



Parish Week / Sunday, 22 December 2019

Saturday, 21 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas (Charles)
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Lillian D'Souza (friends)

SUNDAY, 22 DEC. / ADVENT 4-A

- *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*
■ *Fr. Armand Joseph Desaulniers: death anniversary (1988)*

- 9.00 am Mass: † William Woods (Alice Larkin)
10.30 am Mass: † Josefina Ombac (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Andrea Besario (family)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 23 December / St. John of Kanty, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Souls in Purgatory
7.00 pm Mass: † Leo Rabanar (family)

Tuesday, 24 December

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Febin George (family)

CHRISTMAS EVE

- *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea (Christmas Eve & Day)*
■ *2nd Collection: Christmas*

- 7.00 pm Mass: † Agnes Sequeira (Domenic Dias)
9.00 pm Mass: Int. Fr. Elias (friend)
11.30 pm Choir Caroling
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Priscilla Balano (family)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, 25 Dec. / The Nativity of the Lord

- 9.00 am Mass: † William Ndep (family)
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto & Lydia Rodas (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Jose S. Martinez (Marilou)
7.00 pm Mass: † Deceased members of the D'Mello & Mendes family (Loretta)

Thursday, 26 Dec. / St. Stephen, the first martyr

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

Friday, 27 Dec. / St. John, apostle & evangelist

- 8.00 am Mass: † Concepcion Arines (Greg Matubis)

Saturday, 28 Dec. / Holy Innocents

- 8.00 am Mass: † Freddie Wallace
10.00 am Memorial Mass: † Gabriel Micah Zapanta
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit (Rebello family)

SUNDAY, 29 DEC. / HOLY FAMILY

- *Deacon Ramon Villardo*
■ *2nd Collection: Maintenance*
9.00 am Mass: Int. Michael Solomon (sister)
10.30 am Mass: † Lalita D'Souza (Joseph)
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Chachati (friend)
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 **Mylene & Marco Solisa**
9.00 am **Jocelyn Antigua**
10.30 am **Jerome & Lorna Gomes**
12.00 pm **St. Vincent de Paul Conference**
7.00 pm **Lillian, Annabel, Isabelle & Esme**

Pray for the Deceased

Lydia Marquez Alberto Alcantara
Peter Bogner Margarita Copia
Antonio Abdallah Fr. Guenter Petricek
Rudolph Rampersaud

The **15 victims** of the earthquake in Albania



Christmas Collections

21 / 22 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 2nd Christmas collection for our Special Church Needs will be taken after Communion at our Christmas Eve & Day Masses, 24/25 December.

28/ 29 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 2nd 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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| 1 Jan. | The Solemn Feast of Mary, Mother of God ;
– Collection: <i>New Year</i> |
| 5 Jan. | Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord |
| 6 Jan. | Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm) |
| 12 Jan. | Feast of the Baptism of the Lord ;
– Infant Baptism (1.30 pm) |

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For more information on these and other parish activities, see pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.

Christmas Flowers

Parishioners are invited to sponsor this year's display of CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS in our Sanctuary. Donation envelopes are at the Office window.



If you wish to *dedicate* your flowers, please fill out the "Christmas Flower" form in the donation envelope. Dedications will be accepted until noon on Monday, 23 December.

The forms are intended to remember *one person* for each pot donated. If you wish to honour more than one person, you may submit the name of a pair who share a common family name; or, for many persons, "For the members of the _____ Family."

Finance Council 21 December

The next Finance Council and R&R Committee meeting will be at 3.30 pm on Saturday, 21 December.

Finance Council Report 22 December

The annual FINANCE COUNCIL Report will be presented at all Masses on 21 & 22 December.

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.

Sunday Missals

The new Sunday Missals have arrived for the next liturgical year, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent on 1 December 2019. Pick up your copy at the Parish Office for \$5.

Sunday School Christmas / New Year break

The last *Sunday School for Kids* before Christmas: at the 10.30 Mass on **15 December 2019**.

