

## Parish Week † Sunday, 29 Dec. 2024

### Saturday, 28 Dec. / The Holy Innocents, martyrs

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving, 30<sup>th</sup> 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

### Monday, 30 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Raquel Diaz on her Birthday  
(Maria Rodas)  
5.00 pm Mass: † Teresita Del Castillo (Corine)

### Tuesday, 31 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Deceased Members of the families of  
Clara & David Muzumdar

## NEW YEAR EVE, 2024

- *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati (New Year Eve & Day)*  
■ *Collection: New Year*

- 7.00 pm Mass: † All the Faithful Departed of 2024  
11.00 pm Holy Hour  
12.00 am Mass: Pro Populo

## NEW YEAR DAY, 2025

### Wednesday, 1 Jan. / Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 9.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Bernal family)  
10.30 am Mass: † Erlinda De Leon (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

### Thurs., 2 Jan. / Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors

- 8.00 am Mass: † Rudolpho Ruiz (family)

### Friday, 3 Jan. / Holy Name of Jesus

- 8.00 am Mass: † Souls in Purgatory (Mary Faulkner)  
6.00 pm Holy Hour  
7.00 pm Int. Revs. Edwin & Elias & Deacon Ramon  
(Tessie Mendonca)

### Saturday, 4 Jan. / St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Birthday, Mario Francis,  
& Wedding Anniversary (family)  
2.00 pm Wedding: Jermaine Barr & Rochelle D’Mello  
5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Ancheas (Ambrose)

### SUNDAY, 5 JAN. / EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Louis Francis (family)  
10.30 am Mass: † Aloysius Bastiampillai (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Jocelyn Villacorta  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Focus on the Word

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 1 Samuel 1.20-28; 1 John 3.1-24; Luke 2.41-52

*O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Amen.*

## Mass for the Faithful Departed of 2024

At the 7 pm Mass on New Year Eve, 31 December 2024, we will pray for all the *Faithful Departed of the Year*. Those whose names were included in our Sunday intercessions (up to publication time) are noted in our website bulletin.

## NEW YEAR EVE Holy Hour

11.00 pm, 31 Dec. 2024

**Begin the New Year in a truly spiritual way!** Come to our *New Year Eve Holy Hour*: from 11.00 pm to Midnight, right before our New Year Midnight Mass. What a splendid way to thank God for the blessings of the past year, and to ask for His graces in the year to come.



## New Year Collections

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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## 2025: JUBILEE YEAR

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 6 Jan.  | Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)           |
| 10 Jan. | Wedding: Barkhodaee & Alon                                  |
| 12 Jan. | Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)                                    |
| 26 Jan. | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: <b>Maintenance</b>              |
| 3 Feb.  | Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)           |
| 9 Feb.  | Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)                                    |
| 23 Feb. | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: <b>Maintenance</b>              |
| 5 Mar.  | Ash Wednesday;<br>- Lent begins; Day of Fast and Abstinence |

## Website

[stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org](http://stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org)

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

## Prayer for Families

God our Father, we thank You for the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It was at home with his parents that Jesus grew in wisdom, in age and in Your grace. There he learned to know the Law and the Prophets, and to do right and to love goodness. Bless with strength, patience and good humour all who would make such homes today.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

## The Meaning of Christmas

Every new-born child is a sign pointing to the truth that life is stronger than death. Every birth is a sign that creates hope. But the child we celebrate this Christmas more than this natural hope. As God's love for us and his interest in human kind is revealed in this child, his birth gives rise to the final hope that in God and with God life certainly is stronger than death, love certainly stronger than hatred, and God and his mercy certainly stronger than our human and irrational attempts to destroy ourselves and the whole of creation. "Peace to all people who enjoy God's favor!" This is the message of Christmas, brought to us by the Angel who announced the birth of the Messiah.

### RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (and Children)

Coming Up:

RCIA meetings: 3 & 10 Jan., 7.30 pm.

RCIC meetings: 4 & 11 Jan., 10.00 am.



## Financial Advisors: January-June 2025

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

## New Year Shrine Day Trip

4 January,  
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; get your seats while they last. Call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425

## The Child

If there is anything we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could be better changed in ourselves. - Carl Jung



## Sunday School Christmas / New Year break

The last *Sunday School for Kids* before Christmas: at the 10.30 Mass on **15 December 2024**.

The Sunday School will resume: at the 10.30 Mass on **5 January 2025**.

## A Special Gift SUNDAY MORNING ROSARY

We thank **Norbert Obi** for leading the Rosary at Mass on Sunday. God bless you and your family.

## Stewardship

### 2025 Sunday Envelopes

Parishioners are invited to pick up their *Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Vestibule after Mass. The Sunday envelopes are for registered parishioners; if you are new to the area 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.

## Parish Memorials

*A lasting legacy: Remember St. Maria Goretti Church in your will, and help future generations honour God.*

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.





## ShareLife *needs your help*

**To all Parishioners:**

**Hope is alive because of your generous heart. But there's still so much more to do.**

This year, you have been a light for those in need. Because of you, over **\$13 million** has already been raised in the Toronto Archdiocese: feeding the hungry, comforting lonely seniors, and helping families who felt lost and forgotten. **Your "Yes" has changed lives.**

But with **2 weeks left until December 31**, we are just under **\$1 million away** from reaching our goal. Right now, there's a mother wondering how she'll feed her children, a senior hoping someone will see them this Christmas, a family praying for a way forward. **They hope someone will care. They're hoping for you.**

Every contribution made between now and December 31 will be matched **up to \$500,000** by a generous anonymous donor. That means your gift will go twice as far: twice the hope, twice the comfort, twice the love reaching those who are counting on your support.

