

# Parish Week † Sunday, 21 Jan. 2024

**Saturday, 20 Jan. / St. Sebastian, martyr**

8.00 am Mass: † Luigi De Cicco (Emma)  
5.00 pm Mass: † Mary Weerasinghe (Malini)

## SUNDAY, 21 JAN. / 3-B

Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati

9.00 am Mass: † Roger Escorpiso (friend)  
10.30 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Rebecca Gomes & family  
12.00 pm Mass: † Alford Williams (Anastasia & family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Monday, 22 Jan.

9.00 am Mass: Int. Healing Mass for Elvie Anicas (family)  
1.00 pm ▶ St. Albert School Mass  
7.00 pm Mass: † Michael de los Santos (Vima Arokkian)

## Tuesday, 23 Jan.

8.00 am Mass: † Rosa Bugarin (Mariam & Portia Arenola)  
9.00 am St. Maria Goretti School Mass

**Wednesday, 24 Jan. / St. Francis de Sales, bishop & doctor**

8.00 am Mass: † Justo Solana (Lisa Resurreccion)

**Thursday, 25 Jan. / Conversion of St. Paul, apostle**

■ Conclusion of *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*  
8.00 am Mass: Int. Doug & Michelle (Daphne)

**Friday, 26 Jan. / Ss. Timothy & Titus, bishops**

8.00 am Mass: † Marlon Domingo (family)

**Saturday, 27 Jan. / St. Angela Merici, virgin**

8.00 am Mass: † David Hogg (Mercy & Andrick)  
5.00 pm Mass: † Mary Almeida & Cecilia Fernandes (Almeida family)

## SUNDAY, 28 JAN. / 4-B

■ Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo  
■ 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Maintenance

9.00 am Mass: † Cyrilda Alagaratnam (Shirani Hemachandra, Leslie & Rita)  
10.30 am Mass: † Beatriz & Fernando Remedios (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Adel Chachati (Maria Rodas)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo



## Mother of Perpetual Help

Let Mary bring peace into your life. Pray for your special intentions at the Monday Novena Mass to *Our Mother of Perpetual Help*. Rosary at 6.40 pm, Mass at 7.00.

*O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

# Focus on the Word

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**  
**John 3.1-10; 1 Corinthians 7.29-31; Mark 1.14-20**

*Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Amen.*

## Pray for the Deceased

**Fr. Jon Bromley**

The **16 victims** of the **earthquake** in **Japan** on **New Year's Day**



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year's *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* Prayer Service will be held at 4 pm on Sunday, 21 January. Venue: St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, 455 Ferrier St., Markham, Ontario L3R 5Z2.

Join **Archbishop Francis Leo** and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.

## ShareLife 2024

**You can work wonders !**

*Living the Gospel as faithful disciples.*

Next *ShareLife* Committee meeting:  
3.30 pm, Saturday, 27 January 2024.



## Lectors 2.30 pm, 20 January

The parish Lectors will meet at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 20 January to review their Ministry in prayer and fraternity.

## COMING UP

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5 Feb. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)  
7 Feb. ▶ St. Albert School 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & School Reconciliation (9.30 am)  
8 Feb. St. Maria Goretti School 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation (9.00 am)  
9 Feb. St. Maria Goretti School Reconciliation (9.30 am)  
11 Feb. **Our Lady of Lourdes;**  
- World Day of Prayer for the Sick;  
- Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)

14 Feb. **Ash Wednesday;**  
- Lent begins; Day of Fast and Abstinence;  
- Parish Mass (8.00 am);  
- St. Maria Goretti School Liturgy (9.00 am);  
- ▶ St. Albert School Liturgy (1.00 pm);  
- Parish Mass (7.00 pm)

25 Feb.

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Maintenance**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Confirmation Information Meetings

Families with children ready to prepare as Candidates for:  
**1<sup>ST</sup> CONFESSION & 1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY COMMUNION**  
are invited to attend one of two Information Meetings:

**Monday or Tuesday - 22 or 23 January**

Mass will be celebrated at 7.00 pm, and the *meeting* will follow immediately in the Church.

