

## Parish Week ❖ Sunday, 25 Dec. 2022

### Saturday, 24 December

8.00 am Mass: † Frederick Little John (Cynthia Bowering)

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

- *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea (Christmas Eve & Day)*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Christmas*

7.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving  
Arnold, Jyen & Baby Lily (Lillian)  
9.00 pm Mass: † Antonio Pisciola (Irma & family)  
11.30 pm Choir Caroling  
12.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving for Baby Lily Kim Kamath  
(Grandma & D'Souza family)

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

##### Sunday, 25 Dec. / The Nativity of the Lord

9.00 am Mass: † Charles D'Silva (Lydia & family)  
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto & Lydia Rodas (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Francesco & Teresa Di Michele (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

##### Monday, 26 Dec. / St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8.00 am Mass: Int. Victor D'Cunha & family (Esme D'Mello)  
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Victor D'Cunha (friends)

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

8.00 am Mass: Int. Anniversary Erma & Noel (Christa Hahn)

##### Wednesday, 28 Dec. / The Holy Innocents, martyrs

8.00 am Mass: Int. for Healing of Claude Li Yan (wife)  
11.00 am Memorial Mass: † Gabriel Micah Zapanta

##### Thursday, 29 Dec. / St. Thomas à Becket, bishop & martyr

8.00 am Mass: † Lila Bustamante (Lindy)

##### Friday, 30 Dec. / The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8.00 am Mass: † Souls in Purgatory (FOSS)

##### Saturday, 31 December / St. Sylvester I, pope

8.00 am Mass: † Jerome Koenig (CWL Council)

#### NEW YEAR EVE

- *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo (New Year Eve & Day)*
- *Collection: New Year*

5.00 pm Mass: † All the Faithful Departed of 2022  
11.00 pm Holy Hour  
12.00 am Mass: Int. Clarete & Rajo's families

#### NEW YEAR DAY

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

9.00 am Mass: † Gabriel & Frances Andreas  
(Thanesh Thanarajah)  
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Erlinda Deleon (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Focus on the Word

### The Nativity of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour

**Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-16**

*O God, Who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Amen.*

### Mass for the Faithful Departed of 2022

At the 5 pm Mass on New Year Eve, 31 December 2022, we will pray for all the *Faithful Departed of 2022*. 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. 2012

Bring in 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.



## Christmas Collections

### 24 / 25 December: Offertory & Christmas

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas collection for our Special Church Needs will be taken after Communion at our Christmas Eve & Day Masses, 24/25 December.

### 31 December / 1 January: Offertory & New Year

On 31 December / 1 January, 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 (after Communion) will be the *New Year Collection*.

## COMING UP

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2 Jan. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)  
8 Jan. Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)  
11 Jan. St. Maria Goretti School Mass (1:00 pm)  
26 Jan. ▶ St. Albert School Mass (1:00 pm)  
29 Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: *Maintenance*  
7 Apr. ▶ **Depeche Mode** (Scotiabank Arena)  
5 May **Cardinal Thomas Collins**: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of Ordination to the Priesthood  
6 May ▶ **King Charles**: Coronation, Westminster Abbey

## Website [stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org](http://stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org)

For more information on Parish activities, check pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.

## 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.

## Fragrance Irritation and Allergies

The chemicals used in many cosmetics may cause allergic reactions in some people, including breathing problems, asthma and dermatitis (itchy rash). Please refrain from wearing cosmetics with discernable fragrances to Church.

## RCIA, RCIC



Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults & Children

The RCIA meets Friday evenings at 7.30 pm; their next meeting is on 6 January 2023. The RCIC meets Saturday mornings; their next meeting is on 7 January.

During the Christmas break, both the RCIA and RCIC will attend the Sunday and Christmas Season Masses that comprise the key spiritual highlights of this important liturgical season. This is a time of genuine spiritual growth.

## ☺ Your sabbath smile

Attorney: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check his blood pressure?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check for breathing?

Witness: No.

Attorney: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

Witness: No.

Attorney: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

Witness: Because his brain was sitting in a jar on my desk.

Attorney: I see. But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

Witness: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

## Christmas Message

To all the members of St. Maria Goretti Parish:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.”



Let us celebrate the gift of the Father, and share with one another a Joyful, Holy and Happy Christmas!

Fr. Edwin Galea, *Pastor*

Fr. Elias Chachati, *Associate*

Rev. Mr. Ramon Villardo, *Deacon*

## A Special Gift ALTAR FLOWERS

Our Parish thanks **Narisa De Guzman** for her gift of the beautiful arrangement of golden Echinacea and white Hydrangea in our Sanctuary in late September.

## Stewardship

### 2023 Sunday Envelopes

Parishioners are invited to pick up their 2023 *Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Vestibule after Mass. The envelopes are for

registered parishioners only; if you are new to the neighbourhood and have not yet registered, *welcome!* Come to the Office window, fill out a *registration form*, and join our parish.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your weekly stewardship!