The Sunday School will resume: at the 10.30 Mass on **5 January 2020**.

The Meaning of Christmas

Every new-born child is a sign pointing to the truth that life is stronger than death. Every birth is a sign that creates hope. But the child we celebrate this Christmas more than this natural hope. As God's love for us and his interest in human kind is revealed in this child, his birth gives rise to the final hope that in God and with God life certainly is stronger than death, love certainly stronger than hatred, and God and his mercy certainly stronger than our human and irrational attempts to destroy ourselves and the whole of creation. "Peace to all people who enjoy God's favor!" This is the message of Christmas, brought to us by the Angel who announced the birth of the Messiah.

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



Stewardship 2020 Sunday Envelopes

Parishioners are invited to pick up their *2020 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!* Introduce yourself to the pastor or to one of our greeters, and fill out a *registration form* at the Office window.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your weekly stewardship! This is an act of honour to God, our Creator.

Please ensure that you have your own box: *the number on the label and on the envelopes* must be the same. If there is any discrepancy, advise the parish office. If you use someone else's envelopes, your donation would be credited to the other person.

Donation amounts

For the benefit of new parishioners: Please ensure that your *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.

Make sure to use your tax receipts

The government rarely gives any tax dollars back, except for charitable donations. Everyone gets a credit of 17% on the first \$200.00 donated and 29% on any amount over that. Here's an example: if you give \$10.00 a week to the church (which means \$520.00 per year) you will wind up with a tax credit of \$128.80! So, if you are not using the envelopes, you are not taking advantage of the tax break our government is offering. To get your own envelopes, and an official tax receipt next year, fill in the form in the front of this bulletin and give it to an usher.

Parish Memorials

A lasting legacy: Remember **St. Maria Goretti Church** in your will. Such a gift would enable you to express your affection for your Parish in a tangible way. By leaving a bequest, you help to ensure the vitality of our ministries and the work we do for God's Kingdom in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Parishioners may also make a special gift to the Church as a *Memorial* in honour of a loved family member. Speak privately to the Pastor for details: 416-261-0076.



The O Antiphons

During the Advent season churches everywhere ring out with the hymn “**O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**”

The hymn is one of the oldest Advent traditions, deeply tied to the liturgy leading up to Christmas.

Throughout history the verses of the hymn were known as the “*O Antiphons*” or “Great Antiphons.” **Father William Saunders** explains, “Boethius (c. 480-524) made a reference to them; by the 8th Century, they were used in the Roman liturgy.” The use of the *O Antiphons* can be traced back to the very early Church.

Traditionally these verses are sung during the Liturgy of the Hours (also known as the Divine Office), and precede the recitation of the “Magnificat” (see Luke 1:46-55). **Dom Guéranger** explains in his *Liturgical Year* the symbolism of singing these verses during Evening Prayer (Vespers).

The canonical *Hour of Vespers* has been selected as the most appropriate time for this solemn supplication to our Savior, because, as the Church sings in one of her hymns, it was in the Evening of the world (*vergente mundi vespere*) that the Messiah came among us. These Antiphons are sung at the *Magnificat*, to show us that the Savior, whom we expect, is to come to us by Mary.

Each antiphon (or each verse of the hymn) is recited / sung on successive days leading up to Christmas, starting on 17 December and ending on 23 December. The antiphons are biblically based and feature a different title of the Messiah from the Old Testament.

In various monasteries they added additional antiphons, such as one to “Our Blessed Lady, *O Virgo Virginum*,” and the other to the Angel Gabriel, *O Gabriel*; or to St. Thomas the Apostle, whose feast comes during the Greater Ferias; it began *O Thoma Didyme*.

The antiphons are a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas and have always had a special place in the hearts of Christians. Following are the traditional O Antiphons and the day on which they are sung.

17 December

O WISDOM OF OUR GOD MOST HIGH,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

18 December

O LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

19 December

O ROOT OF JESSE’S STEM, sign of God’s love for
all his people: come to save us without delay!

