.

Christmas.

This issue of THE REGISTER will reach the hands of its readers in the hallowed Christmas time. We make it a rule to exclude from the Christmas number everything in the nature of controversy.

Peace loves the home. Christmas is the feast of the family, of re-union around the hearth, of the exchange of loving tokens between parents and children, greetings to friends near and far, and remembrance of the poor and the afflicted.

To Catholics the beauty and gladness of the Incarnation cannot begin to find true expression in social or human bliss alone. The Incarnation brought down God to dwell among men; it raised man to the amazing dignity of brotherhood with God.

"Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings that shall be great joy to all the people. For this day is born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in the City of David; and this shall be a sign to you: You shall find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger."

The Christmas snows lie heavy on the trees, A dying dirge that soothes the year in dying, Swells from the woodlands on the midnight breeze.

Sweet sounding bells, blithe summonses to prayer, The answer man can yield not yet bestow, Your answer is a little infant bare.

How low to Bethlehem, airs angelic, blow! There doth the Mother-maid his couch prepare, His harbor is her bosom! Drop him there

Soft as a snow-flake on a bank of snow, Sole hope of man! Sole hope of us, for thee! "To us a Prince is given, a Child is born."

Whom'er thou art, not for, not far is He Whose banner whitens in thy Christmas morn.

Different national ideas of gladness have had, and still have, their influence upon the celebration of the feast of the Nativity. Even religious delight may find more than one form of expression; but let us rejoice that all delight in Christmas, even when it does not sufficiently please the religious sense, invariably partakes of the spirit of charity, generosity and liberality.

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The angele Gloria that broke around the Judean hills on that holy night has never since ceased to resound throughout the ends of Christian dom.

The rays of Bethlehem have spread from land to land, the word of truth has travelled over every sea, the race of Adam of every nation and color, has received the message of salvation in the new-enlightened world.

It is that Catholics on this day of great festivity, raise their first triumphant cry of adoration to God:—Gloria in excelsis Deo. (Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.

CHRISTMAS IN TORONTO.

Celebration of the Great Feast in the Catholic Churches of the City.

The following is a directory of the Christmas services in the Catholic churches of Toronto on Christmas Day.

St. Michael's Cathedral. At St. Michael's Cathedral Masses will be celebrated at 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 1. At the last Mass His Grace the Archbishop will officiate and preach.

St. Basil's. At St. Basil's the first Mass will be at 5.30, and subsequent Masses will be every half hour until 10. At 10.30 Solemn High Mass will be sung.

St. Mary's. High Mass will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church at 6.30 when the Boy's choir will sing. Other masses will be at 8.30, 10 and 11.

St. Helen's. Father Cruise, pastor of St. Helen's will say masses at 7, 8.30 and 10.30. At the last mass the music will be Haydn's Mass in C. Father Cruise will preach. The choir will be led by Mrs. Small. Vespers in the evening at 7.30.

Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. Dvorak's Mass in D will be given by the choir of "Lady of Lourdes" on Christmas day. This Mass is well known to the musical world and it has raised Dvorak to the first place among the present composers.

St. Paul's Church. The Masses at St. Paul's on Christmas Day will be at 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 1. Dumont's Christmas Mass will be sung by a select choir at 6 o'clock.

St. Joseph's. Masses at St. Joseph's will be at 7, 9, 11. Special music will be provided at the last Mass and Father McDonnell will preach. Vespers in the evening at 7.30.

Church of the Sacred Heart. Masses at the Church of the Sacred Heart will be at 7.30, 9.30 and 10.30. Father Lamarche will preach and there will be special music, in which excellence may be expected.

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Sunnyside Orphanage. Hard times have, this year, dealt severely with some of our public institutions. A recent visit to Sunnyside has put us in possession of facts which we think the charitable public should know at a time when many of us, feeling the duty of contributing our share to make this lower world brighter and happier, may be puzzled how best to direct our efforts.

St. Peter's Church. A concert will be given in aid of St. Peter's Church on the evening of Tuesday the 29th inst., in McLeod's Hall, corner of Brunswick Ave. and College street.

Cornwall and Stormont. Mr. Sneltinger (Liberal) has been elected in Cornwall by a majority of 600.

make a calculation, allowing say 10c a meal for each inmate, and surely this is not a very generous allowance, we have nearly forty thousand dollars a year for food alone.

The regular monthly meeting of this branch was held at the hall, Bathurst street. The attendance was very large and has been increasing to such an extent that the branch will require a larger hall.

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The Bond Street Loretto Academy.

It is characteristic of the times, that our children should take more pride and pleasure now in the Christmas festivities of their schools than in the customary celebrations of the great day at home.

The reading of Christmas stories and the singing of Christmas carols, which were composed for the occasion by the children, was a new departure, which gave special impetus to the young writers' efforts and talents; and much pleasure to their parents besides making a very graceful and becoming tribute to the little ones to the Holy Patron of Infancy.

