



The Advent Wreath

Second 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 sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Messiah. Help us to prepare our hearts that Christ may be born in them, and to prepare the world that Christ may restore the Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Today's Candle lighters are:

- 5.00 pm **Brenda Silva**
- 9.00 am **Francesca Lavecchia**
- 10.30 am **Gaspar Thuram**
- 12.00 pm **Hailey Falzon**
- 7.00 pm **Angela Decortis Whitley & Maria Piaone**

Parish Week / Sunday, 5 Dec. 2021

Saturday, 4 Dec. / St. John Damascene, *priest*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Lourdes Mary Louis (Maria Aloysius)
- 10.00 am RCIC
- 12.00 pm Memorial Mass: † Vito Corrado
- 2.30 pm St. Maria Goretti School Confirmation #3
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas (Mary Thanarajan family)

SUNDAY, 5 DEC. / Advent 2-C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Nicholas A. Ohya (Mary Joseph)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Michael De Souza (Lillian, Annabel, D'Souza family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Special Intention (Dominic & Anita)
- 2.30 pm St. Maria Goretti School Confirmation #4
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 6 Dec. / St. Nicholas, *bishop*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Sydney Stevens (Shoba Ryan)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Rose Garcia (Emilio Go & family)
- 7.40 pm Infant Baptism Parent Godparent meeting

Tuesday, 7 Dec. / St. Ambrose, *bishop & doctor*

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. 92nd Birthday Felicissima Magcalas (Cristina Limpin & family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Patricia Kang (Emilio Go & family)

Wed., 8 Dec. / Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8.00 am Mass: † Teresa Di Michele (family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Don & Alex (Mom, Lillian)

Thursday, 9 Dec. / St. Juan Cuauhtlatoatzin

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. 92nd Birthday Felicissima Magcalas (Crisanta Limpin & family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)

Friday, 10 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Anton Maharajah (Antoinette & children)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Margaret Fleming (Mary Faulkner)

Saturday, 11 Dec. / St. Damasus I, *pope*

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Aniko & Lajos Ziembra (Christa Hahn)
- 11.30 am Mass: RCIC Baptism
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Ossie Ameresekere (family)

SUNDAY, 12 DEC. / Advent 3-C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Mike Gracias (Isabelle)
- 10.30 am Mass: † DeVerno & Shea families (Pamela)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Harvey Pereira (family)
- 1.30 pm Infant Baptism
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo



Pray for the Deceased

Fr. Karmel Borg, Zoraida Caaway, Milagros Chu, Mervin Camacho, Carmelito Jinenez, Josefina Principe, Fr. Wallace Platt csb, Deacon Michael Quirke, Cecilia Reyes, Saturnino Saludo, Elizabeth De Mattos.

The **50 victims** of the Shiite mosque bombing in **Kandahar**

COMING UP

12a21

- 19 Dec. **4th Sunday of Advent**
- 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
- 26 Dec. **Feast of the Holy Family;**
- 2nd Collection: Maintenance

2022

- 1 Jan. The Solemn Feast of **Mary, Mother of God**
- 2 Jan. Feast of the **Epiphany of Our Lord**
- 3 Jan. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 9 Jan. Feast of the **Baptism of the Lord;**
- Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
2nd Collection: Maintenance
- 30 Jan. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
2nd Collection: Maintenance
- 7 Feb. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 13 Feb. Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
- 27 Feb. *2nd Collection: Maintenance*
- 2 Mar. **Ash Wednesday**
- 10 Apr. **Palm Sunday**

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

All must sign in at arrival, and wear a face mask inside the Church. Hand sanitization is recommended. For more information on Parish activities, such as the schedule of upcoming **Confirmation** celebrations, check pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.



Sacramental Preparation

Baptism, Confirmation, 1st Reconciliation

We are continuing the celebration of all Sacraments: BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION, etc. The celebration of CONFIRMATION for our Grade 8 students is an extremely important event in their lives.

The families of Candidates in our schools who have prepared to receive this Sacrament have been given direction to move ahead. Refer to the **website bulletin** for more details.

The remaining Grade 8 *St. Maria Goretti School* Confirmations:

Saturday	4 December	2.30 pm
Sunday	5 December	2.30 pm



Each Candidate is allowed to invite 6 guests, including parents and a Sponsor. As soon as these liturgies are completed, we will schedule the preparations for the **1st Reconciliation** celebrations for the students who have recently made their First Communion.