20 December

O KEY OF DAVID,
opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

21 December

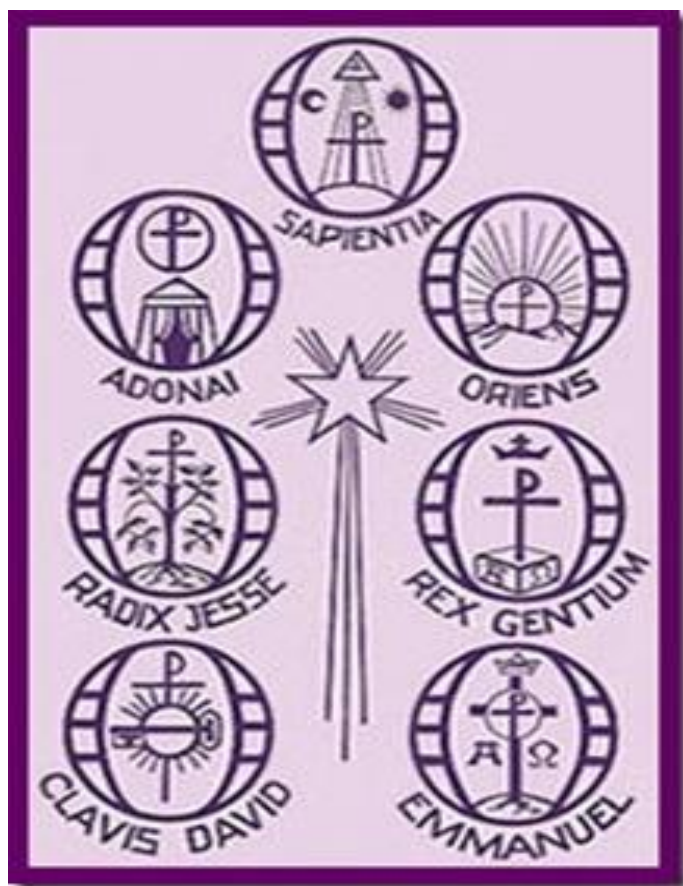
O RADIANT DAWN, splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell
in darkness and in the shadow of death.

22 December

O KING OF ALL NATIONS and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

23 December

O EMMANUEL, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!





Pope Francis

50th Anniversary – 13 Dec. 2019

On December 13, 1969, four days before his 33rd birthday, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was ordained a priest.

The now Pope Francis received this Sacrament with the imposition of hands of the Archbishop of Cordoba, Monsignor Ramon Jose Castellano.

Young Jorge discovered his vocation on September 21, 1953, Memorial of Saint Matthew, the tax collector who converted when Jesus invited him to follow Him. During a Confession, he had a profound experience of God's mercy, a joy that led him to decide to be a priest, reported "Vatican News."

Divine Mercy has marked Francis' priestly life. For him, priests leave everything to dedicate themselves to the daily life of communities, giving their lives to others; they are moved by the sheep, as Jesus was when He saw tired and exhausted persons as sheep without a shepherd."

"So, in the image of the Good Shepherd, a priest is a man of mercy and compassion, close to the people and servant of all. This is a pastoral criterion that I would like to stress well: closeness. Proximity and service, but proximity, closeness . . . Whoever is wounded in life can find in the priest care and listening . . . The wounds need to be healed

— many wounds! This is the time of mercy (Address to Parish Priests, Rome, March 6, 2014)."

Eucharist, Meaning of Life

The Pope also believes that the priest is a man whose center in life is Christ, not himself. That is why he shows his gratitude to presbyters for the daily celebration of the Eucharist. "In the Eucharistic Celebration, we find every day our identity as Pastors. Every time we can make truly our own Jesus' words: 'This is my Body that is given up for you,'" points out the same source.

