

## Parish Week / Sunday, 28 Dec. 2025

### Saturday, 27 Dec. / St. John, apostle & evangelist

8.00 am Mass: † Graciano Primero (Edison & Jiyi)  
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Victor D'Cunha (friends)

### SUNDAY, 28 DEC. / THE HOLY FAMILY

■ Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo

■ 2nd Collection: Maintenance

9.00 am Mass: Int. Birthday Thanksgiving,  
Nina Cenizal (family)  
10.30 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Our Lady of Velanno (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Ranjit Savundranayagam (brother)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

- † CONCLUSION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 †

### Monday, 29 Dec. / St. Thomas à Becket

8.00 am Mass: † Fernando & Beatriz Remedios (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Edwin Tauro (Annie)

### Tuesday, 30 Dec.

8.00 am Mass: † Lila Bustamante (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Russell Griffiths

### Wednesday, 31 Dec.

8.00 am Mass: † Caroline & Cyril Bastiampillai (family)

### NEW YEAR EVE, 2025

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

■ Collection: New Year

5.00 pm Mass: † All the Faithful Departed of 2025  
11.00 pm Holy Hour  
12.00 am Mass: † Mary, Paul and Ellis Galea

### NEW YEAR DAY, 2026

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

9.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Antony)  
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Francesco & Teresa Di Michele (Maria)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Ernesto Buenaventura (Joven & Becky)

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

8.00 am Mass: † Souls in Purgatory (Antony)  
6.00 pm Holy Hour  
7.00 pm Mass: † Sabina Mendonca (Corinne & Eddie)

### Saturday, 3 Jan. / Most Holy Name of Jesus

8.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (family)  
5.00 pm Mass: † Baltazar, Marianinha, Philip & Cecil Mendonca  
(Tessie & Anita)

### SUNDAY, 4 JAN. / THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

■ Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo

9.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Fely Mawirat & family)  
10.30 am Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas (Mary Thanarajan)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Nunziato Sidoli (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Focus on the Word

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

**Sirach 3.2-14; Colossians 3.12-21; Matthew 2.13-23**

*O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, grant that we may imitate them in practising 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 2025

At the 5 pm Mass on New Year Eve, 31 December, 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. 2025

**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

### 27 / 28 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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### 2026

5 Jan.	Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
8 Jan.	Memorial Mass: † Giovanni Diluciano (7 pm)
11 Jan.	Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)
17 Jan.	Memorial Mass: † Remedios Ebuenga (1 pm)
19 Jan.	► St. Albert School Mass (9:30 am); St. Maria Goretti School Mass (12:30 pm)
25 Jan.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: <b>Maintenance</b>
31 Jan.	Wedding: Ylagan & Bermas (1 pm)
2 Feb.	Infant Baptism Parent-Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
11 Feb.	Mass for All The Sick (7 pm)

18 Feb.

**Ash Wednesday;**

- Lent begins; Day of Fast and Abstinence

## 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: 2 & 9 Jan., 7.30 pm.

RCIC meetings: 3 & 10 Jan., 10.00 am.



## Jubilee Year Concluding Mass 7 pm, 28 Dec. 2025



Dioceses around the world will conclude the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope on HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, 28 Dec. 2025.

In Rome, the Jubilee ends on 6 January 2026. *Let us pray.*

"Loving Father, bless our parish family. As we conclude this Jubilee Year, may the blessings we have received inspire us to become more welcoming, forgiving, and generous.

May we carry the spirit of this Jubilee with us into the year ahead through acts of charity, prayer, and joyful service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

## 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

After the Christmas Break, the Sunday School will resume: at the 10.30 Mass on **4 January 2026**.

### A Special Gift OFFICE COMPUTER KEYBOARD

We thank **Sheldon D'Cunha** for his gift of our new office keyboard, 11 April 2025. May God bless you and your family.

## Stewardship

### 2026 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.

Your support makes it possible for us to maintain our beautiful House of Prayer, and to share our gifts in the service of the Gospel.

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.

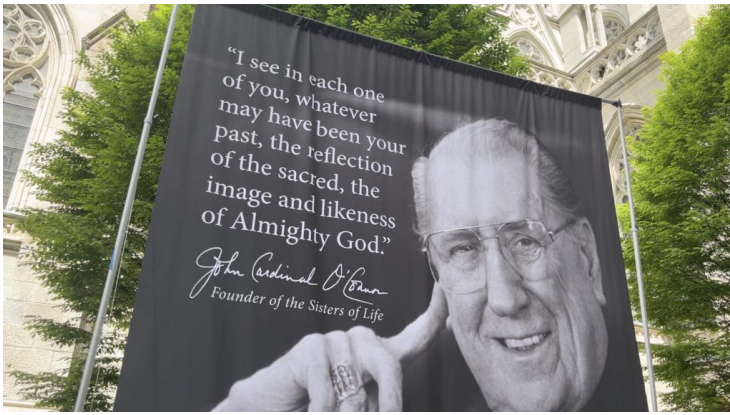
## Parish Memorials

**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.





Dear Friends.

