

# Welcome TO ST. MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Celebrate the Past † Imagine the Future*

In 1951, **James Cardinal McGuigan**, the Archbishop of Toronto, founded a Mission Church from St. Theresa Parish, and purchased a property on the East side of Danforth Road, just South of St. Clair Avenue. In July 1952, a basement church, built with the help of the Knights of Columbus, was blessed and opened under the patronage of ST. MARIA GORETTI, who had been canonized in 1950. **Father William Hipkin** was appointed administrator.

On 17 September 1955, St. Maria Goretti was established as a parish. The Golden Mile of Industry fueled an expansion in home development along Eglinton Avenue, so it was decided to move the location of the church further North from the original site up to the East side of Kennedy Road. A new church was built: an elegant wooden structure with a classical centre aisle. It was solemnly blessed on 23 October 1960 by Cardinal McGuigan. **Father Armand Desaulniers** became Pastor in 1966.

On 5 December 1968, a tragic fire struck St. Maria Goretti Church. Fr. Desaulniers decided to build a new church more suited to the renewed liturgy. Assisting Fr. Desaulniers at the time was a newly-ordained Associate Pastor, **Fr. George Galea**. On 20 September 1970, the Coadjutor Archbishop of Toronto, the **Most Reverend Philip Pocock**, blessed the new church.

In the Church: the Nave seats 900 people in five sections of pews arranged in an arc around the Altar, situated in the centre of an undulating Sanctuary asymmetrically located to the right of centre along the North wall. The walls are fashioned of fluted concrete block. The flat roof is supported by eight steel I-beams providing a column-free interior space. It floats free of the enclosing curved walls, just above a continuous glass strip, serving the function of a classical *clerestory* (a row of clear, high windows above the large stained-glass windows in the Nave). All windows in the church are of bronze-tinted glass. Situated in the middle of the ceiling above the Sanctuary, a skylight in a plaster funnel floods the Altar with abundant natural light. The Tabernacle is in a shrine at the east end of the Sanctuary, featuring a gold-leafed dome, which contains spot lights to highlight the stucco artwork behind the Tabernacle. The interior wood, including the pews, is a Canadian white oak. The sanctuary furnishings are crafted from unpolished black marble, quarried in Quebec.

Fr. Desaulniers celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on 11 June 1988; he died on 22 December that year. His successor was **Fr. Francis Peter Corless**, who had served at St. Paul Basilica. He served St. Maria Goretti Parish for seven years, until his retirement in 1995. He died on 3 February 2008.

In 1995, **Fr. Jan Gogolewski** was made *Administrator* of St. Maria Goretti Parish. He was responsible for many of the beautiful upgrades to the Church interior, and he shepherded the parish through its participation in the *World Youth Day* celebration in 2002, as well as its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2005.



In 2007, the Archdiocese appointed Fr. Gogolewski pastor of a new parish: *Guardian Angels* in Brampton. On 27 June, **Fr. Edwin André Galea**, who had been pastor of *Guardian Angels* Parish in Orillia, became Pastor of St. Maria Goretti Parish, with the assistance of **Fr. Fred Schmid** as Associate. In September of that year, **Deacon Ramon Villardo** was appointed to the parish. In 2009, **Fr. Elias Chachati**, who had most recently served at St. Michael Cathedral, became the new Associate.

In 2012, St. Maria Goretti Parish was honoured to be one of the stations of the Pilgrimage of the BODY OF ST. MARIA GORETTI, which came to our Church on 31 May. After arriving in Toronto via Ottawa, the Body was taken to Jean Vanier High School, where students from St. Albert School joined in a Prayer Station. Then the Body was taken to St. Maria Goretti School, before being processed to our Church, which remained open from the time of her arrival until prior to the 8 am Mass on Saturday, 2 June. His Eminence, **Cardinal Thomas Collins**, presided at the celebration of a Solemn Mass at 7.30 pm on Friday, 1 June.