"This is the meaning of our life, they are the words with which, in a certain way, we can renew daily the promises of our Ordination" (Homily for the Jubilee of Priests, June 3, 2016)," he

Mission in the Confessional

Moreover, the Holy Father also highlights that the Church's Pastors carry out an important part of their mission in the Confessional "It's normal that there are different styles among the confessors, but these differences can't refer to the essence, namely, a healthy moral doctrine and mercy," he says about the Sacrament of Penance.

He also warns that it's not advisable for a confessor to show either a "rigorous" or "lax" attitude. "The rigorist washes his hands: he nails it, in fact, to the law understood in a cold and rigid way," whereas the lax confessor "washes his hands: he is only apparently merciful but, in reality, he doesn't take the problems of that conscience seriously, minimizing the sin. Genuine mercy takes charge of the person, listens to him attentively, gets close, with respect and truth, to his situation, and accompanies him in the journey of reconciliation (Address to Parish Priests of Rome, March 6, 2014)."

Men "of Prayer"

The Bishop of Rome also stresses the importance of prayer in Pastors' life. "The priest is, in the first place, a man of prayer. It is from intimacy with Jesus that charity springs. It's union with God that makes one overcome the innumerable temptations of evil."

In this connection, he stresses, "the devil exists; he isn't a myth; he is astute, a liar, deceiver. Francis invites to look at Mary, to pray the Rosary every day, especially at this time, to protect the Church from the devil's attacks who want to bring division (Letter to Priests on the 160th Anniversary of the Death of the Cure of Ars)."

Daily Life and Last Judgment

The Pontiff believes that a priest's spirituality is also incarnate in daily life, a "prophetic voice" in the face of oppression that mistreats the poor and the weak. The Church, he says, "cannot and must not stay on the margin in the fight for justice," relegating religion, as some would like, 'to persons' secret intimacy, without any influence on social and national life' (Evangelii Gaudium, 183), given that the Kingdom of God begins here, on earth, and it is where we find Jesus.

In this line, he remarks that the Last Judgment will focus precisely on what we have done to Christ in the poor, in the sick, in strangers, in the imprisoned (Matthew 25) and that, as John Paul II pointed out, we will be judged by love; however, the latter can't exist without justice.



Above: **Toronto:** Nathan Philips Square.

Below: **New York:** Rockefeller Center. AP Photo





Above: **Vatican City:** St. Peter Square. Alamy Photo

Below: **Toronto:** St. Michael Cathedral. Cathedral Photo





*Above: **Jamal Khashoggi**, prior to his murder and dismemberment in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, 2 October 2018. Reuters Photo*

Below: NATO Summit members at Buckingham Palace, 3 December 2019. NATO Photo





MH photo – Removal of old oil storage tank.

Repairs & Renovation - Project Report

Consultant Morrison Hershfield | Honeycomb Group Inc.

Renokrew worked alongside *Morrison Hershfield* on the Envelope Repairs and Renovations to St. Maria Goretti Parish. The project involved the removal of existing pavement, foundation block replacements, structural column repairs, interior and exterior waterproofing of the main foundation walls, concrete terrace repairs and waterproofing, excavation and underpinning, full replacement of all existing sanitary, extensive mechanical upgrades including the installation of new extended depth sump pits, cladding repairs, new floor, wall and ceiling finishes. Additional soft landscaping, asphalt and concrete pavement also took place around the building. The client's goal was to address the leaking foundation which was caused by the high water-table, replace existing and corroded

infrastructure, and carry out necessary repairs to the building foundation and structural columns. The project's location meant the project team collaborated closely with the Archdiocese as well as the neighbouring TCDSB to minimize the impact of construction on parishioners as well as the general public.

All involved parties received a weekly schedule and monthly reports, including sequenced room schedules as well as "move-out" and "move-in" days for different areas of the building. One of the major challenges apart from the high water table, was working directly in the path of the adjacent schools' bus route. *Renokrew* prepared and adhered by a stringent schedule that allowed for maintaining an Emergency Fire Route for the entire duration of the project. Owing to the project team's organized and rigorous action planning, the project was successfully completed within the time frame.