

Saint Maria Goretti

Prayer

O Saint Maria Goretti, who, strengthened by God's grace, did not hesitate, even at the age of twelve, to shed your blood and sacrifice life to defend your virginal purity, deign to look graciously on the unhappy human race, which has strayed far from the path of eternal salvation.

Teach us all, and especially modern youth, with what courage and haste we should flee anything that could offend Jesus and defile our souls with sin. Obtain for us from God great horror of sin so that, keeping our souls undefiled, we may live holy lives on earth and win eternal glory in heaven. Amen.

St. Maria Goretti was born to a poor peasant family on 16 October 1890 in Corinaldo, a town near Ancona, Italy. Maria was the third of seven children of Luigi and Assunta Goretti.

When she was seven years old, the Goretti family moved to Ferriere di Conca, a village near Anzio, where they shared a home with Giovanni Serenelli and his son Alessandro. Maria was nine years old when her father died of malaria. While her mother worked the farm Maria took care of her siblings and also cooked for the Serenellis.

Maria was known for her unusual serious-mindedness and piety. Every night she would recite the Holy Rosary for the repose of her father's soul. As Ferriere had no parish church, nor a priest, Maria would walk for kilometers for the privilege of hearing Mass.

At the time it was not customary to receive First Holy Communion before the age of twelve, but Maria, extremely devout and religious, pleaded with her mother to let her take instructions when Maria was not quite eleven years of age. Every day, Maria walked to the village of Mazzoleni, where she received catechetical instructions. During this time Maria intensified her piety, obedience to her mother and love for her siblings. She was busy preparing her soul to receive Jesus. On Thursday, 29 May 1902, the feast of Corpus Christi, she received her Lord for the first time. Maria would receive the Body of Christ only 4 more times before she died.

Being a beautiful child, Maria attracted the attention of 20-year-old Alessandro. It was 5 July 1902 when Alessandro tried to force his attention on her. He was furious over her refusal to commit an act of impurity and when Maria resisted him with all her strength, crying out repeatedly, "It is a sin. God forbids it," he drew a knife and stabbed her fourteen times.

At about 6 o'clock in the evening her weakened body was put on a stretcher and put in a horse-drawn ambulance which took her to the hospital at Nettuno. Doctors worked feverishly to save her life. No anesthetic was administered because the attendants feared peritonitis. Despite the intense pain, she uttered not a sound, till she finally lost consciousness. In the morning of 6 July 1902, Maria received Holy Communion for the last time, and openly forgave Alessandro, her murderer. Then Maria died.



Alessandro was captured soon after Maria's death. Originally, he was going to be sentenced to death, but since he was a minor at that time the sentence was commuted to 30 years in prison. He remained unrepentant and incommunicative to the world. In his 8th year of imprisonment he had a vision of Maria. He saw a garden, where a young girl dressed in white was gathering lilies. She smiled, came near him and invited him to accept an armful of lilies. As he accepted them, each lily transformed into a still white flame. Maria then disappeared.

A local bishop, Monsignor Giovanni Blandini, visited Alessandro in jail. He wrote a thank you note to the Bishop, asking for his prayers and telling him about his dream. Alessandro's conversion was complete. When he was released from prison after serving 27 years, his first act was to travel to Maria's mother, Assunta, to beg her forgiveness. She forgave him, saying that if Maria had forgiven him on her deathbed then she could not do less, and they attended Mass together the next day, receiving Holy Communion side by side. Alessandro reportedly prayed every day to Maria Goretti, referring to her as "my little saint."

Alessandro later became a Capuchin lay brother, living in a convent and working as its receptionist and gardener, until dying peacefully in 1970.

On 27 April 1947, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII beatified Maria, and on 24 June 1950, the same Pope solemnly canonized her and proclaimed Saint Maria Goretti the new patroness of Catholic Youth. This ceremony was attended by 250,000 faithful, including her mother (the first mother to see her child canonized) and her brothers and sisters. St. Maria Goretti has also been a principal patron of the World Youth Day celebrations, begun by Saint Pope John Paul II, and held around the world.



