

# 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 altars and sanctuary furnishings are constructed in Quebec black unpolished marble.

Fr. Desaulniers celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> 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 improvements to the interior of the Church, and he shepherded the parish through its participation in the World Youth Day celebration in 2002, as well as its 50<sup>th</sup> 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* (North 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, 19 August 2018

### Saturday, 18 Aug.

- 8.00 am Mass: † For the unborn (Audrey)  
3.00 pm Wedding: Rex Arrieta & Krystle Entea  
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Antonipillai (family)

### SUNDAY, 19 AUG. / 20-B

- *Homilist: Fr. Gregor Schmidt*  
■ *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Mission Co-op*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Ed Flood (Patrick De Caires)  
10.30 am Mass: † Angela de Caires (Son & Daughter)  
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Joanna Patricia for Healing  
(Zenaida Santiago)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

### Monday, 20 Aug. / St. Bernard, abbot & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Reynaldo Carratena (Carreon family)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Sami & Basima Jamal  
(Beatriz Yamal & daughter)

### Tuesday, 21 Aug / St. Pius X, pope

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Scott Fleming (Mary Faulkner)

### Wednesday, 22 Aug. / Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8.00 am Mass: † Francisco Guzman (Togade Villegas family)

### Thursday, 23 Aug. / St. Rose of Lima, virgin

- 8.00 am Mass: † Jose Collado (family)

### Friday, 24 Aug. / St. Bartholomew, apostle

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Marious & Judine  
25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (family)  
7.00 pm Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe

### Saturday, 25 Aug. / St. Louis of France

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias (friend)  
1.30 pm Wedding: Dhan Pinlac & Joanne Carreon  
3.30 pm 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Ann. Mass, Girlie & Mailo Padillo  
5.00 pm Mass: † Maria & Dominic Fernandes (Joe)

### SUNDAY, 26 AUG. / 21-B

- *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*  
■ *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Maintenance*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Jean & John Dabrowski (Ray)  
10.30 am Mass: † Lydia & Ernesto Rodas (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Eduardo Villanueva (Cristeta & family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Finance Council, R&R Committee

The next Finance Council and R&R Committee meeting will be at 10.00 am on Friday, 24 August. The engineers from MORRISON HERSFIELD and the contractors from RENOKREW will review the progress of the work underway on the Rectory basement.

## The New Trees

Many thanks to the parishioners who signed up to help plant the new trees that are being donated by the Arab Community Centre. The implementation schedule has been delayed by several weeks. The ACC will keep in touch with our parish, and let us know when it is appropriate to move forward. If anyone missed the announcement earlier this Summer, and is interested in helping, go to the Office after Mass and ask to sign the *Tree List*. You can also check out the ACC website: [acconline.ca](http://acconline.ca)

## Focus on the Word

### 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

**Proverbs 9.1-6; Ephesians 5.15-20; John 6.51-58**

*O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which eye can see, fill our hearts, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. Amen.*

## November Pilgrimage to the Historical Centre of Mexico, and the Guadalupe Shrine 15 – 21 November 2018



See the notices on the Vestibule bulletin board, and the PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE in the website bulletin.

\$2,199.00 Canadian per person; includes all taxes and tips.

For more info, contact: **Michael Kwadrans**, 647-887-4069.

There will be a MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE at 7.00 pm on Friday, 24 August.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – 19 August: Mission Co-op

On Sunday, 19 August, the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection will be for our annual parish Mission Co-op Appeal. This year, we are honoured to host **Fr. Gregor Schmidt** who will be speaking on behalf of the COMBONI MISSIONARIES.

**Fr. Gregor Schmidt** was born in 1973 in Berlin, Germany. He spent a year in the United States in Ohio as an exchange student where he was inspired to become an active Christian. Some years later, while reflecting on his vocation, he decided to be sent as a lay missionary to a parish in Peru where he met the Comboni Missionaries.

After the novitiate in Italy, he went to Nairobi (Kenya) to study and to work in a slum, and in 2009, in temporal vows, to South Sudan. (See page 3 on the website for more details.)

## COMING UP

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- 3 Sept. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)  
8 Sept. Wedding: Best – Ganio (3:00 pm)  
9 Sept. Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)  
12 Sept. **Fr. Richard Veltri**, death anniversary (2011)  
16 Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: *Maintenance*;  
Knights of Columbus (1:00 pm);  
- Christopher Leadership Course (to 2 Dec., Holy Trinity Church)  
23 Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Needs of the Church in Canada  
29 Sept. Feast of **Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael**, archangels  
30 Sept. - 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: *Maintenance*;  
Catholic Women League Meeting (12:00 pm)  
1 Oct. **Bishop Michael Power**, death anniversary (1847)  
17 Oct. Legal marijuana sales begin in Canada

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

See the *Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe* and the full biography of **Fr. Gregor Schmidt** on page 3 in the website bulletin.

## 19 August: Annual Mission Co-op Appeal

# Comboni Missionaries

Our Mission Co-op Preacher this year is **Fr. Gregor Schmidt** of the Comboni Missionaries.

Fr Gregor was born in 1973 in Berlin, Germany.