This invitation is extended to all families who have:

- Children in Grade 2 in our Catholic Schools;
- Children in private and public schools who are in our Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Communion class which began in September.

We also welcome families with Catholic School children in Grade 3 & up, who have not yet received these Sacraments;

Families with students ready to prepare as Candidates for:  
**CONFIRMATION**  
are invited to attend one of two Information Meetings:

**Monday or Tuesday - 12 or 13 February**

Mass will be celebrated at 7.00 pm, and the *meeting* will follow immediately in the Church.

## RCIA, RCIC



*Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults & Children*

The RCIA meets on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm; the next meetings are on 26 Jan. & 2 Feb. 2024. The RCIC meets at 10.00 am on Saturday mornings; the next meetings are on 27 Jan. & 3 Feb..

## St. Augustine Seminary

Pontifical Faculty of Theology  
*Divina Eloquia* series of talks

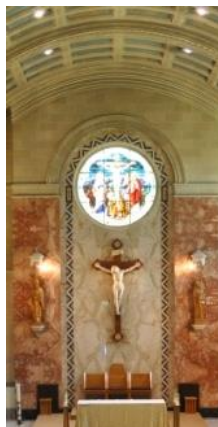
*Parishioners have an invitation to the St. Augustine Seminary talk on*

**“Patristic Conceptions of Martyrdom and Their Relevance Today”**

by **Dr. Katherine E. Milco, Ph.D.**

*Date* 6.30 pm, 30 January 2024

*Place* Charbonnel Lounge,  
University of St. Michael's College,  
Elmsley Hall, 81 St. Mary St., Toronto.



For more information and to register,  
Visit: <https://staugustines.on.ca/events>.



## Sunday School

**10.30 am Mass**



New parishioners may be interested to know that St. Maria Goretti Parish hosts a *Sunday School for Kids* 3 to 6 years old during the 10.30 am Mass. It's a great service to the children, and it gives the parents a chance to focus and listen to the Scriptures and homily.

Kids who want to join the Sunday School should be in the Church before Mass. When Mass begins, they will be called to come up in front of the Altar with their teachers for the Priest's blessing. Afterwards, they will be led to their room for the Sunday School. For details, call: **Anna** or **Maria**, 416-875-0324.

## Stewardship

**2023 Receipts,  
2024 Envelopes**

Soon, the *Charitable Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations during 2023 will be in the Vestibule, for pick up after Mass.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your weekly stewardship! This is an act of honour to God, our Creator.

Parishioners who have not yet picked up their *2024 Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Vestibule are invited to do so. They are for *registered* parishioners; if you are new to the parish and have not registered, *welcome to our neighbourhood!* Go to the Office window, introduce yourself, and complete a *registration form*.

## Parish Memorials

*A lasting legacy:* Remember **St. Maria Goretti Church** in your will. Such a gift would enable you to express your affection for your Parish in a tangible way. By leaving a bequest, you help to ensure the vitality of our ministries and the work we do for God's Kingdom in the name of Jesus.

Our *legal title* is: **“St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, Scarborough, Ontario.”** Correspondence is addressed to the *Pastor*, 717 Kennedy Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1K 2C1.





*San Antonio, tú que fuiste fiel devoto de la Virgen María, consérvame bajo su protección en la vida y en la muerte*



Neelam Biswas and family in India.



Thailand



Christine Lumilan and family.



Charles and Evelyn Caruana and their family at Christmas, 2023.



The family of Rizalito Caguicla at the Blessing of his urn, 6 January.



# Mongolia Working for Peace

*In 2022, Consolata magazine conducted an interview with two Buddhist monks, Khamba Lama and Ven Attanku, as well as Fathers Joseph and Peter, the first two Mongolianj Catholic Priests ordained to serve their nation.*

## **How is the Buddhism practiced in Mongolia different from Buddhism in other countries?**

Khamba Lama: The Buddhism practiced in Mongolia is related to Tibetan Buddhism, which is comprised of four sects. The one most widely practiced in Mongolia is the Yellow Sect, also called Gelug. In the 1930s and 1940s Buddhists [and other religions] were persecuted in Mongolia [by the communist government]. In the early 1990s Mongolia became a democracy, so now we are experiencing a revival of Buddhism. According to the new Mongolian Constitution, freedom of religion is guaranteed.

