



Parish Week † 13 Dec. 2020

Saturday, 12 Dec. / Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 8.00 am Mass: † Susairj Pimulnathan (Senegal Gudur family)
 12.30 pm Memorial Mass: † J. Lalicon
 2.30 pm St. Maria Goretti School 1st Communion Mass (#7)
 5.00 pm Mass: † Lalita D'Souza (Joseph)

SUNDAY, 13 DEC. / ADVENT 3-B

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Kevin Pierre (family)
 10.30 am Mass: † The Deverno & Shea families (Pamela)
 12.00 pm Mass: † Eddie Juan (wife Shirley)
 1.30 pm Infant Baptism
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 14 Dec. / St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Mike Gracias, First Death Anniversary (Isabelle)
 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Loretta D'Mello (friends)

Tuesday, 15 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Ana & Joaquin Gotera (children)
 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving
 Ray & Dolly Aglipay (family)

Wednesday, 16 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Maria Coutinho (Tessie Mendonca)
 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Chachati (friend)

Thursday, 17 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Imanol Rebeiro (Greta Gomes)
 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Arnjen & Don Alex)

Friday, 18 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving
 23rd Wedding Anniversary (Gomes family)
 11.00 am ► Ina Grafton Nursing Home Mass
 3.00 pm Wedding: Chi Kin Kwan & Babbglyn Lumbers
 7.00 pm Mass: † Henry Carta (Shine)

Saturday, 19 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Chachati (friend)
 3.00 pm Wedding: Amit D'Souza & Hong Le
 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Peter Joseph (Mom, Agnes)

SUNDAY, 20 DEC. / ADVENT 4-B

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Luigi DeCicco (Emma)
 10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto & Lydia Rodas
 12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Julie
 (Eddie D'Souza & family)
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

The Advent Wreath

Third 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 us to share Christ's ministry to a troubled world. Fill us with Your Spirit, so that we may faithfully proclaim Your Word in all we say and do, until Your Kingdom comes on Earth.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Today's Candle lighters are:

- 5.00 pm: **St. Maria Goretti CWL Council**
 9.00 am: **Jejociny, Janella & Jirociny Consalas**
 10.30 am: **Patrick Esquierdo**
 12.00 pm: **Rowena, Chantello & Walter Yumol**
 7.00 pm: **Felicitas Flores**

Pray for the Deceased

Deacon Michael Conlin, Danny Mendoza

The 100 victims of Hurrican Eta in Central America & the US Gulf Coast



Christmas Collections

19 / 20 December: Offertory

On 19/20 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.

26/ 27 December: Offertory & Maintenance

On 26/27 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

13a20

22 Dec. **Fr. Armand Joseph Desaulniers:** death anniversary (1988)

24 Dec. **Christmas Eve Masses** begin at 7.00 pm

25 Dec. Christmas: Feast of the **Nativity of Our Lord**
2nd Collection: Christmas

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

No Public Masses: During the current pandemic lockdown, there will be no public Masses in Toronto and Peel. Our Church will be open for personal prayer every day from 8 am to 6 pm. The *Mass Intentions* that were booked for December before the lockdown was imposed on 23 November 2020, will all be honoured by the Priests in their private Masses. See the website bulletin.

Stewardship

2021 Sunday Envelopes

Parishioners are invited to pick up their 2021 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!

Wait until New Year

Kindly wait until 1 January 2021 to begin using your new envelopes. If you misplaced your box for the current year, visit the Office after any Sunday morning Mass and we will look after you.



Prayer for Life

Eternal Father, Source of Life, open our hearts to see and desire the beauty of Your plan for life and love. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that our love will be generous and self-giving, and we may be blessed with joy. Grant us great trust in Your mercy. Forgive us for the times we have not received Your gift of life, and heal us from the effects of the culture of death. Instill in us and in all people a sense of the sacredness of every human life. Inspire our efforts to protect and care for the most vulnerable, especially women who are pregnant and their unborn children; the sick; and the elderly. Strengthen us in the hope that with You nothing is impossible. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who by His Cross makes all things new. Amen.



Prayer for the Unborn

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of (baby's name), the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.

(Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen; Say this every day for 9 months to save a baby's life!)



☺ Your sabbath smile

How convincing

The real estate salesman was bent on selling a piece of property to a prospect. "It's a great place," he said "and the climate is so healthy. People just don't die around here."

Just then a funeral procession came into view. After a short silence, the salesman remarked gravely, "That's our poor old undertaker. He starved to death."

1st Communion and Confirmation

The celebrations of 1st HOLY COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION, which were re-scheduled from earlier this year to December 2020, have all been suspended due to the current lockdown in Toronto and Peel, which began on 23 November. No Sacrament has been cancelled; but they will have to re-scheduled again after the lockdown is lifted. The Parish catechists are working with the school staffs to ensure that all records are retained, and that these important celebrations can be held as soon as possible.

Annual Finance Report

The Annual Finance Council Report was prepared for presentation at all Masses last Sunday, 5/6 December. The text can be found on page 3 in the website bulletin.



Sunday Missals

The 2021 Sunday Missals are available at the Parish Office for \$5.

RCIA, RCIC



Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults & Children

Pray for all in our parish R.C.I.A. process, preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation, as well as the youth in our parish R.C.I.C. process.

A number of our Candidates finally received their Baptism at three Initiation Liturgies held on 5/6 December.

The RCIA meets regularly on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm, and the RCIC meets periodically on Saturday mornings; their next meeting is on 9 January 2021.

ADVENT PREPARATIONS

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, 21 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."



Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Stewardship 2020

Annual Finance Council Report

This report was prepared for presentation at all our Sunday Masses on 5/6 December 2020

Dear Parishioners:

My name is _____ ,
and I am a delegate of the *Finance Council*.

