

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 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 columns 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 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on 11 June 1988; he died on 22 December. 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 50th 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 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, 24 August 2025

Saturday, 23 Aug. / St. Rose of Lima, virgin

- 8.00 am Mass: † Benasio Gabales (Edison & Jiyi)
 10.00 am Memorial Mass: † Edgardo Diaz
 1.00 pm funeral Mass: † Pascual Mina Racoya
 2.00 pm funeral Mass: † Aurora Ebina
 5.00 pm Mass: † Joseph & Lalita D'Souza

SUNDAY, 24 AUG. / 21-C

■ Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo

■ ► Archdiocese Jubilee Pilgrimage to Martyr's Shrine, Midland

- 9.00 am Mass: † Edison Calantas (Edison & Jiyi Gabales)
 10.30 am Mass: † Felipe Laurel (Melchora)
 12.00 pm Mass: † Ranjit Savundranayagam (Brother)
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 25 Aug. / St. Louis and St. Joseph Calaasanz, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Tannous El Haddad (Corine Maulion)
 7.00 pm Mass: † Jacqueline Poirier (Carol Morra)

Tuesday, 26 Aug.

■ Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic, death anniversary (2011)

- 8.00 am Mass: † Emma Allair (Carol Morra)
 9.00 am Funeral Mass: † Marquita Torres

Wednesday, 27 Aug. / St. Monica

- 8.00 am Mass: † Regina Dungan (Corine)

Thursday, 28 Aug. / St. Augustine, bishop & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Deceased members of Vaccaro, Cilento Prezio, Altomare and Cosco families (family)

Friday, 29 Aug. / Passion of St. John the Baptist

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

Saturday, 30 Aug.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Cecily Espinoza (Carol Morra)
 5.00 pm Mass: † Edwin Tauro (Annie)

SUNDAY, 31 AUG. / 22-C

■ Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea

■ 2nd Collection: Maintenance

- 9.00 am Mass: † Francis Andreas (family)
 10.30 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving for safe return (Christa Villanueva)
 12.00 pm Mass: † Ranjit Savundranayagam (Brother)
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Rosary Sunday Midland, 14 September

The annual *Rosary Sunday* celebration at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland will be held on Sunday, 14 Sept. The CWL has hired a coach for the day. Cost: \$45 per person. To reserve a seat, call: **Riza** (647-338-9288) or **Lillian** (647-909-6425).

The Knights of Columbus End of Summer Dinner Dance

Special Dance Performance

Door Prizes, 50/50 Draw

\$35 per person; Over 65 years: \$25; Kids under 12: free.

For tickets, call: **Harrison**, 416-278-0951



Focus on the Word

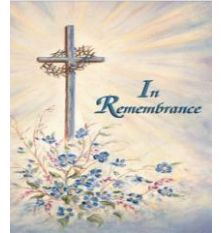
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Isaiah 66.18-21; Hebrews 12.5-13; Luke 13.22-30

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true gladness is found. Amen.

Mass Intentions Requests for 2026

The *Mass Intention* book for 2026 is now open. The Parish Office will accept requests for intentions after any Sunday Mass and during weekday office hours.



Upcoming Weddings

There is a promise of Marriage between:

Vishhanth Aelosiyas and Ashika Michael

30 August, St. Rose of Lima

Glenn Sandrasagra and Rebecca Gnanasingam

6 October, St. Mary, Brampton

Bradley Cadaoas and Elizza Carmona

18 October



COMING UP

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- 7 Sept. ► **Canonization: Carlo Acutis, Pier Giorgio Frassati (Rome)**
 9 Sept. Memorial Mass: † Jason Relunia
 13 Sept. KOC Dinner Dance (6.30 pm)
 14 Sept. **Pope Leo XIV, birthday (1955);**
 - ► Annual *Rosary Sunday* (Martyrs' Shrine)
 Memorial Mass: † Fe Cornista
 18 Sept. Memorial Mass: † Profetiza Diaz
 19 Sept. ► **Dine for the Shrine: St. Theresa Parish Dinner & Dance**
 20 Sept. 2nd Collection: *Bishops – Needs of the Church in Canada*
 21 Sept. Feast of St. Vincent de Paul;
 27 Sept. - 1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion Saturday Classes
 begin for students from schools outside our Parish (9.00 am)
 28 Sept. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*
 29 Sept. Feast of **St. Michael the Archangel**
 1 Oct. Feast of **St. Thérèse** of Lisieux
 6 Oct. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
 5 Oct. Annual MISSION CO-OP APPEAL,
 with **Bishop Noel Emmanuel** of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka;
 - Sabina Mendonca, birthday (1925)
 18 Oct. Wedding: Bradley Cadaoas & Elizza Carmona (3:00 pm)



Spiritual Oppression, and the Remedy

Diary of an American Exorcist: INTRODUCTION

The journey started with a powerful spiritual experience when I was a seminarian. Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti

One night, I had just gone to bed but hadn't fallen asleep yet. Suddenly I was invisibly attacked. It was unbelievably powerful and incredibly fast. With a graced insight, I instantly knew what it was. Satan was attacking me. And I was going to be quickly overwhelmed.

