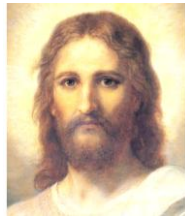


Becoming Catholic



Jesus said, “No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.” (John 3.5)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16).

Starting the Journey

The Catholic Church is the universal community which honours God by celebrating the salvation that Jesus Christ won for us by his victory over sin & death. Most disciples became members of the Church over time; they were Baptized as infants, grew up in a Catholic home, and received their education in a Catholic school. They were gradually initiated into the life of the Church by receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Some adults were Baptized in a Christian church which is not Catholic, and became Catholic after making a Solemn *Profession of Faith*, being Confirmed and sharing in the Eucharist with the Catholic Community.

Other adults who were never Baptized have been initiated into the Catholic Church, after a process of formation, prayer and discernment; a process shared by the individual and the community. This initiation is marked by the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at the annual Easter Vigil celebration.

The Catholic Church welcomes new members and tries to provide each person with a suitable process for spiritual formation. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process for initiating new members. It is a restoration of the original, phased process of initiation that existed in the early Church. Its goals are to:

- ❑ *Deepen* one's personal conversion to Jesus Christ;
- ❑ *Honour* God by living the Gospel of Jesus;
- ❑ *Engage* the person in the life of the Faith Community.

The RCIA provides a structure that incorporates the teaching of the Gospel, prayer, spiritual direction, catechesis (handing on the tradition of the Church), and personal contact with the members of the local parish. The RCIA calls all members of the parish to share their faith with the new members. The parishioners are asked to welcome, support and pray for these men and women as they journey toward full membership in the Church.

There are liturgical rites that are celebrated to mark the candidate's spiritual growth, and to express the support of the parish. The rites are celebrated with the assembly of disciples at Sunday Mass. The initiation process comprises four *Periods*; each period leads to the celebration of a *Rite*.

Period of Inquiry

The period of Inquiry (or *Evangelization* or *Pre-Catechumenate*), is a time of personal investigation, during which the Church tells the great story of God's love. As the Inquirers explore the Bible, God's saving Word, they will discover that the heart and centre of this story is the Good News of Jesus Christ. This period leads to a Rite of Welcome to the Catechumenate.

Period of the Catechumenate

This is a period marked by catechesis (instruction). Prayer and celebrations of the Word. Those seeking Baptism are the **Catechumens**; those already Baptized who are seeking reception as Catholics are known simply as **Candidates**. This period allows for the nurturing of their faith and conversion to God, and Leads to a *Rite of Election*.

Period of Enlightenment

The third period of *Purification and Enlightenment*, usually begins on the First Sunday of Lent. Those who are ready to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the next Easter vigil. The **Elect**, enter into a more reflective period coinciding with the six weeks of Lent. They reflect on the meaning of Baptism, on being a disciple of Jesus, and on the spiritual preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation. Through the liturgical rites, the parish helps the **Elect** and the Baptized **Candidates** by praying that they will be strengthened in what is good, and protected from what is sinful and harmful. This period ends with the celebration of the *Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil*.

Initiation

The initiation which occurs at the Easter Vigil, on Holy Saturday night, incorporates:

- ❑ The celebration of the *Sacraments of Initiation* (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION and EUCHARIST.) for the **Elect**, who now become the **Neophytes**; and
- ❑ The solemn *Profession of Faith* (along with Confirmation and the Eucharist) for the **Candidates**, who now become the **Newly Received**.

Period of the Mystagogy

This period extends through the Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season which culminate in the celebration of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

During this festive season the **Neophytes** (new members) along with the parish community, grow in deepening their grasp of the mystery of Jesus Christ in his passage from death to resurrected life and making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist, and doing the works of charity.

Celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation does not mark the *end* of our journey in faith. In fact, our faith journey is *ongoing*, and takes place in the company of the faithful, the Eucharistic community. During this period the **Neophytes** are formally invited to discern the ways in which they can share their gifts within the faith community, particularly by engaging themselves in *parish ministry*. This allows them to continue to grow in a spirit of love and service.

Parish Week / Sunday, 2 August 2025

Saturday, 2 Aug. / St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop

■ *Janette Rampersad, 3rd Anniversary of death*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Arnulfo Gabales (Edison & Jiyi);
- *Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage to 3 City Churches begins*
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Mike D'Mello (Jane Abraham)
- *KOC & Youth Ministry Appreciation Evening after Mass*

SUNDAY, 3 AUG. / 18-C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

■ *2nd Collection: Late ShareLife*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Eusebia Luzaran (Gaela family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Moises Sardua (Chita & Josefa)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Ranjit, Rosemarie and Anthony Savundranayagam (Brother))
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 4 Aug. / St. John Vianney, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Cecelia Santiago (family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Mike D'Mello (Jane Abraham)
- 7.40 pm Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent meeting

Tuesday, 5 Aug. / Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

■ *Fr. Elias Birthday (1955)*

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Birthday (Fr. Elias)