This past year, the periodic reports of the *Repair & Renewal Committee*, which is a subcommittee of the Finance Council, have outlined and explained ongoing essential repairs and upgrades that have been carried out on our Church property. Each job has been “struck off” our lengthy list of necessary and sometimes urgent repairs to our beautiful Church.

This activity includes the following jobs:

1. **SECURITY CAMERAS:** In 2019 December, delegations visited several Churches, to examine the security camera systems that had been installed there. We observed a variety of well-organized systems. Further site inspections were made to round out our evaluations for our parish.

In October 2020, our parish R&R Committee selected a firm based in Scarborough to install our camera security system. There will be 23 cameras, including one livestream camera inside the Church itself. The work will commence on 24 November. If necessary, the system will be able to accommodate up to 36 cameras in the future.

Most cameras will be on motion detectors, so that they are not recording when there is no activity.

Of course, Parishioners still need to remain alert about not leaving their valuables unattended anywhere on the Church property. Prevention is always less painful than the cure.

2. **THE OFFICE PHONE SYSTEM:** Another important issue that was addressed was the Office phone system, which has begun to show signs that it needs to be upgraded or replaced. There was a significant repair this year that reestablished the voicemail component, but it is an old system that will need to continue to be monitored.

3. **FIRE ALARM:** There is an urgent need to upgrade our fire alarm system, which was installed in 1970. We are working with *Sentinel Alarms* on this job, which will involve replacing many outdated components.

4. **TREES ON OUR PROPERTY:** Many of the trees around the Church need trimming, and at least one will have to be replaced in the near future. The R&R committee has been working with Fr. Edwin to ensure this work moves forward.

5. **REPAIR OF STEPS:** Some of the granite exterior steps had been damaged by equipment that was pulled over them, which should actually have come in via our wheelchair ramp. Both areas that were damaged have been repaired.

The Finance Council is extremely grateful to the *R & R Committee* for their competent footwork in reviewing and

assembling information that helped to finalize the contracts for the important jobs undertaken at our Church. We will continue to discuss other plans and projects. In the interim, please keep us in your prayers.

One unprecedented situation this year has been the **Covid-19 pandemic**, which has had a major impact on Parish finances. The restriction of Parish activity has been a great challenge to the faithful members of our dear community of faith, and we entrust ourselves to God’s grace and providence as we move forward.

Please continue to share your time, talent and treasure with our Parish, to the extent that is possible under the pandemic conditions, as you have so generously done in the past. This way, we can continue our “to-do list” for our beautiful Church: our House of Prayer, our Spiritual Home.

God bless you, and thank you for your attention. Please continue to ask God to bless our wonderful Parish.





Twins born while mother in coma

Dr. Perpetual Uke, a rheumatology consultant at Birmingham City Hospital, England, contracted Covid-19 while she was pregnant in March, and gave birth to twins while in a coma. She was hospitalized, moved to the CCU, placed on a ventilator, and then put into a coma in an attempt to save her life.

Doctors made the call on 10 April 2020 to deliver her babies at 26 weeks into her pregnancy. They delivered her babies by caesarian section and immediately put them into special care due to their premature births.

Baby **Osinachi Pascal** weighed 850 grams (30 ounces) at birth, while baby **Sochika Palmer** was just 770 grams (27 ounces). The boy and girl were originally expected in mid-July. Uke's husband, **Matthew**, says it was a nerve-racking time after the birth. His wife remained in the coma for another 16 days, and was disoriented when she finally woke up. He said, "It was really terrifying. Every passing day, I was hoping my wife was not among those who are dead. We are a team. The idea she might not be there was really difficult to accept."

Dr. Uke says she was terrified when she woke to see her baby bump was gone. She was suffering from ICU delirium, and was confused when staff showed her photos of her babies. She said, "They were so tiny. They didn't look like human beings. I couldn't believe they were mine." She described the births as a "miracle."





A view of the Nativity in front of St. Peter's Basilica, following the Christmas tree and nativity scene lighting ceremony, at the Vatican, Friday, Dec. 11, 2020. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

The image of baby Jesus nestled in the manger is a much-needed reminder during the pandemic that God gives the world the gift of hope in troubled times, **Pope Francis** said, as he blessed this year's Nativity Scene and Christmas Tree in St. Peter Square on 11 December. Delegations from Castelli in Italy's Abruzzo region and from Kocevje, Slovenia were present, responsible, respectively, for the Nativity scene and Christmas tree. Presiding over the ceremony were **Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello**, president of the Vatican City State governing commission, and **Bishop Fernando Vergez Alzaga**, secretary general. The Nativity scene features ceramic statues in a contemporary art style that "has its roots in the traditional working of Castelli's ceramics," said a statement from the commission. The statues in St. Peter's Square are "only a few pieces" of a 54-statue collection created by students and teachers of Castelli's F.A. GRUE ART INSTITUTE between 1965 and 1975 and includes representations of the Magi and an angel placed above ceramic statues of the Holy Family. The cylindrical ceramic statues surrounding Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus include a bagpiper, a shepherdess holding a jug and even an astronaut, meant to reference the history of ancient art and scientific achievements in the world.

Nativity Scene at St. Peter Basilica, Rome.





Nativity Scene at St. Maria Goretti Church.



[Top] Teacher **Danielle Murphy** virtually congratulates the St. Maria Goretti School Class of 2020.

[Above] An appropriate Christmas Tree ornament to celebrate the birth of the **King of Kings**.



[Top] Prayerful memories of a **New Year Eve Mass for the Faithful Departed** of the year 2017, with family members of the departed gathered around the Altar.

[Above] Friends join **Agnes Joseph** for the celebration of her 95th birthday, 22 February 2017. Agnes died this year on 19 June 2020.