## **Does the government sustain Buddhism?**

Khamba Lama: Mongolia is a secular country. The state and religious authorities are independent. We have an expression in Mongolian: “The state respects religion, and religion reveres the state.” There is a law that regulates relations between the state and the monasteries.

## **How do majority Buddhists see other religions?**

Khamba Lama: All religious groups, even Buddhists, have to be registered with the government. Sometimes this creates difficulties for foreign missionaries. Through our monastery, we try our best to help other religious groups in the process of getting authorization.

## **Why do religious groups have to be authorized?**

Khamba Lama: Democracy arrived in Mongolia only about 30 years ago. Different religious groups try to enter the country. Some are seen as risky for our society. Mongolia has only 3.2 million people. Some religious movements could create instability. The government is very attentive before allowing a particular group to enter the country.

Ven Attankhu: Mongolians are traditionally nomadic. Our way of life is different from that of people in most other countries. As nomads, many Mongolians don't practice just one religion. A Western scholar observed that Mongolians visit the church in the morning, the monastery in the afternoon, and they invite the shaman to their house in the evening. In other words. Mongolians believe that every religion has good in it. The Buddha said that all beings are one and the same.

## **How would you describe relations with Catholics?**

Khamba Lama: We have good relations with Catholics. The late Bishop Wenceslaus Padilla and I were good friends [*Bishop Padilla died suddenly in 2018*]. Now, I have a good relation with Bishop Giorgio. We have regular interreligious meetings with the leaders of different religions.

Bishop Marengo: We are very grateful for this connection. On many occasions, the Khamba Lama accepted our invitation to attend our liturgies, in particular the priestly ordination of Father Joseph. And the funeral of Bishop Padilla. It's a friendship that has accompanied us for the last 30 years. The visit with the Holy Father at St' Peter's is in line with this important anniversary.

## **You mentioned that Mongolians adhere to a Tibetan version of Buddhism. Does the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, influence Buddhism in Mongolia?**

Khamba Lama: The Dalai Lama is closely related to Buddhism in Mongolia. Dalai is a Mongolian word. At the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Mongolians ruled many areas of Asia. A Mongolian king created the title of Dalai Lama. Since then, Mongolians and Tibetans have been studying and sharing knowledge together. We have historical connection. We belong to the same sect of Buddhism, but the Dalai Lama has no influence in Mongolia.

## **Do you connect with Buddhists in other countries?**

Ven Attankhu: Oh, yes. We have many contacts. The Kamba Lama is vice-president of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, the vice-president of the World Fellowship of Buddhist Sangha Council and president of the International Buddhist Confederation.

## **Frs. Joseph and Peter, you are first Mongolians to be ordained as Priests. What is your day like?**

Fr. Joseph: The Catholic Church in Mongolia is one of youngest churches in the world. We are celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Like an infant, we are learning and growing in society. For now, Christianity is considered a foreign religion. Like other priests anywhere, we do our ministry, we celebrate Mass, offer the Sacraments, and pray. The community is small, and the churches are small. There are outstations that we visit every day of the week.

## **Mongolia is a huge country with a small population. Do you go frequently to far off areas? Is that part of your ministry as well?**

Fr. Joseph: For the moment there are only about 1.400 Catholics and eight parishes in all of Mongolia. There are six parishes in the Capital city and two parishes in the provinces. There are around 70 missionaries from about 20 countries who come from 20 different congregations. Each congregation runs different parishes. We celebrate in the areas where we are sent.

## **What has been your experience with people who take notice of the fact that you are a Catholic Priest?**

Fr Peter: My experience as a priest is quite short, as I was ordained only a few months ago. But what I think is important is to try to evangelize, not just by words, but by my way of living, by example.