Wednesday, 6 Aug. / Transfiguration of the Lord

- 8.00 am Mass: † Rosalina Ting Chan (family)

Thurs., 7 Aug. / St. Sixtus II, pope, and Companions, martyrs

- 8.00 am Mass: † Barbara Gacusana (Mom, Evelyn)

Friday, 8 Aug. / St. Dominic, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Corrado Vindigni (Edna & Carmelo)
- 1.00 pm Wedding: Jeron Juson & Sarah Alvarez

Saturday, 9 Aug. / St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop

- 8.00 am Mass: † Bernadita Lumanlan Abogado (Anna & David)
- 1.00 pm Wedding: Chris Ramlock Han & Princess Baniqued
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Mike D'Mello (Jane Abraham)

SUNDAY, 10 AUG. / 19-C

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Rufino Gomez (family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Ranjit Savundranayagam (Brother)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The next meetings:

RCIA Adults: 1 August, 5 September - 7.30 pm

RCIC Youth: 2 August, 6 September - 10.00 am.

The Knights of Columbus

9 Aug. **Movie Night**, 6 pm: BEN HUR

13 Sept. **Dinner Dance**, 6 – 10 pm



Focus on the Word

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Ecclesiastes 1.2-23; Colossians 3.1-11; Luke 12.13-21

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Amen.

Catholic Cemetery Masses

7.00 pm, 13 August



The annual CATHOLIC CEMETERY MASSES this year will be offered at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 13 August. Our Parish will provide the liturgical support at Christ the King Cemetery; Bishop Nguyen will preside. See the posters on the Vestibule bulletin boards.

Toronto Archdiocese Jubilee Pilgrimage

Martyrs' Shrine, 24 August

Our Parish is arranging a bus to join the Toronto Archdiocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to the MARTYRS' SHRINE: Sunday, 24 August, 8 am to 6 pm. Cost: \$35. To sign up, call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425.

Upcoming Weddings

There is a promise of Marriage between:

Jason Cruz and Pamela Mulla

16 August

Thilakshan Arulnesan and Lefanta Maria Anthonippillai

23 August, St. Aidan

Vishhanth Aelosiyas and Ashika Michael

30 August, St. Rose of Lima

Glenn Sandrasagra and Rebecca Gnanasingam

6 October, St. Mary, Brampton

COMING UP

7018o25

- 13 Aug. ► Mass at **Christ the King Catholic Cemetery** (7.00 pm)
- 15 Aug. Feast of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**;
- ► *Canadian National Exhibition* opens
Wedding: Cruz & Mulla (1:00 pm)
2nd Collection: **Canadian Missions**
- 16 Aug.
- 17 Aug.
- 26 Aug. **Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic**, death anniversary (2011)
- 28 Aug. Feast of **St. Augustine**
- 31 Aug. 2nd Collection: **Maintenance**
- 7 Sept. ► **Canonization: Carlo Acutis, Pier Giorgio Frassati (Rome)**
- 13 Sept. KOC Dinner Dance (6.30 pm)
- 14 Sept. **Pope Leo XIV, birthday** (1955);
- ► **Annual Rosary Sunday** (Martyrs' Shrine)
Memorial Mass: † Profetiza Diaz
- 19 Sept.
- 20 Sept. ► **Dine for the Shrine**: St. Theresa Parish Dinner & Dance
- 21 Sept. 2nd Collection: **Bishops – Needs of the Church in Canada**
- 28 Sept. 2nd Collection: **Maintenance**
- 29 Sept. Feast of **St. Michael the Archangel**
- 5 Oct. Annual **MISSION CO-OP APPEAL**,
with **Bishop Noel Emmanuel** of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka;
- Sabina Mendonca, birthday (1925)

The Last Ten Jubilee Years

1875 ✝ Return from Exile

“We exhort each of you to utilize this occasion to acquire the grace of the Jubilee. If ever before, certainly now it is most necessary to cleanse your consciences from dead works, to offer sacrifices of justice, to produce worthy fruits of penance, and to sow in tears so that you may reap in joy. Charitable works of all kinds should be exercised more fervently in a Jubilee year.”

Pius IX, *Gravibus Ecclesiae*, Proclaiming a Jubilee, 24 December 1874

1900 ✝ Reawakening of Faith

“God alone is Life. All other beings partake of life, but are not life. Christ, from all eternity and by His very nature, is “the Life,” just as he is God of God. The object of Christian doctrine and morality is that “we being dead to sin, should live to justice” (1 Peter 2:24)- that is, to virtue and holiness. In this consists the moral life, with the certain hope of a happy eternity.”

Leo XII, *Tametsi Futura Prospicientibus*, On Jesus Christ the Redeemer, 1 November 1900

1925 ✝ Missionary Activity

“We must look for the peace of Christ in His Kingdom. We firmly hope that the feast of the Kingship of Christ may hasten the return of society to our loving Savior.”