My rosary beads were on the table at the foot of my bed. The moment the attack started, I instantly thought of these beads. I lunged out of bed and thrust out my hand to grab my rosary. The instant I touched the beads, the attack stopped. So, I went back to bed and fell quickly asleep.

How did I fall asleep so quickly? My first thought was, "I was tired!" But in fact, intense spiritual experiences often carry with them a special grace to understand and interpret them. I knew exactly what happened: I was attacked by one of Satan's demons, and the Blessed Virgin Mary cast him out. I knew I was in the good hands of a loving Mother. So, I slept like a child in his mother's arms.

In those two seconds, I learned about 80 percent of what an exorcist needs to know. Satan is very powerful and moves at lightning speed. Angels, and demons, travel at the speed of thought. I am no match for Satan; even the smallest of demons is exponentially stronger than any human. But the Blessed Virgin casts out the prince of darkness and his minions with ease. If I hold on to her, I will be safe and I can go back to sleep and be at peace.

Twenty-five years later, I was appointed a diocesan exorcist. I have been one now for over a dozen years. Our little exorcism team has a very active caseload. We receive many new calls each week, plus we handle dozens of ongoing cases. So there have been lots of experiences to fuel these diaries! And wherever I go, my rosary beads are always on my person. Even when I sleep, these beads are wrapped around my left hand.

The diary entries are not exaggerated in any way. Some details of individuals have been altered or deleted to protect the individuals' identities. But each of the entries is a factual account of my daily experiences or the experiences of our team. They are the truth, without varnish or hype. You may believe them or not. But they are what we exorcists experience and talk about among ourselves. When I speak to other exorcists around the country and in other countries, I find that my experiences are very similar to theirs. There is a common body of exorcism knowledge that is growing, based on our common experiences.

Still, much of the world of angels and demons remains a mystery to us. Despite all the havoc that Satan can cause, it is my hope that the underlying message will come through: *There is only one God and one Savior, Jesus Christ.* When faced with the infinite power of God, Satan is just a "dust bunny." His actions are limited, and his time is very short. Soon, he will be cast into the pit forever.

In the meantime, we trust in God, hold fast to the salvation of Jesus, and invoke the protection of the Blessed Virgin, the saints, and the angels. We have no reason to fear. I sleep very well at night (despite occasional demonic attacks!).

Be at peace. Jesus has already won the battle.

Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti, Ph.D., is President of the St. Michael Center for Spiritual Renewal and a research associate professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. A licensed psychologist and the author of several books, Msgr. Rossetti has participated in hundreds of exorcisms. He is the author of *Diary of an American Exorcist*.





Mass at Christ the King Cemetery, 13 August.







St. Augustine and St. Monica

St. Augustine was a theologian, writer, preacher, rhetorician, and bishop. He experienced many hardships in his life, and he set an example for all people to follow. Aurelius Augustine was born in 354 at Tagaste, Algeria, the son of Patricius, a non-believer, and his devout Catholic wife, Monica. Augustine's mother enrolled her son in Catechism as a child, but his baptism was put off to later.

In his early years, Augustine possessed an inquisitive mind. He set his sights on a career that would bring him both wealth and fame. His parents wanted to provide their son with the best education.

Following his studies in Tagaste and later in Carthage (Tunisia), Augustine taught rhetoric. He first served as a teacher in his native town and later became a teacher in Rome and Milan.

He traveled from city to city and encountered many opportunities and challenges along the way. He was also on a deep spiritual journey, searching for inner peace and lasting happiness.

The example and prayers of Monica blessed his spiritual journey. They led Augustine to convert to the Catholic faith. At the age of 33, Augustine was baptized by Bishop Ambrose of Milan, and made a commitment to spend his life as a "servant of God."

He agreed to live his life in celibacy. He made this decision in spite of the fact that he had spent several years living with a woman with whom he fathered a son, Adeodatus.

After Augustine's baptism, he, Adeodatus, and his friend Alypius set out for his native town. They sought a monastic style of life together with other men who had experienced a radical conversion to the faith. On the journey, at Ostia Antica, just outside of Rome, Monica became ill. She died suddenly but happily, as she had witnessed Augustine's commitment to Christ and the Church.

In Tagaste, Augustine, Adeodatus, and several of their companions prayed, worked, and lived together in fellowship. They shared their insights about Scripture and the Christian life.

After three years, Augustine responded to a calling to become a Priest while on a visit to the city of Hippo, about 70 km from Tagaste. This was not what Augustine might have chosen for himself, but he chose to accept God's will for him.

In Hippo, Augustine established a monastic community that he directed while assisting the bishop, Valerius. Later, he succeeded Valerius as head of the diocese. He wrote his *RULE* for the community's direction, and then established a third community for clerics in his episcopal residence. After his return to Tagaste until his death, Augustine definitely opted for a monastic style of life.