Saturday Class

Madame **Beatriz Yamal** has begun preparation for the Sacraments of *Reconciliation* and *1st Holy Communion* for those students not in our Parish schools. To register, call: **Fr. Elias**, 416-261-0076.

RCIA, RCIC

Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults & Children



The RCIA meets Friday evenings at 7.30 pm; their next meeting is on 3 December. The RCIC meets Saturday mornings; their next meeting is on 4 December.

Following the Christmas break, the RCIA will next meet on 7 January 2022. The RCIC will next meet on 8 January.

A Special Gift FLOWERS, TURNER-FORTUNO WEDDING

Our Parish gratefully thanks the family of **Kevin Turner** and **Rhea Fortuno**, who donated the *Altar Flowers* in our Church for their Wedding on 29 October. Your kindness is sincerely appreciated.

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, 20 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."

Advent Day of Confessions

Wednesday, 8 December: 4-5 pm, 7.30-9 pm

As part of our ongoing program of spiritual growth, **Cardinal Collins** invites Catholics of the Archdiocese to receive the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* on a DAY OF CONFESSIONS in Advent.

In our parish, it will be on: **Wednesday, 8 December.**

Parishioners may come for Confession from 4.00 – 5.00 pm, and again following the 7.00 pm evening Mass, from 7.30 – 9.00 pm.

Sunday Missals

The 2022 Sunday Missals are available at the Office.

CWL Bake Sale 5 December

The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE will hold a *Bake Sale* after the Sunday morning Masses, 5 December. One of our members will have home-made pickled vegetables available; donations of \$10 or more will enable 50% of the proceeds to be directed to *ShareLife*.

Upcoming Weddings

Jefferson and Richein / 22 April 2022

Abe Sena and Jan Wage / 16 July 2022



Rhea Fortuno and Kevin Turner at their Wedding, 29 Oct. 2021

CONFIRMATION

Water: a symbol of new life in Christ



Each time we Christians enter a church, dip our hand in the holy water font, and trace with water the sign of the cross on ourselves, we are recalling our *Baptism*. This simple gesture reminds us that God has created us anew through Baptism.

When we cross ourselves, we remember that we are Baptized, and this action helps us recall that we are disciples of Jesus and members of God's family.

As Baptized disciples, we also prepare and celebrate our *Confirmation*. These two sacraments are so closely linked that preparing for confirmation means first recalling our Baptism. And Baptism and Confirmation prepare us for Eucharist, for celebrating at the Table of the Lord.

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

When adults or older children prepare for initiation in the Catholic Church they spend a lot of time, sometimes years, preparing themselves. At the end of this time, the Church celebrates with them the three sacraments of initiation:

Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

If we grow up in a Catholic family, we are Baptized as young children, shortly after we are born. As we grow, we learn how to make a Confession, and we receive the Sacrament of *Reconciliation*. Then we prepare to share in *Holy Communion* which is to share in the body and blood of Christ. Then we can study our faith more deeply, and receive the Sacrament of *Confirmation*.

Our Baptism story

1. My Name

My parents chose a special name for me. My Christian name connects me to all the holy men and women who lived before me, and who were heroes.



2. Where I was Baptized

My family belonged to a Parish, a community of faithful people. They asked the Church to welcome me as a new member, and to make me a brother or sister of Christ by Baptism.

3. Date of Baptism

At conception, every person begins 2 journeys; the journey of the *body*, which ends in death, and the journey of the *soul*. The soul is joined to Christ in Baptism, and this opens the door to eternity.

4. Godparents

Some people stood up for me and agreed to be my Prayer Partner with God, asking him to help my family to raise me as a member of his Church.

5. Special Memories

When I see the pictures of my Baptism, I recall the stories my family told me about my big day.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of Wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

Understanding is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of Understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

Counsel, or Right Judgment, is the gift of prudence. The gift of Counsel helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.

Courage, or Fortitude, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of Courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

Knowledge is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of Knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that would keep you from him.

Reverence, or Piety, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.

Wonder and Awe, or “Fear of the Lord,” is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of Wonder and Awe moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

These are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us to live the Catholic faith:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control, Chastity.

The Communion of Saints

Just as the Sacraments are part of our Christian family heritage, so too are people who have lived before us and worked to create the kingdom of God.

At Mass, we say that we believe in the *Communion of Saints*. This is the assembly of all Christian women and men who have lived and died and are now living in heaven. Think of the Communion of Saints as our *heroes*, or as our cheering section upstairs. We often ask the Saints to pray with and for us so that we may be stronger in our faith.

St. Maria Goretti, St. Albert and **St. Joan of Arc** are three of the best-known members of the Communion of Saints. They love us and ask for God’s help so that we can live as disciples.



The Canadian Delegation to the Holy See, 17-20 December

Following the announcement on 10 June 2021 about the **Delegation of Indigenous People to meet with the Holy Father** to foster meaningful encounters of dialogue and healing, the **Catholic Bishops of Canada** are pleased to announce that the delegation is scheduled to take place from 17-20 December 2021 in compliance with global travel restrictions.

Pope Francis is deeply committed to hearing directly from Indigenous Peoples, expressing his heartfelt closeness, addressing the impact of colonization and the role of the Church in the residential school system, in the hopes of responding to the suffering of Indigenous Peoples and the ongoing effects of intergenerational trauma.

The Bishops of Canada are deeply appreciative of the Holy Father's spirit of openness in generously extending an invitation for personal encounters with each of the three distinct groups of delegates:

First Nations

Métis

Inuit

There will also be a final audience with all delegates together on 20 December 2021.

This pastoral visit will include the participation of a diverse group of Elders / Knowledge Keepers, residential school survivors and youth from across the country, accompanied by a small group of Bishops and Indigenous leaders.

Planning for the delegation continues; further details will be announced when they are available.

The Bishops of Canada reaffirm their sincere hope that these forthcoming encounters will lead to a shared future of peace and harmony between Indigenous Peoples and the Catholic Church in Canada.

This Intention was included in the Sunday Intercessions in July, and will be said again in December:

✠ For the children who died in residential schools throughout Canada and for all those impacted by this tragedy, that there may be healing founded on truth and that the Spirit will inspire our ongoing commitment to reconciliation. For this, we pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.



Pope John Paul II and the Indigenous

In 1984, **St. Pope John Paul II** became the first Pope to set foot on Canadian soil, when the papal aircraft landed at the airport in Quebec City. The Pope was on his 24th pilgrimage (after that he went on over 100 more). During his 12-day cross-Canada visit, great crowds flocked to him.

With his arrival on 9 September in the Quebec City suburb of Ste. Foy, the Holy Father began a 15,000-kilometre marathon that took him from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Sadly, his trip to Fort Simpson in the Northwest Territories was cancelled due to severe weather. He promised to return.

Millions of Canadians, including many Indigenous people, turned out to greet the Pope, pray with him and to celebrate, and many of them deeply moved by his words and presence. A good example of this was on 11 September 1984, where tens of thousands of young people crowded Montreal's Olympic Stadium to see and hear the Holy Father.

Speaking in English and in French, the Holy Father made more than 30 major addresses as well as many other statements, some directed to **Indigenous Peoples**. He spoke of themes which he has strongly supported throughout his 26-year pontificate: solidarity, justice, peace, the place of youth, the respect of Indigenous cultures, Jesus Christ as a beacon of hope, and many more.

Since 1984, Pope John Paul II returned to Canada twice. In September 1987, he kept his promised and visited Fort Simpson in the Northwest Territories. In 2002 he met with young people from around the world at World Youth Day 2002, in Toronto.





Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems and light all roads so that I can attain my goal, you who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and who in all instances of my life are with me: I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and affirm once again that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material illusion may be. I wish to be with you in eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and my loved ones.



Prayer to Saint 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.

Vaccination Status

Disclosure for Staff & Volunteers

Working in collaboration with the Province and Public Health Authorities, the Toronto Archdiocese maintains a robust procedure to ensure the safety of our Parishes.

Vaccination status must be disclosed for Clergy, Staff and Ministry Facilitators. All volunteers must inform their Facilitator of their status. In the case of certain ministries, such as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, vaccination is required to continue serving.

Information is held confidentially in the Parish Office.

The Archdiocese has provided further clarifications:

1. If a staff member refuses to share their vaccination status to the Pastor or Ministry Facilitator, they will be deemed to be unvaccinated in view of our policy, and must submit rapid test results on a weekly basis when scheduled onsite. If an individual refuses to submit a valid vaccination certificate or test result, they are not meeting a necessary requirement of their employment and may not continue serving in their role. As a first step the individual should be asked why they are not complying with the policy to see if the issue can be resolved. Situations involving clergy are managed by the Regional Bishop; staff issues will be managed by Human Resources at the Archdiocese.