[Left: St. Maria Goretti School children stand in line outside as the body of our Patroness is processed from the school to the Church, Thursday, 31 May 2012. **Cardinal Thomas Collins** celebrated Mass Friday, 1 June; the body was transferred to San Nicola di Bari Parish Saturday, 2 June. Photo by **Richard Lautens** for THE STAR.]

Parish Week † 8 July 2018

Saturday, 7 July

8.00 am Mass: † Holy Souls in Purgatory (Audrey)
5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas (Vincent Ambrose)

SUNDAY, 8 JULY / 14 -B

- *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*
- *2nd Collection: Share Life Free Will*
- *Bundle Up Sunday*
- *St. Maria Goretti Devotions at all Masses*

9.00 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Chachati (friend)
10.30 am Mass: † Rogelio Ruiz (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Bertha Marten Lobo (Braganza family)
1.30 pm Infant Baptism
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 9 July / St. Augustine Zhao Rong, priest, & Companions, martyrs

8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Helen Serneo)
7.00 pm Mass: † Swarna Ameresekere (family)

Tuesday, 10 July

8.00 am Mass: † Jesus Regola (family)

Wednesday, 11 July / St. Benedict, abbot

8.00 am Mass: Int. Dino Aseo for Healing (Corazon & family)

Thursday, 12 July

8.00 am Mass: Int. Heather & Jim Howell (Marie Collins)

Friday, 13 July / St. Henry

8.00 am Mass: † Giuseppe Bianchini (Irma Pisciola)

Saturday, 14 July

8.00 am Mass: Int. Birthday Marjorie Joseph (Mom, Agnes)
5.00 pm Mass: † Mary & Phillip Fernando (Manuel)
6.00 pm Knights of Columbus meeting and Installation

SUNDAY, 15 JULY / 15 -B

- *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

9.00 am Mass: Int. Alwina Fernando (friends)
10.30 am Mass: Int. Scotley Johnson Jr. (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Eduardo Villanueva (Cristeta)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

6 July **Conversion: Developing True Relationship**
(Mass at 7 pm, Meeting at 7.30 pm)

Thinking of becoming Catholic? Leave a message for the Pastor at: 416-261-0076, and come to the next meeting for Inquirers.

Focus on the Word

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Ezekiel 2.3-5; 2 Corinthians 12.7-10; Mark 6.1-6

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. Amen.

ShareLife



Many thanks to all parishioners for your support of our parish 2018 *ShareLife* Appeal!

If you have not yet had a chance to participate in our parish Appeal, there is still time to help us reach our goal!

Our Parish goal for 2018 is: \$50,000.00

Total Raised to Date is: \$27,642.00

A freewill offering will be taken on: **8 July**.

Please donate, and help us reach our goal! Your generosity will help bring compassion and hope to others.

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe



15 – 21 November 2018

Under the spiritual direction of **Fr. Edwin Galea**. Enrich your faith with memories that will remain in your heart. \$2,199.00 Canadian per person; includes all taxes and tips. For more info, call: **Michael Kwadrans**, 647-887-4069.

BUNDLE UP Sunday 8 July

On the weekend of 7/8 July, the *Society of St. Vincent de Paul* will collect gently-used clothing to support the needy. A St. Vincent de Paul bin will be in front of the Church; bring your donation, and help others in our community.

8 July: ShareLife Appeal, Freewill Offering

On 8 July, the 2nd collection will be the *Freewill* Offering for our annual *ShareLife Appeal*, which raises funds in support of 33 Catholic agencies and 10 grant recipients, respecting the sanctity of all human life.

COMING UP

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20 July Wedding: Mane – D'Souza (2:30 pm)
27 July Wedding: Bharwani – Paul (11:00 am)
28 July St. Anne's Feastday Mass (1.00 pm)
29 July 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*

5 Aug. Feast of the Dedication of the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**;
- **Fr. Elias Chachati**, birthday (1955)

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

See the *Stewardship* article, and the kind invitation to a Summer Picnic: page 3 in the website bulletin.