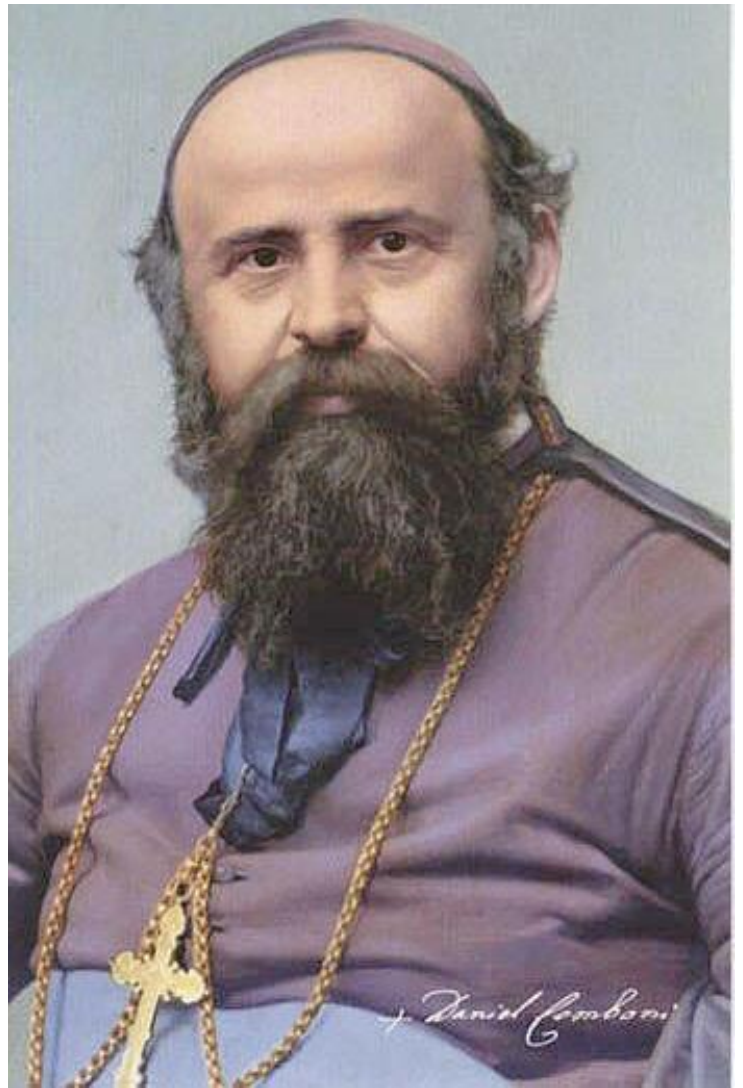
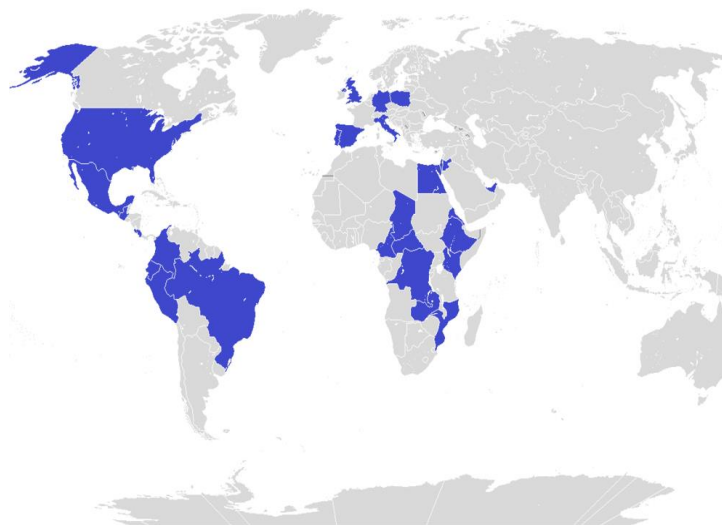
He spent a year in the United States in Ohio as an exchange student where he was inspired to become an active Christian. Some years later, while reflecting on his vocation, he decided to be sent as a lay missionary to a parish in Peru where he became acquainted with the Comboni Missionaries.

After the novitiate in Italy, he went to Nairobi, Kenya, to study and to work in a slum; then in 2009, still in temporal vows, to South Sudan.

His first mission was among the Mundari, polygamous pastoralists, where he opened a faith-based primary school. After his ordination in 2011, he was sent to live among the Nuer who have a culture like the Mundari.

The Comboni Missionaries founded the parish there only 20 years ago and engage in first evangelization. The first generation of Catholics is still alive. The pastoral work consists mainly in training catechists and visiting chapels in the wetlands of the Nile under difficult circumstances. There are no roads. The furthest chapels are three days away on foot. The land is flooded by the river and rains much of the year.

Fr Gregor also runs the only primary exam center for all the schools in the region which has an illiteracy rate of over 95%. The program prepares the students two years before they sit for the state exams. In the parish, less than one percent of the people have completed primary school.



[Left: Countries where Comboni Missionaries operate.

Above, top: **Fr. Daniel Comboni**, the founder of the Comboni Missionaries;

Above, lower: Comboni Mission Center of LaGrange Park, Illinois. Mission Director **Fr. Chris Aleti**; Superior, **Fr. Jose Manuel Garcia Oviedo**, and Bursar, **Fr. David Baltz**].