### Donation amounts

For the benefit of *new Parishioners*: Welcome to our Parish! Kindly ensure that the *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.

My Offering	
Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. <small>Mat. 6:21</small>	Name: _____
	Address: _____
	Amount: _____

## Christmas Flowers

Many thanks to all Parishioners who sponsored this year's display of CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS in our Sanctuary.

Due to publication deadlines during the holidays, the list of *dedications* will be published in the first edition of the website bulletin after the New Year. As it stood at Christmas, it has been posted on the Parish Information Board in the Vestibule.

Many thanks also to our friends who contributed to the flower display without specific dedications. We appreciate your consideration in helping to make our Church a blooming place.



## Pope Francis weeps for Ukraine

**Pope Francis** broke down and cried on 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, as he mentioned the suffering of Ukrainians during prayer in central Rome. His voice began to tremble as he mentioned the Ukrainians and he had to stop, unable to speak, for about 30 seconds. When he resumed the prayer, his voice was cracking.

The crowd, including Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri who was right next to the Pope, applauded when they realized he could not talk and saw him crying. Pope Francis said, “Immaculate Virgin, today I would have wanted to bring you the thanks of the Ukrainian people (for peace).” Then he was overwhelmed by emotion and had to stop.

When continued, he said: “Instead, once again I have to bring you the pleas of children, of the elderly, of fathers and mothers, of the young people of that martyred land, which is suffering so much.”

Since Russia invaded its neighbour in February, Francis has mentioned Ukraine in nearly all his public appearances and has grown increasingly critical of Moscow. A day earlier, he compared the war in Ukraine to a Nazi operation that killed some two million people, in the first years of World War II.

After reading the prayer at Our Lady’s statue near the Spanish Steps, the Pope greeted people in the crowd, including journalists. When one journalist mentioned that she had seen him overcome with emotion, he responded: “Yes. It (*the war in Ukraine*) is an enormous suffering, truly enormous. A defeat for humanity.”

In the month of November, Pope Francis had written a *Letter to the People of Ukraine*. Following are several sections:

*Dear Ukrainian Brothers & Sisters,*

*Unleashed in your land nine months ago was the absurd madness of war. In your skies, the sinister roar of explosions and the ominous sound of sirens wail*



*ceaselessly. Your cities are hammered by bombs, while missiles cause death, destruction and pain, hunger, thirst and cold. Many have had to flee from your streets, leaving homes and dear ones behind. Every day, along with your great rivers, rivers of blood and tears flow.*

*I unite my tears to yours, and tell you that no day passes without my being close to you, carrying you in my heart and in my prayer. Your pain is my pain. I see you suffering from the terror caused by this aggression, on Jesus’ cross. Yes, the Cross that tortured the Lord lives again in the tortures found on the corpses, in the mass graves discovered in several cities, in those and in so many other bloody images that have entered our souls, which make us cry out: Why? How can people treat each other like this?*

*There come to mind many tragic stories. In the first place, those of the little ones. How many dead, wounded and orphaned children, torn from their mothers!*



*I cry with you for each little one that, because of this war, has lost its life, such as Kira in Odessa, or Lisa in Vinnytsia, and as hundreds of other children: in each one of them all of humanity is defeated. Now they are in God’s bosom. The pain of Ukrainian mothers is incalculable.*

*Dear brothers and sisters, in all this sea of evil and pain, ninety years after the terrible genocide of the Holodomor, I am astonished by your good ardour. Despite the immense tragedy you are suffering, the Ukrainian people have never been discouraged nor surrendered to compassion. The world sees in you an audacious and strong people, who suffer and pray, who weep and fight, who resist and hope: a noble and martyred people. I continue to be close to you, with my heart and my prayer, with humanitarian concern, so that you feel accompanied, so that you won’t get used to the war, so that you don’t stay alone today and, above all, tomorrow, when the temptation can come to forget your suffering.*

*In these months, in which the harshness of the weather makes even more tragic what you are living, I would like the affection of the Church, the strength of prayer, the love that so many brothers and sisters of all latitudes feel for you, be caresses to your faces. In a few weeks it will be Christmas and the sting of suffering will be felt even more. But I would like to return with you to Bethlehem, to the trial that the Holy Family had to face on that night, which seemed only cold and dark. Instead, the Light came, not of men but of God, not of the earth but of Heaven.*

*May His Mother and ours, the Virgin, watch over you. In union with the Bishops of the world, I consecrate to Her Immaculate Heart the Church and humanity, especially your country and Russia. I present to Her Mother’s Heart your sufferings and your tears. To Her who, as a great son of your land wrote, “brought God to our world,” let us not tire of asking Her for the longed-for gift of peace, with the certainty that “nothing is impossible for God” (Luke 1:37). May She fulfil the expectations of your hearts, cure your wounds, and give you Her consolation. I am with you, I pray for you and I ask you to pray for me.*

*May the Lord bless you and the Virgin protect you.*