The meetings of the Union last Wednesday was very successful one in every respect. After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, Messrs. T. W. Rigney and J. Emsley were elected members.

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The Christmas Display of Work at Loretto Abbey.

Amongst the many interesting Christmas features of the week, was the display in the studio of Loretto Abbey, on Saturday afternoon, of the fancy work classes in painting and embroidery.

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CATHOLIC SOCIETIES.

Catholic Truth Society.

St. Mary's Branch, Toronto.

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CATHOLIC SOCIETIES.

St. Patrick's Branch, No. 24, London.

Chaplain, Rev. Father Tobin; Chan- cellor, C. P. O'Leary; President, M. J. Quinn; Vice-President, J. McNeill; Rec. Sec'y, James McNeill; Financial and Insurance Secretary, P. Mahon; Treasurer, J. H. Hoary; Steward, Marshall, Thos. Burke; Assist. Marshall, E. Noully; Inside Guard, W. McDougan.

St. Joseph's Branch, No. 26, Stratford. Chaplain, Very Rev. E. B. Kilroy, D. D., President, M. La Marche; Vice President, J. Kastner; Rec. Sec'y, E. J. Knelt; Financial and Insurance Secretary, S. Hickoy; Treasurer, P. Walsh; Steward, J. McPho, M. Wick and P. Solder; Marshall, D. Waters; Assist. Marshall, H. Durkin; Inside Guard, J. McNeil; Outside Guard, J. Wick.

St. Cecilia's Branch, No. 28, Ottawa. Chaplain, Very Rev. Canon McCarthy; Chancellor, R. Tobin; President, E. A. Mara; Vice-President, W. J. Keenan; Rec. Sec'y, J. B. Sullivan; Insurance Secretary, E. Deily; Treasurer, D. J. Harris; Steward, J. Kerrigan; J. Dodd, J. Bennett, J. Carroll, W. O'Neil, T. Tobin, M. Killean and J. Johnston; Marshall, J. Maroney; Assist. Marshall, J. Duffy; Inside Guard, W. Curley; Outside Guard, J. Burke.

St. Cecilia's Branch, No. 29, West Toronto Junction. Chaplain, Rev. Father Bergin; Chan- cellor, J. Walsh; President, J. Fahoy; Vice-President, J. Blancy; Rec. Sec'y, W. Baylon; Financial and Insurance Secretary, J. Farrell; Treasurer, C. Ward; Marshall, M. Doyle; Assist. Marshall, J. Gunning; Inside Guard, H. McDonald; Outside Guard, G. Kelly; St. Cecilia's Circle, No. 9, West Toronto Junction.

At the meeting of Division No. 2, A. O. H., held at the Lion Hall, Yonge street, on Monday evening, the following officers were elected for 1897: President, P. W. Falvey; Vice President, A. T. Hornon; Recording Secretary, J. Hyland; Financial Secretary, M. J. Lenahan; Treasurer, M. J. Ryan; Sergeant-at-Arms, J. J. Hyland; Tyler and Marshal, John Paraco; Standing Committee, Patrick Doyle, M. J. Ryan, James Ryan, F. H. McDonnell, Charles McDonnell.

Christmas Bells. 'Tis the joyful Christmas tide, hear the merry silver bells, Though the solitude of midnight, over rivers, lakes and fells, Onward floats the restless anthem, slowly sinking among the dells. In yon gray and dreamy boltry quaint the wild enchantment wells, Fairies dwell there in the pale light— How the strain enrapturing tells— That those weird and shadowed spirits ring the mythical silver bells. Wakening echoes in the mountains, magic like the music swells, Pealing over limpid torrents, trembling soft in moonlit cells, Strays the harmony melodious of the joyous Christmas bells. Whether far in ocean caverns, lonely, deep and cold it knells, Or within the haunted chambers of some crumbling castle dwells, Hear we still the Christmas greeting, hear the greeting of the bells. ALPINA.

St. Joseph's Church Fancy Fair. Everything in connection with St. Joseph's Church Fancy Fair is now in full swing. The ladies and gentlemen having charge have exerted themselves to the utmost and have spared neither pains nor expense in procuring everything that would contribute towards making the bazaar a success.

The Fair will be continued until New Year's and will be open each day (except Christmas) from 10 a.m. till 11 p.m. Postponement from 10 a.m. till 11 p.m. Queen Street E., which has been secured for the occasion, has been artistically decorated and everything prepared in an animated and brilliant appearance. The drill corps from Blantyre Park will appear in their new uniforms. The proceeds will be applied towards the liquidation of the church debt.

A Short Road to health was opened to those suffering from chronic coughs, asthma, bronchitis, catarrh, lumbago, tumors, rheumatism, excoriated nipples or inflamed breast, and kidney complaints, by the introduction of the in- expensive and effective remedy, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil.