



## Parish Week / Sunday, 23 December 2018

### Saturday, 22 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † For the Unborn (Audrey)  
 11.00 am Memorial Mass: James Samadhin  
 5.00 pm Mass: † Melquiadis Cesar Deangkinay  
 (Carmelo & family)

### SUNDAY, 23 DEC. / ADVENT 4-C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

- 9.00 am Mass: † William Woods (Alice Larkin)  
 10.30 am Mass: † Fernando Narvaez (family)  
 12.00 pm Mass: † Eduardo Villaneuva (Cristeta & family)  
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

### Monday, 24 December

- 8.00 am Mass: † Nancy Bayer (Audrey Caza)  
 7.00 pm Mass: † Melecia Victorino (Ralph)

### CHRISTMAS EVE

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

- 9.00 pm Mass: † Helena Sarker (Shishir D'Rozario)  
 11.30 pm Choir Caroling  
 12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Priscilla Balano (family)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

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

- 9.00 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias (friend)  
 10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto & Lydia Rodas (family)  
 12.00 pm Mass: † Mary & Paul Galea (Pauline)  
 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Joel Benedict (Preethi)

### Wednesday, 26 Dec. / St. Stephen, the first martyr

- 8.00 am Mass: † Charles D'Silva (Lydia & family)

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

- 8.00 am Mass: † Anna Maria Doti (Nancy Macchia)

### Friday, 28 Dec. / Holy Innocents

- 8.00 am Mass: † Eileen Laird (Jude McLaughlin)

### Saturday, 29 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Fred & John Fritz (Valerie)  
 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Rebello family)  
 6.30 pm Children's Choir Concert

### SUNDAY, 30 DEC. / HOLY FAMILY

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*  
 ■ *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Maintenance*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Gaetano Graci (McLaughlin family)  
 10.30 am Mass: † Audrey Hussey (Evelyn Walsh)  
 12.00 pm Mass: † Gary Lynn Faulkner (Justin & Joey Saturno)  
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

# The Advent Wreath

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

*At the beginning of Mass, the Priest will call a family to light the Advent Candle. At the end, the congregation prays:*

**Father, You called Mary to be the mother of Your Son, so that the world could be saved and brought to a new birth. Help us also to bring the light and peace of Christ where there is gloom and despair.**

**We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Today's Candle lighters are:*

- 5.00 pm: **Garma, Edward & family**  
 9.00 am: **Alice Larkin & Angela Russino**  
 10.30 am: **Magbalot family**  
 12.00 pm: **St. Maria Goretti Children's Choir**  
 7.00 pm: **Joshy, Noel and Albert Abel**

## Christmas Collections

### 22 / 23 December: Offertory

On 23/24 December, the collection taken by the Greeters at the Preparation of the Gifts will be for the *Regular Sunday Offertory*.

### 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.

### 29 / 30 December: Offertory & Maintenance

On 30/31 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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### 2019

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|---------|--|
| 1 Jan.  | The Solemnity of <b>Mary, Mother of God</b> ;<br>– 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: <i>New Year's</i>                   |
| 5 Jan.  | 40 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Dolly & Manuel (11:00 am)  |
| 6 Jan.  | Feast of the <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b>   |
| 7 Jan.  | Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)  |
| 13 Jan. | Feast of the <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> ;<br>Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)  |
| 16 Jan. | St. Albert School 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion<br>Family Information Night (7:30 pm) |
| 19 Jan. | Wedding: San Gabriel – Quiros (10:00 am)   |

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

For more information on *Apostolic Tradition*, see page 3 in the bulletin on our website.

## Finance Council Report 23 December

The annual FINANCE COUNCIL Report will be presented at all Masses on 22 & 23 December.

## Christmas Pageant 6.15 pm, 24 December

Parents of children who would like to participate in the Christmas Pageant at 6.15 pm on 24 December are invited to call: **Anastasia Williams**, 416-285-5303. Rehearsals are underway.

## Stewardship A Call to Gratitude

Faith is a gift. It is a beacon of light that shines in our darkness. We all experience the pain, suffering and confusion that are caused by darkness in our lives.

Sin and death are the primary expressions of darkness that no human person - except the Blessed Virgin Mary, by the grace of God - can escape. We cannot overcome the world's darkness by our own efforts, but our faith tells us that we can open our minds and hearts to the light of Christ and, so, "journey through time" illumined by his brightness.



## ShareLife 2018

### You can work wonders !

ShareLife has released its annual REPORT TO DONORS, sharing the results of the 2018 Campaign and detailing how your generosity is making a difference in the lives of those in need. Copies of the report have been distributed through the Parish Office. If you missed receiving one, it can be read online at: [www.sharelife.org](http://www.sharelife.org)



## Sunday School Christmas / New Year break

The last *Sunday School for Kids* before Christmas: at the 10.30 Mass on **16 December 2018**.

The Sunday School will resume: at the 10.30 Mass on **6 January 2019**.

## Children's Choir

Concert, 6:30 pm, 29 December

The St. Maria Goretti Children's Choir, founded in 1997, welcomes all parishioners to join in celebrating its 21 year anniversary, with a concert:



*"Singing the Joy of the Gospel in Songs"*

Featuring all the music ministries in the parish, with guest appearances, steel pan & more. Refreshments to follow.



## Christmas Message

The Lord Jesus came to lift us from darkness, to gladden our hearts, make clear the goal of life. Jesus came to reveal God to us. He is the face of God. He came not only to show us why God created us, but also to lead us to the Eternal Home He made for us. He shows us that God loves us and works constantly to draw us to Himself.

Scripture says, "See, I make all things new." (Rev. 21:5) No wonder we sing, "Joy to the World" at Christmas.

All our hopes, all our joys, all our peace rest in Jesus.

So we celebrate His birth with exceedingly great joy, for He was born to help us change from Old to New:

from Greed to Generosity,

Selfishness to Love for Others,

Thoughtlessness to Thoughtfulness,

Despair to Hope,

Inner Confusion to Peace,

Despondency to Joy,

Fear to Trust in God,

Ingratitude to Gratitude

being Earthbound to being full of Desire for Heaven

We must – we absolutely must – celebrate Christmas.

Whatever you may be suffering, whatever your disappointments, whatever the state of your health, whatever the state of your prayer life, let the peace, joy, and hope of Christmas fill you through and through.

If anything has happened to alienate you from Jesus, use this season to make it right with Him.

He loves you and is waiting for you.

May our Mother Mary cover you with her mantle of love as you and your family continue to welcome the presence of the Savior to your homes.

And may the joy of Christmas and the peace which Jesus brings into the world be in your hearts forever.

Fr. Edwin Galea, *Pastor*

Fr. Elias Chachati, *Associate*

Rev. Mr. Ramon Villardo, *Deacon*





## Apostolic Tradition

*What Christ entrusted to the Apostles, they in turn handed on by their preaching and writing, to all generations.*

Apostolic Tradition is the transmission of the message of Christ, brought about from the very beginnings of Christianity by means of preaching, bearing witness, institutions, worship, and inspired writings. The apostles transmitted all they received from Christ and learned from the Holy Spirit to their successors, the bishops, and through them to all generations until the end of the world.

Through Tradition, “the Church, in her doctrine, life and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes,” “The sayings of the holy Fathers are a witness to the life-giving presence of this Tradition, showing how its riches are poured out in the practice and life of the Church, in her belief and her prayer.” Apostolic Tradition occurs in two ways: through the living transmission of the word of God (also simply called Tradition) and through Sacred Scripture which is the same proclamation of salvation in written form.

Tradition and Sacred Scripture are bound closely together and communicate one with the other. Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ. They flow out of the same divine well-spring and together make up one sacred deposit of faith from which the Church derives her certainty about revelation.

The Tradition here in question comes from the apostles and hands on what they received from Jesus’ teaching and example and what they learned from the Holy Spirit. The first generation of Christians did not yet have a written New Testament, and the New Testament itself demonstrates the process of living Tradition.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

## Spiritual Reflection

Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I am preparing for my Psychology class.

I asked her to define success in her own words. She said,

“Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile.”



The Church welcomes new members with joy and provides their families with appropriate support to sustain and guide them in their journey of faith.

An important prayer for a newborn child is the PRAYER OF BLESSING OF AN INFANT in Preparation for Baptism. It should be conducted the first chance after birth. Above: **Dawson Christian Lumilan**, born 28 November 2018, is blessed at his first visit to Church on Sunday, 9 December 2018. God bless you, Dawson, and your whole family!

## St. Vincent de Paul Advent Appeal

During Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we recall many in our community who are less fortunate and who could benefit from our prayers and almsgiving.

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society seeks your support for the help we provide to the poor. Envelopes will be made available at the doors of the Church so that you can help us to extend Christ’s love to our neighbors who are in need.

## Stewardship

### 2019 Sunday Envelopes

Parishioners are invited to pick up their 2019 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 community of faith.

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

My Offering	
Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matt. 6:21	Name: _____
	Address: _____
	Amount: _____