In May 2014, St. Maria Goretti Parish joined the *Family of Faith* effort to advance the PASTORAL PLAN developed by Cardinal Collins. The archdiocesan-wide campaign supports pastoral and capital projects under the following priorities:

*Parish Life, Vocations, Evangelization of Society, Outreach in Justice and Love, and St. Michael Cathedral.*

St. Maria Goretti parish was asked to raise \$600,000 for the capital campaign; the total eventually raised was \$900,000. The effort helped to advance plans to address chronic water infiltration in the hall area that required significant mould remediation in 2015.

The Church interior has striking plaster *bas reliefs*. Along the North wall [*left-right*], they depict:

Our patroness, **Saint Maria Goretti**;

The **Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist**, behind the Baptism font;

The **Last Supper** and **Pentecost**, behind the Altar.

The South and East walls bear the 14 Stations of the Cross.

In the Great Jubilee Year 2000, the plaster mural in the Blessed Virgin Shrine in the Southeast corner of the church was executed. It features four sacred images within the figures of the “2000.”

The **Holy Family** is cradled in a large “2.”

To the right, scenes of the *Annunciation* and the *Coronation* of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** are each depicted in a large “0.”

The third “0,” in the centre, contains an image of **Mary** herself, with arms outstretched toward us.

A prominent *Crucifix* stands behind the Altar; and images of the *Divine Mercy* (West Wall) and *Our Mother of Perpetual Help* (behind the pulpit) grace the Nave. The latter is the devotional focus of the beautiful Novena Mass celebrated every Monday evening at 7 pm.

# Parish Week † Sunday, 25 August 2024

## Saturday, 24 Aug. / St. Bartholomew, apostle

8.00 am Mass: † Souls in Purgatory (Ceba family)  
5.00 pm Mass: † Maria Corazon & Ernesto Lorenzo  
(Julian family)

## SUNDAY, 25 AUG. / 21-B

■ Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea

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

9.00 am Mass: Int. 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Terenc & Durin family  
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Desmond Dias (Trevor)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Monday, 26 Aug.

8.00 am Mass: † Francesco Barican (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Genero Cobrana (mother)

## Tuesday, 27 Aug. / St. Monica

8.00 am Mass: † Teresita Del Castillo (Corine Maulion)

## Wednesday, 28 Aug. / St. Augustine, bishop & doctor

8.00 am Mass: † Lina & Giancarlo Vaccaro (family)

## Thursday, 29 Aug. / Passion of St. John the Baptist

8.00 am Mass: † Beatriz & Fernando Remedios (family)

## Friday, 30 Aug.

8.00 am Mass: † Jose N. Rosin (Kathrina Rosin)

## Saturday, 31 Aug.

8.00 am Mass: Int. Luisa Cobrana  
5.00 pm Mass: † Joseph D'Souza (friends)

## SUNDAY, 1 SEPT. / 22-B

■ Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati

9.00 am Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas (Gracious)  
10.30 am Mass: † Gumersindo Figueroa (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Mass Intentions Requests for 2025

The *Mass Intention* book for 2025 is now open. The Parish Office will accept requests for intentions after any Sunday Mass and during weekday office hours.

To serve parishioners well, there will be a MASS INTENTIONS table in the Vestibule at all morning Masses on **18 & 25 August 2024**.

## A Special Gift RECYCLING CLEAN UP

We thank **Mark Jardine** for cleaning our Church recycling bins on a regular basis. God bless you and your family.



## 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

## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

**Joshua 24.1-18; Ephesians 4.32-5.2,21-32; John 6.53-69**

*O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love your commands and to desire your promise, so that our hearts may find true gladness. Amen.*

## Parish Bazaar 25 August, 9 am – 2 pm

Our Parish is holding a Bazaar on Sunday, 25 August, beginning after the 9.00 am Mass and continuing to 2.00 pm. (*Rescheduled from 18 August due to rain.*) Proceeds will support *ShareLife*. VENDORS: To reserve a table, call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425. Table rental is \$25. For further details, call: **Peter**, 647-567-4081.