**I know times are challenging for all of us.** And yet, it's in moments like these that your "Yes" becomes even more powerful. For those who turn to *ShareLife* agencies, the challenges are great - uncertainty feels heavy, hope feels far away. Your gift—whatever you can provide—will bring food to a hungry table, comfort to a weary heart, and hope to someone who's lost it.

Please, if you can, make a gift today. Donate through St. Maria Goretti Parish using a *ShareLife* envelope, or securely online at [sharelife.org/donate](https://sharelife.org/donate), or call the *ShareLife* office at: 416-934-3400. **Because of you, hope lives. Because of you, more lives will change.**

Thank you for being the heart of *ShareLife*, and thank you for saying "Yes" to those who need it most.

Arthur Peters, Executive Director  
*ShareLife*

## RCIA † Stories of Conversion

J.D. Vance



J.D. Vance was baptized into the Catholic Church in August 2019 by Father Henry Stephan, a Dominican priest, at St. Gertrude Priory in Cincinnati. Here is a short interview with J.D. about his spiritual life, and the road to Catholicism.

*Why Catholicism? Why now?*

I became persuaded over time that Catholicism was true. I was raised Christian, but did not have a strong attachment to any denomination, and was never baptized. When I became more interested in faith, I started out with a clean slate, and looked at the church that appealed most to me intellectually. But it's too easy to intellectualize this. When I looked at the people who meant the most to me, they were Catholic. My uncle is a Catholic. Rene Girard is someone I only know by reading him, and he was Catholic. I've been reading and studying about it for three years, or even longer. It was time.

It probably would have happened sooner if the sex abuse crisis hadn't made a lot of headlines. It forced me to process the church as both divine and human, and what it would mean for my 2-year-old son. But I never really questioned over the past few years that I would become Catholic.

*You chose St. Augustine as your patron saint. Why?*

A couple of reasons. One, I was pretty moved by the Confessions. I've probably read it in bits and pieces twice over the past 15 or so years. There's a chapter from *The City of God* that's incredibly relevant now that I'm thinking about policy. There's just a way that Augustine is an incredibly powerful advocate for the things that the Church believes.

One of the subtexts about my return to Christianity is that I came from a world that wasn't super-intellectual about the Christian faith. I spend a lot of my time these days among a lot of intellectual people who aren't Christian. Augustine gave me a way to understand Christian faith in a strongly intellectual way. I also went through an angry, atheist phase. As someone who spent a lot of his life buying into the lie that you had to be stupid to be a Christian, Augustine really demonstrated in a moving way that that's not true.

*You know as well as anybody the difficult condition the Catholic Church is in today, with the scandals, with uncertain leadership, and all the rest. Do you find the Catholic Church's travails daunting?*

I do in the short term, but one of the things I love about Catholicism is that it's very old. I take a longer view. Are things more daunting than they were in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century? In the Dark Ages? Is it as daunting as having a second pope at Avignon? I don't think so. The hope of the Christian faith is not rooted in any short-term conquest of the material world, but in the fact that it is true, and over the long term, with various fits and starts, things will work out.





**Joyce Perrin** says it's never too late to follow your passion and move out of your comfort zone. At 88, she has travelled solo to 156 countries and 31 territories and published her memoir, called *"Ants in My Pants,"* to share her life lessons with others.

I met Perrin in Toronto, when she made a mini-solo trip from her home in Pickering via the train, to join a JourneyWoman dinner in the Distillery. By the end of dinner, I was enthralled with her curiosity, energy and positivity. She told me she had thoroughly reviewed the JourneyWoman website and found it a fantastic resource for solo travellers. High praise from a woman who has been just about everywhere!

Throughout her married life, Perrin says her dream of seeing more of the world was never too far from her mind. But it didn't happen until she was in her 50s, after a lifelong career in healthcare, when her children were grown and married.

Perrin graduated from the University of Alberta in Nursing; University of Toronto, Hospital Administration; and Harvard School of Public Health, Health Systems Management. From being a registered nurse to hospital CEO, Perrin also worked for the World Health Organization, touching (and changing) lives in healthcare settings in the Middle East, Africa, and South America, even cofounding a hospice program in Panama.

Her opportunity to travel solo came in 1993 when she was offered a healthcare role in an Arab country. She sold her condo and put her belongings in storage. She then crisscrossed the world for over 20 years until returning to Toronto in 2016.

"As my granddaughter said, 'I was homeless for 23 years.' This journey made me who I am today, and I am proud to say at 88, I have no regrets about how I spent my life."

I have touched many lives one person at a time, whether it be the clients at the Panama Hospice and Respite Foundation that I co-founded, the many healthcare professionals whom I taught for the World Health Organization and other programs, the students to whom I spoke at my grandchildren's school and, of course, my family. Touching lives and making connections around the world is my legacy."

Today, she helps other breast cancer survivors, and volunteers with the Durham Region Health Team on executive committees as a Patient, Family and Care Partner member.

















