

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 him 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, designed by renowned architect **Brian Atkins**, who also planned Holy Family Church, King St. W.

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, to support 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*, all executed by artist **Henryk Swietlik** (b. 1956 in Poland; d. 2021 in USA). Along the North wall [*left-right*], they depict:

Our patroness, **Saint Maria Goretti**, holding a Rosary:

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 in the Southeast corner of the church 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 Novena Mass celebrated every Monday at 7 pm.

Parish Week / Sunday, 9 August 2026

Saturday, 8 Aug. / St. Dominic, Priest

8.00 am Mass: † Corrado Vindigni (Edna & Carmelo)

5:00 pm Mass: † Nilo Mulla (family)

SUNDAY, 9 AUG. / 19-A

■ Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea

9.00 am Mass: † Pasqualina Della Vista (family)

10.30 am Mass: † Rufino Gomez (family)

12.00 pm Mass: † Dermond Robert & Jerry Fleming (Mary)

7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 10 August / St. Lawrence, deacon & martyr

8.00 am Mass: † Cyril Bastiampillai (family)

7.00 pm Mass: † Xavier Turiano (family)

Tuesday, 11 August / St. Clare, virgin

8.00 am Mass: † Fe Cornista (Edna Carmelo & family)

Wednesday, 12 August / St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious

8.00 am Mass: † Domingo & Rose Garcia (family)

Thur., 13 Aug. / Ss. Pontian, pope & Hippolytus, priest, martyrs

8.00 am Mass: † Patria Montesa Panopio-Festin (family)

Friday, 14 August / St. Maximillian Kolbe, priest & martyr

8.00 am Mass: † Michele & Teresa Cifaldi (Irma Pisciola)

Saturday, 15 Aug. / Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.00 am Mass: † Cyril Bastiampillai (family)

5.00 pm Mass: † Neiser Deangkinay (Edna & Carmelo)

SUNDAY, 16 AUG. / 20-A

■ Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati

■ 2nd Collection: Canadian Missions

9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)

10.30 am Mass: Int. Rhodora Thomas (family)

12.00 pm Mass: † Ellis Kirkland Galea (Carol Morra)

7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Wedding Congratulations

May God bless your Holy Covenant of Marriage

**Thanusigan Shanmuganandan
and Rajeeka Benjamin** 14 May

**Pio Pastolero and
Joan Albuquerque** 23 May

**Sujaay Jagannathan
and Vinoja Sebanayagam** 27 May

**Benn Canoneo and
Pauelyn Claudio** 29 May

Charles Botavara and Mari Bayona 9 June

John Balatan and Lillian Llanes 20 June

Maneesh Varma and Ann Hazel Urcia 3 July

Duke Rupenthiran and Mahima Chauhan 10 July

Sonny Pineda and Genalyn Sambo 3 Aug.



Focus on the Word

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1 Kings 19.9-13; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.22-33

Almighty and ever living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Amen.

ShareLife 2026

Thank you for supporting our parish's *ShareLife* campaign this year.

So far, we have raised: \$ 39,585.00
toward our 2026 goal of: \$ 99,000.00

Please help us to reach our goal. Thank you for your support.



Catholic Cemetery Masses

7.00 pm, 12 August



The annual CATHOLIC CEMETERY MASSES this year will be offered at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 12 August. For more details, see the posters on the Vestibule bulletin boards.

ST. JOSEPH CENTRE *Follow up from visit, 2 Aug.*

St. Joseph Centre gratefully accepts your support for their ministry as explained on their visit on 2 August. Please return the **Baby Bottles For Life** with your donations. Pray for us and our ministry!

Parish Summer Fair 23 August, 9 am – 2 pm

Our Parish is holding a Bazaar on Sunday, 23 August, beginning after the 9.00 am Mass and continuing to 2.00 pm. **Krispy Kreme** donuts are on sale: \$15 a dozen. To reserve a table, call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425; or: **Angela**, 416-699-8000. Table rental is \$30.

RCIA, RCIC *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children*

The next meetings:

RCIA Adults, 7 Aug., 4 Sept. at 7.30 pm

RCIC Youth, 8 Aug., 5 Sept. at 10.00 am.



2nd Collection: 16 August, *Canadian Missions*

Next Sunday, the 2nd collection is for the *Canadian Missions Shared Collection*.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA (CMIC) was established in 1908. CMIC and some DIOCESES IN NORTHERN CANADA, help sustain the Catholic faith to hard-to-reach mission areas in Canada.

COMING UP

7019026

18 Aug.

23 Aug.

28 Aug.

St. Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine

SUMMER FAIR

St. Augustine of Hippo

Fr. Thomas, T.O.R. Franciscan, preaches at the 12 Noon Mass, 19 July, for our annual Mission Co-op Appeal. Born in Kerala, Fr. Thomas now serves in Andhra Pradesh.





Fr. Thomas and Fr. Wilson and parishioners at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 18 July 2026.





Daphne Dias, with great-granddaughter Daphne.



GTA Area Codes

City

These four codes serve the City proper (Downtown, North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke, York, and East York)

- 416 Original code, introduced in 1947.
- 647 2001, due to the rise of mobile devices.
- 437 2013 to provide additional inventory.
- 942 April 2025

Burbs

These four codes form an overlay system serving the municipalities surrounding Toronto (including Peel, Halton, York, Durham, and the Niagara/Hamilton areas)

- 905 Original burb code, created in 1993
- 289 Added as an overlay code in 2001.
- 365 Introduced in 2013.
- 742 Launched in 2021.

The Path to Sainthood

The process of canonization includes four titles: SERVANT OF GOD, VENERABLE BLESSED, and SAINT.

Servant of God: The formal process begins in the diocese where the person died. Once the Vatican approves the testimonies collected by the Bishop, the individual is named a **Servant of God**.

Venerable: The Vatican evaluates the person's life for *heroic virtue*. If the Pope decrees they lived an exceptionally holy life, they become **Venerable**.

Blessed (Beatification): This step requires a verified miracle attributed to the individual's intercession. Martyrs may be beatified without a miracle.

Saint (Canonization): Sainthood requires a second miracle, after the Beatification. Once the Pope decrees the Canonization, the individual can be publicly venerated by the universal Church.

Akash Bashir (22 June 1994 – 15 March 2015) is the next in line for Beatification. He blocked a suicide bomber from entering St. John Catholic Church in Lahore, Pakistan. His last words were, "If I have to die, I'll die, but I won't let you in."



Isabella Rose Mawrseio:
BAPTISM, 12 July 2026



Party, Eritrean style:
Dancing, food, coffee



Above: St. Peter Square

Below: Pantheon





Above: Vatican Museums

Below: Piazza Navona