Come, Lord Jesus! As we journey through Advent to Christmas, we are invited to live with childlike wonder in the promise that Christ will come. Our founder was **John Cardinal O'Connor**. 15 December 2025 marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. He recalled how his family lived Advent as a season of hope:

*“Christmas was a long way off: weeks of waiting. So, we waited, and when we were very little, the hoped-for advent of Santa Claus was very much part of it all. But even when we were tiny, we were made to feel very comfortable that if Santa didn’t bring a great deal with him, or didn’t even come, the Christ Child would be there, and that He was Christmas. I’m not just considering that only in retrospect, after years and years have long faded into the faintest of recollections. The Christ Child was Christmas in our house. That is as fresh today for me now as when I was 3 or 4.*

*And when First Holy Communion time came, it was Christmas all over again, without the tinsel, and in the shadow of a tree called the Cross. The same One was being born in our souls who had first been born in Bethlehem.”*

Let us journey alongside Mary this Advent, so that we may also say: “The Christ Child is Christmas in our house.”

Know of our prayers for you and your intentions!

In Christ, our Life,  
**The Sisters of Life**



## Christmas Message of Cardinal Leo

Praised be Jesus Christ and Merry Christmas to you and to your loved ones.

Each year the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ invites us to delve deeper into the true meaning of the Incarnation, to ponder anew the mystery of God’s love, and to renew or even seek new ways to serve our brothers and sisters because of Jesus and His teaching and example. The wonders of the Incarnation (God becoming man in Jesus) were first announced by the Archangel Gabriel nine months earlier at the Annunciation and are now fulfilled in the birth of the Messiah and as St. John the Evangelist describes so eloquently, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (*Jn 1:14*). Heaven and Earth are joined forever giving rise to the foundation of our hope because God, who loves us, is now united to humanity forever.

At every Mass, the same Divine Word that was made flesh in Our Lady’s heart and womb way back many years ago, becomes present to us again, but now sacramentally. The same Jesus whom Mother Mary held in her arms is now entrusted to us under the humble signs of bread and wine. The same divine humility that chose the manger to show Himself to the world, chooses now and until His return the altar of sacrifice at Mass. The same mercy that came to shepherds and strangers comes to each and every one of us. In the Eucharist, the Incarnation is not just remembered but renewed, made present and given to all. The God who once drew near to us, walked among us and taught us, is now given to us to dwell within us in holy communion. The Eucharist is the living sign that God’s nearness endures. When we gather around the altar in our parishes and communities for Mass, we are drawn into the same mystery that gathered shepherds around the crib in Bethlehem. We, too, come in our poverty, carrying our fears, our failures, our hunger for meaning, our hopes, dreams and deepest desires; and we find that Christ is waiting for us, because He loves us personally and by name. For St. Francis of Assisi, the stable becomes the sanctuary, the feeding trough becomes the table of life, and the Eucharist is foreshadowed at the Nativity (*Thomas of Celano, Book 1 Life of St Francis, 85:469; St Cyril of Alexandria, Sermon I, Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 2:1-7*).

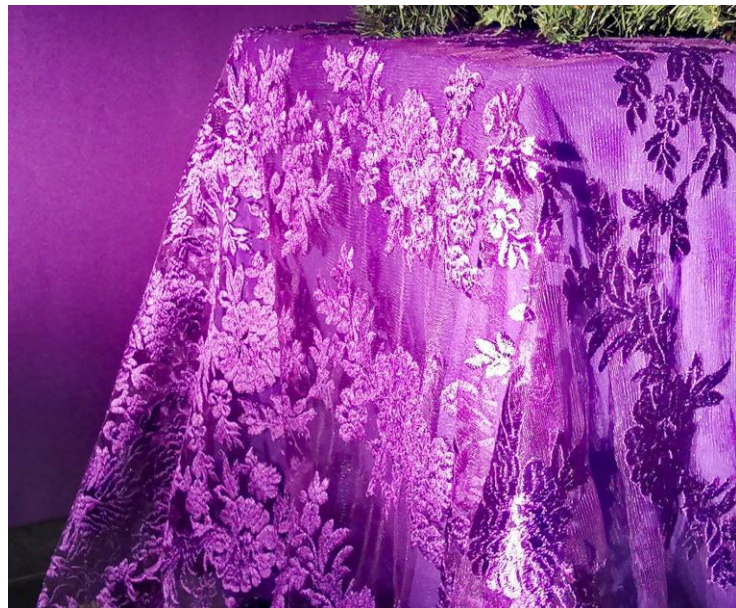
This Christmas, let us make room again for the Child Jesus who comes with peace. Let our families be havens of love and understanding; our parishes be places of welcome and care; our communities become schools of compassion and outreach; and our hearts tabernacles of transforming mercy. The Word still becomes flesh, in every act of faith, every gesture of love, every Sunday Eucharist, and then sends us forth to serve God by serving one another. May this holy season renew in us the joy of belonging and being loved and the courage to share that love with those the Lord puts on our path. God bless you and your family abundantly and powerfully this Christmas season.