Pius XI, *Quas Primas*, Introducing the Feast of Christ the King, 11 December 1925

1933 ✝ 1900th Anniversary of the Death and Resurrection of Christ

“From the fearful and afflicted condition of these times may we raise our souls to hope of that eternal happiness to which Christ the Lord called us, by his blood which he shed and the great benefits he has bestowed.”

Pius XI, *Quod Nuper*, Extraordinary Jubilee, 6 Jan. 1933

1950 ✝ Return to Christ of Those Separated from Him

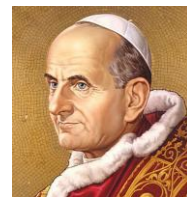
“Those who meditate upon the glorious example Mary offers us may be more and more convinced of the value of a human life entirely devoted to carrying out the heavenly Father’s will and to bringing good to others. It is our hope that belief in Mary’s bodily Assumption into heaven will make our belief in our own resurrection stronger and render it more effective.”

Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus*, Defining the Dogma of the Assumption, 1 November 1950

1975 ✝ Reconciliation

“The Easter Exultet sings of a mystery accomplished beyond the hopes of the prophets: in the joyful announcement of the resurrection, even man’s suffering finds itself transformed, while the fullness of joy springs from the victory of the Crucified, from His pierced heart and His glorified body.”

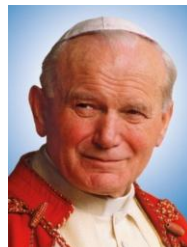
Paul VI, *Gaudete in Domino*, On Christian Joy, 9 May 1975



1983 ✝ 1950th Anniversary of the Death and Resurrection of Christ

“We are close to all the painful wound of contemporary humanity, and we are close to all the exceptions, hopes and joys of our brothers, to which the Risen Christ gives meaning and value.”

John Paul II, *Urbi et Orbi*, Easter 1983



2000 ✝ Christ Yesterday, Today and Forever

“The door of hope is always open to every sinner.”

John Paul II, General Audience, 30 August 2000

2015 ✝ Mercy

“How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance of endlessly recurring cycles! The Creator can say to each one of us: ‘Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you’ (Jer 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason ‘each of us is the result of and thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.’”

Francis, *Laudato Si*, On Care for our Common Home, 24 May 2015



2025 ✝ Pilgrims of Hope

“Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love.”

“Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope.”

Francis, *Spes non Confundit*, Bull of Indication for the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025, May 9, 2024



Sisters of Life *Perpetual Vows, 6 August*

Sister Beata Victoria, SV

Sister Leonie Therese, SV

Sister Maria Augustine, SV

The Sisters of Life will be celebrating the perpetual vows of three sisters on 6 August 2025 at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City. The Sisters of Life are a Catholic religious community dedicated to protecting the sanctity of human life, particularly through their service to pregnant women in need and those who have experienced abortion.

Founded by Cardinal John O'Connor in 1991, the Sisters of Life surrender their lives to God when entering the order by professing vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They also vow to protect the sacredness of human life at every stage. Based in New York, the Sisters are a group of religious women who carry out this mission by caring for pregnant women and their unborn children. They provide pregnant women with housing, maternity clothes, baby formula, and other supplies for well after birth. They also connect pregnant women and their children to pro bono medical and legal services and a wide array of social services. The Sisters offer personal, holistic help rooted in a deep love for human life that sees all people as created in God's image and likeness.

The Sisters of Life profess: "We believe every person is valuable and sacred. We believe that every person's life has deep meaning, purpose and worth. In fact, we give our lives for that truth." The Sisters' dedication to their neighbor is grounded in their unwavering Catholic faith which inspires them to build loving relationships with vulnerable women, attending to their emotional, spiritual, and temporal needs.

Our Toronto contribution: Sister Beata Victoria, SV

Sr. Beata Victoria is professing her final vows as a *Sister of Life* on 6 August 2025, at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City. **Timothy Cardinal Dolan**, Archbishop of New York, is celebrating the Mass of Profession.

Many Parish volunteers in Toronto had the chance to interact with Sr. Beata Victoria (formerly Marlena Loughheed, from Belleville) through her role in the *Office of Public Relations and Communications* before she entered the Sisters of Life in September of 2017. She now lives at St. Joseph's Convent in Toronto, and serves in their mission to women who are pregnant, and offering hope and healing following abortion.

Looking forward, Sr. Beata Victoria will be engaged in full-time study at Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio, USA) for a Masters degree in Counselling.

Sister Beata Victoria: God bless you, and be assured of our prayers for strength and wisdom in your service.



Let the Earth breathe

All garden photos on these 4 pages were taken during August and September, 2020.

Beloved, thou hast brought me many flowers
Plucked in the garden, all the summer through
And winter, and it seemed as if they grew
In this close room, nor missed the sun and showers,
So, in the like name of that love of ours,
Take back these thoughts which here unfolded too,
And which on warm and cold days I withdrew.

E.B. Browning