**Raffle Winners:** The draws for the Raffle prizes took place as scheduled at the Masses 18 August. For the list of the Winners, see page 3 in the website bulletin.

## RCIA, RCIC Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children

### Coming Up:

RCIA meetings: 6 & 13 Sept.

RCIC meetings: 7 & 14 Sept.



*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2.37-38*

Do you know people who have told you they are thinking of becoming Catholic? Tell them to leave a message for the Pastor at the parish office: 416-261-0076, and let them know when the next meeting for Inquirers will be held. Make sure to invite them to come to Church with you and experience what shared prayer and a spirit-filled community are all about.

## Rosary Sunday Midland, 8 September

The annual *Rosary Sunday* celebration at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland will be held on Sunday, 8 Sept. The CWL has hired one coach for the day. Cost: \$50 per person. To reserve a seat, call: **Lillian** (647-909-6425) or **Nicole** (647-827-0277).

## COMING UP

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- 2 Sept. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 6 Sept. Wedding: Tang & Peralta (1:00 pm)
- 7 Sept. ► EWTN **Family Celebration Event**, 8 am – 6 pm, Delta Conference Centre, 655 Dixon Road, Etobicoke
- 8 Sept. ► **Rosary Sunday** at Martyrs' Shrine, Midland ON; - Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
- 8-15 Sep. ► INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, Quito, Ecuador
- 15 Sept. **Sunday School for Kids** resumes at the 10.30 am Mass
- 22 Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Needs of the Church in Canada**
- 29 Sept. Feast of **St. Michael the Archangel**;  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Maintenance**;  
- Daughters of St. Paul BOOK FAIR

# ShareLife Raffle Winners

*Draws at Sunday Masses, 17-18 August*

**Congratulations** to the Winners of the *ShareLife* Raffle prizes. The winning tickets were drawn at our Masses on 18 September. **Thanks** to the donors of the prizes; we appreciate your help in our *ShareLife* appeal. Four prizes have been claimed. The remaining numbers are:

**66776167, 65775426, 68015914, 65775208**  
**65775386, 68015920, 65775338, 68015884**



# See how they grow!

*Our young Parishioners blossom from birth and to their Baptism and beyond.*



**Aiden Emmanuel** with parents in 2023 (Aug., above and Nov., below).



# Christian Life Seminar

*Held at 7.00 pm on six Saturdays”  
September 7, 13, 21, 28; October 5, 12.*

*MFC Mission Centre,  
Unit 7, 2250 Midland Avenue*

## What is it?

**CLS** is an integrated course to renewed understanding of God’s call to us, Christians. It focuses on:

- One’s commitment to God and experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives
- Renewed commitment to Christian family life
- Revitalizing Christian community life in your parish.

## Who can attend?

- Open to all Christian adults, single or married.
- Parents can bring their children; we have a kid’s watch available. The Kids Program is on-going while the Parents are in the **CLS** session.

For details, call: **Jay & Jackie Juson**, 647-406-1968.



Aiden (*left*) with his parents and Yvonne, in November 2023: and (*right*)



on 28 July 2024.



Chris (*left*) with his Grandma and Mom as a newborn in August 2023;



and (*right*) on his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, 31 July 2024.



Francis Anson Gomes with his parents, 10 July 2022 (before his Baptism



on 7 August); and on 8 August 2024.



Top: Seminarian **Raphael Carolino** at our Parish Feast Day, 6 July.

Above: The **Blades** on their Wedding Anniversary, 10 August.



Top: Participants in the Liturgical Bible Study, 10 August.

Above: Topon and Harrison with the collage of the Visit of the Body of St. Maria Goretti to our Parish, 1 June 2012.



Wedding of **Jolina Cuevas** and **Heno Potluri**, 9 August.



*Canada collects gold in Paris, 26 July – 11 August 2024.*