



Parish Week † Sunday, 22 Dec. 2024

Saturday, 21 Dec. / St. Peter Canisius, priest & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Crisanta Amul (family)
- 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Lillian D'Souza (friends)

SUNDAY, 22 DEC. / ADVENT 4-C

- *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*
- *Fr. Amand Joseph Desaulniers: death anniversary (1988)*
- 9.00 am Mass: † Incoronata Cifaldi (Irma Pisciola & families)
- 10.30 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Cenizal family (Maria)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Alwyn D'Souza (family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 23 Dec. / St. John of Kanty, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Baltazar, Maria Aninha & Philip Mendonca (Tessie & family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Deceased Members of Clara & David Muzumdar families

Tuesday, 24 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Baltazar, Maria Aninha & Philip Mendonca (Tessie & family)

CHRISTMAS EVE

- *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea (Christmas Eve & Day)*
- *2nd Collection: Christmas*
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Hermie Maulion (Corine)
- 9.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving for Lily Kim Kamath (Grandma & D'Souza family)
- 11.30 pm Choir Caroling
- 12.00 am Mass: Tyrone Rodas Chawco (Rodas family)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, 25 Dec. / The Nativity of the Lord

- 9.00 am Mass: † Charles D'Silva (Lydia & family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia, & Justino Rodas (family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Francesco & Teresa Di Michele (family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Thursday, 26 Dec. / St. Stephen, The first martyr

- 8.00 am Mass: Charles D'Silva (Lydia & family)

Friday, 27 Dec. / St. John, apostle

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Victor D'Cunha (Esme)

Saturday, 28 Dec. / The Holy Innocents, martyrs

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving 30th Wedding Anniversary (Joyce & Cezar Corbillon)
- 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Victor D'Cunha (friends)

SUNDAY, 29 DEC. / THE HOLY FAMILY

- *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*
- 9.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Birthday Josephine Jegasothy
- 10.30 am Mass: † Beatriz & Fernando Remedios (family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Lila A. Bustamante (family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Focus on the Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent

At the beginning of Mass, the Priest will call a family to light the Advent Candle. At the end, the congregation prays:

Father, You called Mary to be the mother of Your Son, so that the world could be saved and brought to a new birth. Help us also to bring the light and peace of Christ where there is gloom and despair.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Today's Candle lighters are:

5.00 pm: **Lillian, Esme, Isabelle and Corine**

9.00 am: **Souraya Waraen**

10.30 am: **Aidan De Mendonca**

12.00 pm: **Youth Choir**

7.00 pm: **Stephanie Gamboa**



Pray for the Deceased

Orland Duigan

The 3,502 victims of Israel's bombing in Lebanon since October



Christmas Collections

22 December: Offertory

On 22 December, the collection taken by the Greeters at the Preparation of the Gifts will be for the *Regular Sunday Offertory*.

24 / 25 December: Offertory & Christmas

The 2nd Christmas collection for our Special Church Needs will be taken after Communion at our Christmas Eve & Day Masses, 24/25 December.

28 / 29 December: Offertory & Maintenance

On 28/29 December, the collection taken by the Greeters at the Preparation of the Gifts will be for the *Regular Sunday Offertory*. The 2nd collection taken by the Greeters (after Communion) will be for the support of our major parish projects through the *Maintenance Collection*.

31 December / 1 January: New Year

At our New Year's Eve and Day Masses, 31 December & 1 January, the collection taken by the Greeters during the Preparation of the Gifts will be for the *New Year Collection*.

COMING UP

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- 1 Jan. The Solemnity of **Mary, Mother of God**;
– 2nd Collection: *New Year*
- 2 Jan. Wedding: Barr & D'Mello (2:00 pm)
- 6 Jan. Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 10 Jan. Wedding: Barkhodaee & Alon
- 12 Jan. Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)
- 26 Jan. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*
- 3 Feb. Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For more information on Parish activities, see pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.



New Year Shrine Day Trip

4 January 2025, 9 am – 9 pm

Help us kick off our 2025 *ShareLife* Campaign. Our Parish is holding a day trip to Niagara & Buffalo, including stops at nearby Shrines. The cost is \$60; booking is required by Sunday, 22 December 2024. Call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425

Christmas Flowers

Many thanks to all Parishioners who sponsored this year's display of CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS in our Sanctuary.

Due to publication deadlines during the holidays, the list of *dedications* will be published in the first edition of the bulletin after the New Year. As it stood at Christmas, it has been posted on the Parish Information Board in the Vestibule.

Many thanks also to our friends who contributed to the flower display without specific dedications. We appreciate your consideration in helping to make our Church a blooming place.

Financial Advisors: January-June 2025

The upcoming schedule for our *Sunday Financial Advisors* is ready for pickup at the Parish Office.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) is the process by which adults become Catholic. It is a journey of faith which take place in the midst of a Parish, the worshipping community.

While each person's journey is unique, the group process involves three initial stages:

1. The interested person is invited to pray sincerely, and to join us at **Mass** for worship, to discern where God is leading them.
2. Then begins a period of **Inquiry**, when the Candidate is invited to join the weekly RCIA meetings. A Sponsor will be delegated to assist with one-on-one discernment.
3. After a suitable period of Inquiry, the Candidate is invited to enter into the **Catechumenate**, which is a more structured period of preparation involving group study, discussion, reflection and participation in parish life.