**Cardinal Francis Leo**



CWL Advent  
Dinner Dance  
13 December



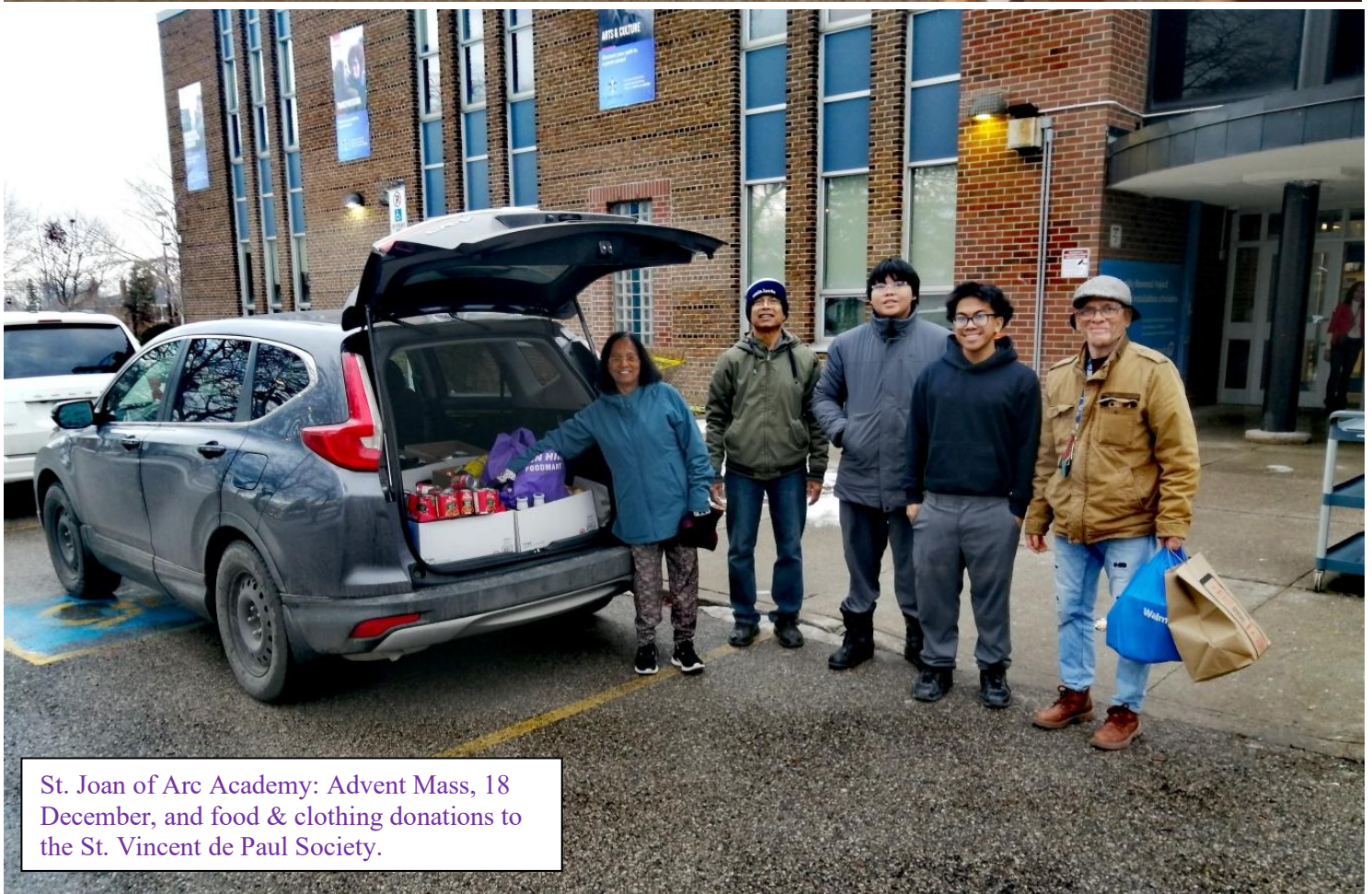






*Top: Fr. Edwin, Cake cuttings for his 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination (29 Nov).*

*Photos above & right: Eric Seguin, from the Office of SHARELIFE; Deacon Ramon and Fr. Edwin with Fr. Joseph Chandrakanthan.*



St. Joan of Arc Academy: Advent Mass, 18 December, and food & clothing donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.





Nativity scenes from The Vatican, White House, Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC), and Portugal.