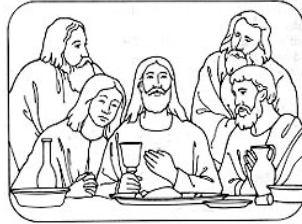


Sacramental Preparation

- ☐ 1st Communion
- ☐ Confirmation



Remember in your prayers our parish youth who are preparing for their *First Holy Communion* and *Confirmation*:

1 & 2 March: **1st Holy Communion Instruction #1**

SATURDAY: 4.00 pm; MONDAY: 6.00 pm.

22 & 24 March: **1st Holy Communion Instruction #2**

SATURDAY: 4.00 pm; MONDAY: 6.00 pm.

20 Feb., 4 & 6 March: **Confirmation Instructions, St. Albert School (1.10 pm, at the school)**

6, 20 & 27 March: **Confirmation Instructions, St. Maria Goretti School (9.10 am, at the school)**

Saturday Confirmation Classes

Classes began on Saturday, 1 February, for students who are not in our Parish schools and who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is the Sacrament that completes our Christian Initiation. Wilma and Lillian are the instructors.

The classes begin at 10.00 am, and last one hour. For information, call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425.

Volunteer Screening

In accordance with the procedures of the Archdiocese of Toronto, our Parish is updating the *Volunteer Screening* records of all volunteers and lay ministers who assist at St. Maria Goretti Church. This is a basic requirement of the Archdiocese, to honour its responsibility to the Province to maintain current and accurate information. Ministry Facilitators are asked to help their members to move this forward. If any volunteer has questions, don't hesitate to call **Glenda**, our Screening Coordinator: 647-614-7493.

World Day of Prayer 2025 8 March

Theme: "I made you wonderful."

The 2025 World Day of Prayer will be held in our Parish at 1.00 pm on Saturday, 8 March.

Our sisters from the Cook Islands have spent the last few years reflecting on the theme: "I MADE YOU WONDERFUL," based on Psalm 139

Mark this date in your calendar, and watch for further details.



RCIA, RCIC

Rites of Christian Initiation
of Adults & Children



The RCIA meets Friday evenings at 7.30 pm; the next meetings are on 14 & 21 February. The RCIC meets Saturday mornings; the next meetings are on 15 & 22 February.

Family Movie Night 22 February

The Parish *Knights of Columbus* are hosting a Family Movie Night in the Hall on Saturday 22 Feb., following the 5 pm. Mass. Popcorn and juice will be provided. This month's movie: *The Lion King*. Come and join the fun and enjoy a great evening with other families.



Chalice

Our Parish will welcome **Deacon Thomas Aquino** to represent *Chalice* at our Masses on: 1 & 2 March 2025.

Chalice is a Canadian, Catholic sponsorship group which supports vulnerable children in developing countries to complete their education. It had its 1992 roots in Springhill, Nova Scotia. We have helped thousands of children grow up happy, healthy, and on their way to a hopeful future.

A Special Gift HALL TIDY UP

We thank **Peter Lobo, Mario and Mark Francis, Lillian D'Souza, Abby Edu and Susan Odugbela** for their help with tidying up our Hall in August 2023.

Stewardship

2024 Receipts, 2025 Envelopes

The Charitable *Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations during 2024 are in the Vestibule. They may be picked 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 are invited to pick up their *2025 Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Office Lobby after Mass. They are for registered parishioners only; if you are new to the parish and have not yet registered, *welcome to our neighbourhood!* Go to the Office window, introduce yourself, and complete a *registration form*.

Ensure that you have your own box: *the number on the label and on the envelopes* must be identical. If you notice any discrepancy, advise the parish office right away. If you use someone else's envelopes, your donation would be credited to the other person.

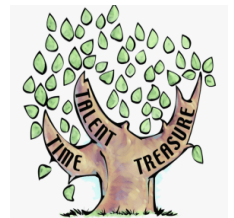
Please write the amount of your *donation* in the spaces provided on the front of your envelopes. (If you miss doing this, our financial advisors must stop to do so, and this *really* slows down the recording process.)

Changes for our Parish Records

Please notify the Parish Office in person after Sunday morning Mass, or by phone at 416-261-0076, if you:

- Have had a change of address
- Have a new phone number, e-mail or cell phone

A simple phone call would keep our parish records updated and eliminate unnecessary postage, returned mail and dead-end calls.





Brian Atkins, architect of our Church

*On 16 June 2024, St. Maria Goretti Parish was surprised by a delightful visit from **Brian Atkins**, the architect of our Church. He spent some time examining and admiring the art and other upgrades in our beautiful building, and sharing personal anecdotes on the process of planning and bringing our Church to its reopening in 1970. He is standing in the centre of the photo above. Brian followed up his visit with a message the following day:*

17 June 2024

Father,

Thank you for the generous time you gave my son and myself yesterday. It was wonderful to see your Church again in such great condition. My visit brought back so many distant memories.

It was also a pleasant surprise that you had served some years at Annunciation Parish, and had visited and knew Fr. Robinson and the Oratorians at Holy Family Church. Your mention of family roots in Malta and your friendship with John Farrugia also struck a chord with me, as I am also an immigrant from the UK in 1957.

I am attaching pictures and details of the other new St. Maria Goretti Church in Italy that I mentioned yesterday - it was built in 2021 and I thought had some similarities with our Church in its curvature of the plan. I really like the look and feel of this one !

Thanks again for our visit,

Brian Atkins, B.Arch. RAIC, RIBA

Mother Teresa on the Universal Calendar

Pope Francis has added the feast day of **St. Teresa of Kolkata**, a “beacon of hope” and an example of loving service to the poorest of the poor, to the General Roman Calendar. Her feast will be celebrated on **5 September** every year. The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, announced the Pope’s decision in a decree published on 11 February.



World Day of Prayer 2025

Our sisters from the **Cook Islands** have spent the last few years praying on the theme: “I Made You Wonderful,” based on Psalm 139:1-18. The 2025 program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

Our first Guiding Principle in the World Day of Prayer articulates that our starting point is **Christian women**. This has been an essential conviction of our movement over the last century. Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this upcoming theme from WDP Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that we, as women and girls, are “fearfully and wonderfully” made in the image of God reinforces our movement’s support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

The scripture reading from Psalms 139:1-18 is woven together with stories of three women from the Cook Islands. The service has prayers of adoration and thanksgiving to our Creator, followed by prayers of confession and longing. Finally, the prayers of intercession guide us to ask God for wisdom, courage and healing, that our world would come to treat all people as “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

The Bible Study looks at 3 sections of Psalm 139, each with a different focus: verses 1-6 (*God knows us*), verses 7-12 (*God is with us*), and 13-18 (*God made us wonderful*).



Reconciliation for the School students

Our Parish is extremely grateful for the generous help provided by neighbouring pastors and other Priests to make sure that our school students have regular access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The photo at left shows some of the Priests who assisted with the St. Maria Goretti School confessions on Friday, 7 February.