Call the Pastor, **Fr. Edwin**, for more information: 416-261-0076.

Christmas Message

What joy this mystery brings:
remembering the promise made
of old, believing in that promise,
embracing the gift of life for all.
Mary wrapped the child with
tenderness, gentle yet strong,
rejoicing in this mystery of love.

(From a poem by Sr. Marie Clarkson, O.L.M.)



Let us celebrate this awesome gift of the Father, and share with one another a Joyful, Holy and Happy Christmas!

Fr. Edwin Galea, *Pastor*

Fr. Elias Chachati, *Associate*

Rev. Mr. Ramon Villardo, *Deacon*

Stewardship: 2025 Sunday Envelopes

Parishioners are invited to pick up their *Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Vestibule after Mass. The envelopes are for registered parishioners only; if you are new to the neighbourhood and have not yet registered, *welcome!* Introduce yourself to the pastor or to one of our greeters, and fill out a *registration form* at the Office window.

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.

Please ensure that you have your own box: *the number on the label and on the envelopes* must be the same. If there is any discrepancy, advise the parish office. If you use someone else's envelopes, your donation would be credited to the other person.

Donation amounts

For new parishioners: Please ensure that your *donation amount* is written in the space provided on the front of the envelope. If this is not done, our financial advisors must stop to do so when the collection is counted, and this really slows down the process.

Make sure to use your tax receipts

The government rarely gives any tax dollars back, except for charitable donations. Everyone gets a credit of 17% on the first \$200.00 donated and 29% on any amount over that. Here's an example: if you give \$10.00 a week to the church (which means \$520.00 per year) you will wind up with a tax credit of \$128.80! So, if you are not using the envelopes, you are not taking advantage of the tax break our government is offering. To get your own envelopes, and an official tax receipt next year, fill in the form in the front of this bulletin and give it to an usher.

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 Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Parishioners may also make a special gift to the Church as a *Memorial* in honour of a loved family member. Speak privately to the Pastor for details: 416-261-0076.

Cardinal Leo, Elevated on 7 December 2024

On 7 December 2024, Archbishop Francis Leo entered a Papal Consistory at the Vatican that welcomed 21 leaders of the Catholic Church into the College of Cardinals. Now addressed as “**His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Leo,**” he has deeply contemplated the prayers of the ceremony.

“What does it mean?” he pondered during a joint interview with THE CATHOLIC REGISTER and SALT + LIGHT TV at the Canadian Pontifical College on 9 December. “It’s a ritual, a liturgy, but what’s its significance? The deep significance in the life of the Church and the witnessing of the Church in the world today. All of these thoughts came together, and interiorly renewing my own faith and my commitment to Christ and the Holy Mother Church to serve faithfully.”

The inspiration of Mother Mary was knitted close to the 53-year-old Montreal native’s heart during this weekend of both elevation and humility. A devout Marian with a degree in Mariology from the University of Dayton (he also co-founded the Canadian Mariological Society), Leo treasured the gift of his first Mass as cardinal-archbishop occurring on the Dec. 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

“It’s God saying, ‘I’m here and I’m here for you, I love you and I’m guiding you,’ ” said Leo. “I see her presence very strongly this week. Indications here and there of the gift that she is and her maternal care for me and the Church.”

Leo also felt the prayers of both the hundreds of pilgrims who accompanied him to Rome and his supporters back home in Canada. He also drew strength from being in Rome.

“We’re sharing the same faith with the apostles of Christ,” said Leo. “That is very touching. In the continuity of 2,000 years of the Church, of the Holy Spirit who is the soul of the Church enacted in the Church.”

Looking forward, Leo’s advancement into the cardinalate will be celebrated in Toronto, commencing with a special invite-only Mass at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica on Jan. 15. In late January and throughout February, liturgies and receptions will be held in the western, northern, central and eastern regions of the archdiocese.

The new Cardinal will also guide his flock throughout the **2025 Jubilee** declared by Pope Francis. He anticipates that “the Lord wants to pour out generously into our hearts many graces: graces of conversion, graces that will deepen our faith, and graces of prayer, healing and liberation.”

Leo will inaugurate the year-long celebrations with a 5 pm Mass at St. Michael, 29 Dec. Many archdiocesan committees are planning a series of activities and celebrations at designated parishes. The Cardinal expressed his hope that the slate of festivities being devised will inspire Catholics to “rediscover the beauty of the sacrament of forgiveness.”

[THE CATHOLIC REGISTER]



Pope Francis in Indonesia and Timor Leste, September 2024



Faithful attend Mass with Pope Francis in Jakarta, Sept. 2024.





Miguel Downey with mother **Joahna**, holding his OFF TO A GOOD START Award, 26 Sept. 2024



August 2020



August 2020



August 2020



St. Maria Goretti School Choir at Mass, 26 Sept. 2024



July 2020



Knights of Columbus at the Mass for the North American Martyrs, 26 September 2024.



Cindy Barnett (lower right) with her family and friends after her brother Kevin's passing, 11 August 2020.



23 August 2020.



Joyce Durban relaxing at her home on Oakworth Crescent, with her daughter Carol Ann Epple, 21 August 2020.