



## Parish Week / Sunday, 20 December 2020

### Saturday, 19 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Chachati (friend)  
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

### Monday, 21 Dec. / St. Peter Canisius, priest & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Jessie Colaco (Jennifer)  
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Lillian D'Souza (friends)

### Tuesday, 22 Dec.

#### ■ Fr. Armand Joseph Desaulniers: death anniversary (1988)

- 8.00 am Mass: † William Woods (Alice Larkin)  
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Chachati (friend)

### Wednesday, 23 Dec. / St. John of Kanty, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Gatchalian family members (Ophelia)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Christa Eisenblatter (Lillian D'Souza)

### Thursday, 24 December

- 8.00 am Mass: † William Ndep (family)

## CHRISTMAS EVE

#### ■ Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea (Christmas Eve & Day)

#### ■ 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Christmas

- 7.00 pm Mass: † Laura Fernandes (St. Vincent de Paul, St. M.G.)  
9.00 pm Mass: † Santhiapillai Sebastampillai (Juliet)  
11.30 pm Choir Caroling  
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Priscilla Balano (family)

## CHRISTMAS DAY

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

- 9.00 am Mass: † Charles D'Silva (Lydia & family)  
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto & Lydia Rodas (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Chachati (friend)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Freddie Wallace (Paul & Rose Chan)

### Saturday, 26 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Charles D'Silva (Lydia & family)  
5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel, Francis & Christy Andreas (Maria Subramaniam)

### SUN., 27 DEC. / HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

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

- 9.00 am Mass: Int. Esther Bobji (Preethi Benedict)  
10.30 am Mass: † Maria, Lawrence & Joseph D'Cruz (Pereira family)  
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Nina Cenizal (family)  
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: Mercedes Caron  
9.00 am: Lillian, Annabel, Isabelle & Gina  
10.30 am: Daphne Dias & Cheryl Dalliday  
12.00 pm: Anita Dias  
7.00 pm: Lorne & Lancy Gomes

## Pray for the Deceased

**Geoffrey Arellano Sr.,  
Fr. Gerald Francis Dillon, Angus Dunphy,  
Palmira dos Santos Felgueiras, Francisca Secco**

**The 10 victims of Typhoon Goni in the Philippines**



## 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 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.

### 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 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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|--------|---|
| 1 Jan. | The Solemn Feast of <b>Mary, Mother of God</b> ;<br>- Collection: <i>New Year</i> |
| 3 Jan. | Feast of the <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b>  |
| 4 Jan. | Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)                                 |

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

## RCIA/RCIC

*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Children*

Pray for all in our parish RCIA and RCIC processes,  
who celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation at the

*Early Initiation Rites* held at the three

Liturgies of Initiation on 5 & 6 December 2020

### RCIA Adults

*Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist*

**Kwan, Chi Kin NICHOLAS**

**Li, Na CECILIA**

**Watson-Graham, Debisha Vionne DEBORAH**

*Baptism, Confirmation*

**Byron, Thomas James JOSEPH**

### RCIC Youth

*Baptism*

**Andrada, Jaymie ARIEL**

**Andrada, Nicko MATTHEW**

**Ferrer, Kiraley CAMILLE**

**Graham, Amari Myles NATHAN**

**Pereira, Niko Gitpu GABRIEL**

*Baptism, Eucharist*

**Graham, Amare Malik NATHANIEL**

**Pereira, Alain Geewaydin JUDE**

May God bless them and their families.

*See photos on page 4 in the website bulletin.*

## Pope Francis

*Birthday: 17 December 1936*

Let us remember in our prayers our Holy Father, **Pope Francis**, who celebrated his birthday on 17 December.

May God bless, guard and protect him, and guide his ministry as Vicar of Christ and Shepherd of the faithful in the Church on earth.



## 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.

Your gift would also enable the Parish to continue to undertake necessary upgrades to the structure of our Church, maintaining its beauty and safety for generations to come.

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.

## Christmas Message

To all the members of St. Maria Goretti Parish:

In his Christmas message one year ago, **Pope Francis** said, "There is darkness in human hearts, yet the light of Christ is greater still. There is darkness in personal, family and social relationships, but the light of Christ is greater."



This year, the Covid-19 pandemic caused immense suffering in the world. Yet, throughout this time of trial, Christians continue to honour our Risen Saviour, who appeared at the first Christmas as one among us: vulnerable and lovable, a sign of God's infinite wisdom and divine mercy.