As bishop, Augustine found his desired life of contemplation and freedom from worldly concerns. In addition to his duties within Hippo, he traveled to church councils in the region of North Africa. He did so 50 times over the course of the 35 years he served as bishop. Augustine even made the nine-day journey to Carthage for meetings with other bishops about 30 times. His travels were physically demanding, but they were modest when they are compared to his writings and sermons. He was an incredibly prolific writer. Over the course of his lifetime, he wrote over 200 books and nearly 1,000 sermons, letters, and other works.

In 430, Augustine became ill. He spent his days in bed praying the penitential psalms, which he had written on the wall of his room.

Augustine died on 28 August, as the Vandals invaded Hippo. Following his death, his body was buried in Hippo. Later it was taken to Sardinia and then moved to Pavia, Italy, where it now rests in the Basilica of San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro.



The powerful Prayer to St. Michael

*A commentary by Archbishop Emeritus
Cardinal Thomas Collins*

St. Michael is the patron Saint of our Archdiocese, and of several of its central institutions. After the death of Michael Power, our heroic first bishop, St. Michael Cathedral was dedicated on the feast of St. Michael, 29 September 1848. It is fitting, that we celebrate our heavenly patron, St. Michael the Archangel, and that we ask for his intercession.

We hear about St. Michael in the Bible, especially in the Book of Daniel and in the Book of Revelation, which remind us that the personal struggles that each of us confronts during our brief passage through this earthly life, and the challenges that the Church itself confronts, are all set within the majestic perspective of the triumph of good over evil that is made clear in Revelation 12, and that is reflected as well in Ephesians 6. God calls on each of us to engage courageously in a battle against evil.

At the end of the 19th century, Pope Leo XIII introduced throughout the Church a special prayer to St. Michael: “St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil....” I ask everyone to recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world. Pope Francis has also recommended this prayer.

The Prayer to St. Michael is deeply rooted in the Word of God and in the living faith tradition of the Church. Each of us can so easily become caught up in the illusions of our rich and individualistic society; but the Prayer to St. Michael reminds us of the stark seriousness of the daily battle against evil in all its forms. It is a bluntly realistic prayer in its recognition of the harsh fact of evil, something from which we can all tend to avert our gaze. More than that, however, it is a joyfully confident expression of serene trust in the power of God. That is the source of our joyful hope; it is the divine energy that derives the evangelization of this world.

Some of the terms found in the traditional Prayer to St. Michael might be a bit unfamiliar, and so I offer the following reflections on its biblical and spiritual backgrounds.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

One of our great Christian spiritual classics, the “Spiritual Combat” of Lorenzo Scupoli, reminds us of the struggle that we frail children of God experience in our quest for holiness. As G.K. Chesterton once observed, life is a journey, and a puzzle, but also a battle. We are to imitate Christ in daily life, to love with the love of God on earth; to be like God. The very name “MICHAEL” means “*who is like God*.” We call out to St. Michael the Archangel, to help us to be like God in our daily love of neighbor, and to defend us in this day of battle against all that is not of God.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

We should not make “the devil made me do it” an excuse for our sins; Satan tempts, but does not compel. God has granted free will to each of us, and constantly guides and sustains us in the exercise of our free will not only directly, but also indirectly through His saints, like St. Michael. But we are vulnerable to the snares of temptation. Each of us should reflect on the account in Genesis 3 of the tempting of Adam and Eve. That biblical passage reveals a common pattern of human folly and pride. It is a mirror in which, if we are honest, we can see ourselves. An inflated ego can mislead anyone, and we can easily fall to the snares of temptation.

Christian tradition identifies three basic sources of temptation: the world, the flesh and the devil. The world, the environment in which we live, which is scarcely conducive to a life of virtue, can ensnare us in temptation. Temptations can also come from within, from the flesh, and it is helpful to examine our consciences daily using the categories of the seven deadly sins, which are really facets of the temptations of the flesh: pride, anger, envy, greed, laziness, lust and gluttony.

And, finally, we can be tempted by the devil, the fallen angel of temptation. Read MATTHEW 4:1-11 for the description of the *Temptation of Jesus* in the desert. Recognizing the Satanic dimension of evil is part of our Faith. Anyone who has even for a moment observed or experienced the resilient reality of evil in this world will not ignore it. We should not over-emphasize or dramatize this fact of reality, or become obsessed with it; but to ignore it would be at our peril. We can so easily be naïve, and fail to recognize the cosmic context of the earthly struggle against evil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,

In all our struggles we totally depend on the action of God. In Revelation 12, which is the main scriptural source for the Prayer of St. Michael, the vision of God’s protection of the Church encourages the disciples of the Lord in times of struggle on earth. We also call to mind the words of Jesus in Matthew 4:10 “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him only shall you serve.’”

And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of soul. Amen.

All is done by the power of God, and we simply ask that St. Michael be our protector, acting always by the power of God, keeping in mind the words found in the First Letter of Peter, which along with Revelations 12 is a scriptural foundation for the Prayer to St. Michael: “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith....” (1 Peter 5: 6-9)

Joyfully, confidently, and serenely trusting in God, we nonetheless always need to be vigilant in battling against every form of evil, and we ask St. Michael to come to our aid in that battle.