## How do young people in Mongolia react to the Christian way of life?

Fr Peter: Mongolia is a country with lots of young people. The percentage of youth is quite high compared to other countries, and people can acquire outward knowledge by many different means. I think the Church has a higher responsibility, to help people gain knowledge of their inner-selves, to gain a sense of morality in the modern world.

## You are the first two native Mongolians ordained as priests. Do you see many Mongolian young men following your example?

Fr Peter: Personally, I wish that there will be lots of priests, but the most important thing is the will of God. Things have to happen according to His timeline.

## You will be seeing Pope Francis tomorrow. How did the meeting with the Pope come about?

Bishop Marengo: The first efforts were undertaken in the 1990s, when Bishop Padilla and the Khamba Lama became acquainted. I found a document from 1994 or 1995, where Bishop Padilla wrote to the Vatican's secretary of state saying, "I would like to bring a Buddhist delegation to Rome." But for different reasons, it was not the right time. For my part, I started the preparations with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue for this official visit two years ago. I know that one of their tasks, and one of their jobs, is to organize such events.

## What do you hope this meeting will achieve?

Khamba Lama: I am very happy and honoured to meet the Holy Father. I know he is a person who works for peace. So do we. We all work for the good of people in the world.

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His Excellency **Dambajav Khamba Lama** heads the Dashichoiling Buddhist Monastery in Ulaanbaatar; Bishop **Giorgio Marengo**, IMC, is the Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar; **Venerable Attankhu** is a Buddhist monk at Dashichoiling; **Fr. Joseph** and **Fr. Peter** are diocesan Catholic Priests in Ulaanbaatar.

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## 'Our Lady of the Landfill,' Mongolia

A few years ago, in Darkhan, a small city in northern Mongolia, a poor woman, the mother of 11 children, was struggling to secure life for her large family. She visited the landfill site on the edge of town to find food still good enough to eat or objects still intact enough to try to resell. One day, a truck dumped a new load of garbage, and an object wrapped in a piece of cloth stopped at the woman's feet. Surprised, the woman picked it up and uncovered it. Removing the cloth, she discovered a carved wooden statue, with the features of a beautiful lady. The poor woman took the statue home, whispering, "This beautiful lady wanted to



come live in my tent." The woman was not a Christian. Her only contact with the faith came with some of Mother Teresa's religious Sisters, who spoke to her about Our Lady and taught her the Hail Mary. Once she realized who the beautiful lady was, the poor mother took the statue to the Catholic community, which put it in the local parish Church.

In 2022 the Sisters shared this story with Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, Missionary of the Consolata and the Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar (capital of Mongolia). He was extremely struck by it, saying, "I immediately thought that the Virgin, through this discovery, wanted to tell us something." He still cannot comprehend "how that statue ended up in the landfill, especially since there are very few Catholics there. I thought that the Lord, through his Holy Mother, made himself present in the most extreme situation in order to tell us how close he is to each of us."

The Cardinal was convinced that the discovery of the statue of Mary in the garbage symbolized the Virgin's attitude, "always ready to meet us even in places of desperation, rejection, pain, abandonment." He spoke about the statue with Pope Francis, when he visited him with some Mongolian Buddhist monks in 2022. He showed the Pope a picture and he was very happy.

On 8 December 2022, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Cardinal Marengo consecrated all of Mongolia to Mary. The event took place in the Cathedral of Ulaanbaatar, in front of the statue from the landfill, which for the occasion had been enthroned in the Cathedral and covered with a special mantle made of many small pieces of fabric sent from the Mongolian faithful. Each small piece of fabric represents a key moment in their life.

The Virgin now watches over a nation where there are only 1,400 Catholics, and where the Church recently celebrated 30 years. Cardinal Marengo said, "We must thank God that in only 30 years the Church has managed to establish itself and take root here, after a long period of communism. I like to recall an image Pope Francis used to describe these small Churches, speaking, some time ago, to the bishops of central Asia. They are, he said, 'sprouts in the steppe'." Sprouts under the loving and protective mantle of Mary.