*"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

### 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!* 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.





Memories of past RCIA Groups at the RITE OF  
*ELECTION*, and at the *EASTER VIGIL* Initiation





# The 2020 RCIA Initiations

Saturday, 5 Dec. – 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm



[Top] Neophytes: Thomas James **Joseph** Byron, Debisha Vionne **Deborah** Watson-Graham, Amare Malik **Nathaniel** Graham, Amari Miles **Nathan** Graham; and their Sponsors.

[Above] Neophytes: Na **Cecilia** Li (with son James), Jamie **Ariel** Andrada, Nicko **Matthew** Andrada; and their Sponsors.



**RCIA: Sunday, 6 Dec. – 2.30 pm**

[Below] Neophytes: Niko Gitpu **Gabriel** Pereira, Alain Geewaydin **Jude** Pereira, Kiraley **Camille** Ferrer; Chi Kin **Nicholas** Kwan; and their Sponsors.



[Below] **Santiago Ignacio** (5 December)



[Below] **Venice Marie Tolentino** (6 December)







*Left: The Sanctuary Crucifix in a December morning light; Jenna Singarayer and Jeevakan Kulendiralinjara pray in preparation for their Wedding in 2021; Elizabeth Cruz and a friend with their Infant of Prague statue; Above: The family of Mike Gracias on his 1<sup>st</sup> death anniversary; The family of Sarmila Benedict on her 1<sup>st</sup> death anniversary; The family of Br. Johnny Lalicon on his 1<sup>st</sup> death anniversary.*

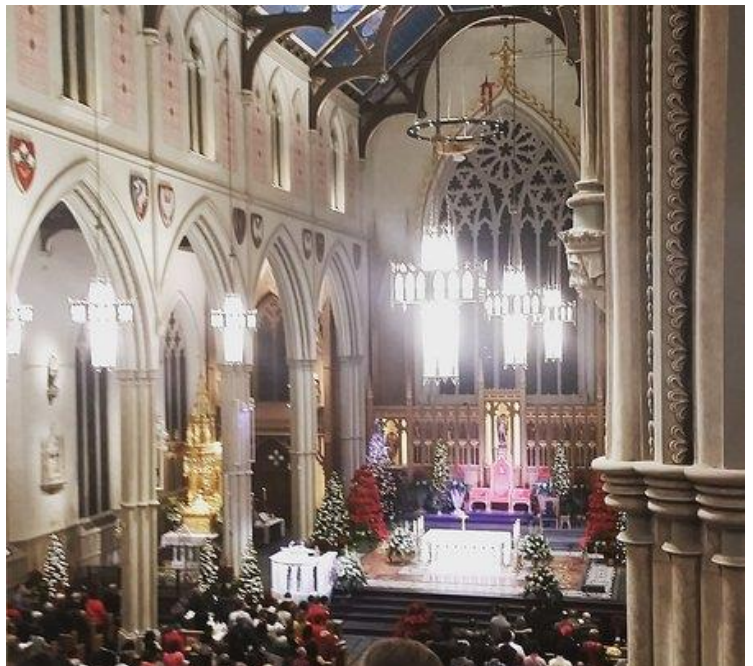


# Let the Earth Breathe



Above: **Mary** at the VATICAN Nativity Scene;

Left and below: **Mary** and the Tree at SAINT MARIA GORETTI.



## DECEMBER: Advent/Christmas feasts

Feasts occur throughout December, covering most of our observance of Advent, and the start of the Christmas season.

- 6 **St. Nicholas:** Sainly Bishop of Myra (in present day Turkey); inspiration for our modern Santa Claus.
- 7 **St. Ambrose:** Bishop and Doctor of the Church; he said: "We loved them in life; let us not forget them in death."
- 8 **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe:** Her Basilica outside of Mexico City is the busiest shrine of our Mother in the world.
- 13 **St. Lucy:** Virgin and Martyr.
- 25 **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ:** Christmas Day.
- 26 **St. Stephen:** First Martyr of the New Testament.
- 27 **St. John the Evangelist:** The youngest Apostle, and the writer of the Fourth Gospel and three Epistles.
- 28 **Holy Innocents:** The youngest Martyrs for Jesus.
- 29 **St. Thomas à Beckett:** Bishop and Martyr.





# 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