Day of Prayer and Sharing

15 August 2018

The Precious Blood Fathers are hosting a Day of Prayer and Sharing on August 15, 2018.

This will be a Day of Prayer taking place at 13313 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 0P8.

Contact: **Ann Mullan**, 416-449-9788

Itinerary:

- 7.30 am Bus leaves Precious Blood Parish
- 10.00 am Arrive in Niagara Falls
- 10.30 am Mass presided by Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi,
Apostolic Nuncio to Canada
Includes renewal of vows for all USC Members
- 12.00 pm Presentation by Rev. John Colacino, CPPS
Theme: *Life Lived in the Blood of Christ is Precious*
Lunch (*Please bring your own lunch.*)
- 2.30 pm Individual Group Sharing
- 3.30 pm Sharing with the Whole Assembly
- 4.30 pm Final Prayers of Thanksgiving and Conclusion
- 5.00 pm Return trip to Precious Blood Parish in Toronto

Stewardship

Sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure

We are in the process of making our final commitment to this year's ShareLife Campaign which ends officially on July 31st. Those who will benefit from your generosity will be forever grateful for your faithful stewardship.

What exactly does "Stewardship" mean?

The dictionary defines a Steward as: One who manages another's property, finances, or other affairs.

In reality, isn't this what we are doing when we consider the fact that God has truly been the source of all the blessings we enjoy? God is the owner and we are the manager or "steward" of what He has entrusted us with.

Our first focus must be on the knowledge that without God we would have no real blessing in the first place. Deuteronomy 8:18 says, "Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth, by fulfilling, as he has done now, the covenant which he swore to your fathers."

These words in Deuteronomy were given by Moses to the people prior to their entry into the Promised Land. They were warned to always remember that regardless of what blessings they might encounter to remember the Lord as the giver of those blessings!

While most people celebrate Thanksgiving on one day of the year, as Christians we can take that many steps farther, and be thankful on a daily basis for the provision of God. As we recognize God as the owner of everything, in turn our giving is not nearly as "painful" as it might be if we view ourselves as the "owner." Testimony after testimony has been given and written about the faithfulness of God providing as these as these important steps of faith are taken.

We rejoice in the faithfulness of God's people as we continue to reach our community, and yes, even our world through our various charitable works carried on in our archdiocese.

God bless you for your prayerful response to the many needs of our community.

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[The five wise bridesmaids kept oil for their lamps.]

The Five Wise Bridesmaids

In Matthew 25, Jesus gives three parables, stories that teach a spiritual lesson. The first parable is the one of the ten bridesmaids preparing to meet the bridegroom. Five don't have enough oil and cannot meet him. The story is a continuation of Matthew 24, when Jesus's disciples asked him about his Second Coming. Each of us must answer for ourselves to the question, "Are you prepared?"

Summer Picnic 8 July

A Special Invitation to our Parishioners

St. Maria Goretti Parishioners have been given an invitation from the Arab Community Centre to a Picnic at Morningside Park, 390 Morningside Avenue.

Sunday, 8 July, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

For more information, call: Shadi Shami (416) 231-7746, ext. 225.

St. Vincent de Paul Thank You

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul, St. Maria Goretti Conference **thanks all parishioners** for your generosity towards your neighbors in need. These people whom you help do not know your name, so on their behalf we are saying "Thank You and God Bless you" for your kindness and generosity. We are extremely grateful to our Pastor, Fr. Edwin, and to Fr. Elias for their help and support of our Conference.

Twin Parish in Peru – Gracias to our Canadian Friends

St. Magdalene Conference is active. We provide material support by delivering food baskets, moral and spiritual support to 14 families in need. Assisted by providing medication, visited the sick in hospitals, provided companionship to older people and helped 5 families to pay for services such as water, electricity and rent. This support was provided through St. Maria Goretti Parishioners' generosity.

We pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary and our Patron St. Vincent de Paul to bless you for you for your generosity towards us.

- **Alcionet Rodriguez Oviedo**, St. Magdalene Conference, Peru

Never worry about numbers.
Help one person at a time,
and always start with the
person nearest to you.

- **Mother Teresa**