2. Volunteers are treated differently from Staff. Rules and regulations with respect to employees are subject to employment law. It is essential that we develop policies that support a safe working environment. Volunteers are in place to support our parishes in carrying out key ministries. Our policy is guided by the sometimes onerous challenges of keeping records for the many volunteers in a parish. To that end, we suggest vaccination only as the default option for volunteers – following up on weekly testing for unvaccinated volunteers would be too challenging for most parishes.

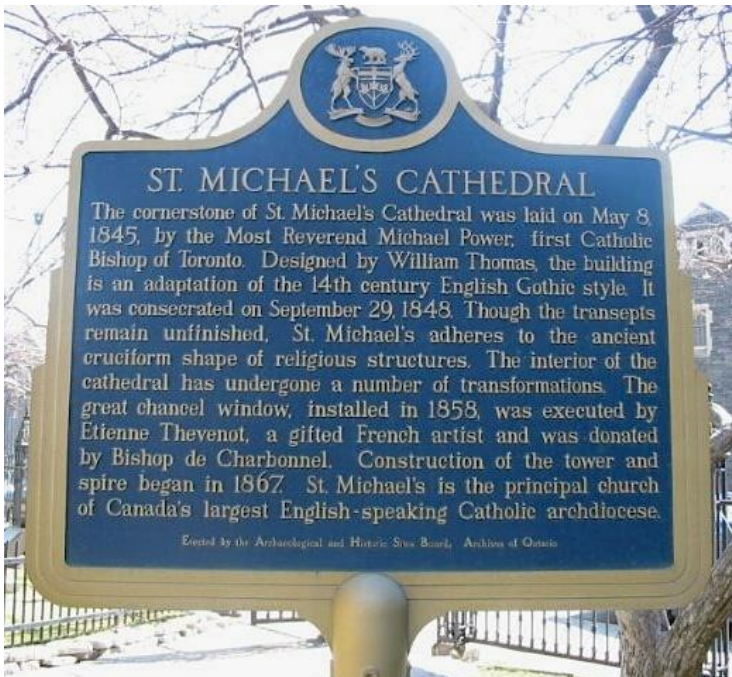
3. It is legal to ask Volunteers to divulge their status of vaccination status if they wish to continue in their assigned ministries. As a temporary safety measure we recommend that only vaccinated volunteers participate in ministry at this time.

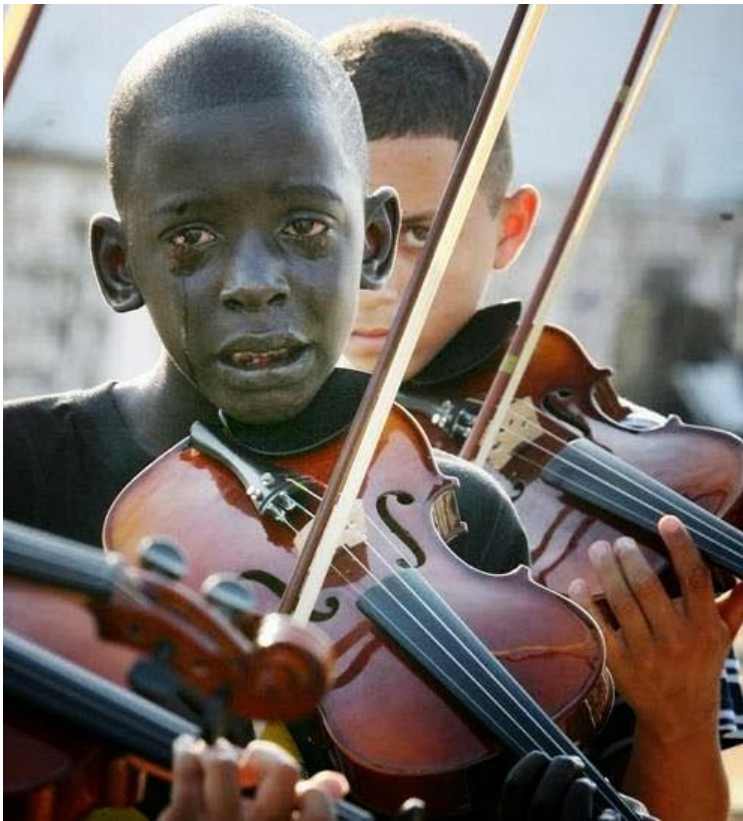
4. Parishioners can go to Mass without vaccination, but Volunteers are not allowed to assist without doing so. We want our Parishes to be open and welcoming to all people. Requiring vaccination or testing provides parishioners with assurance that those carrying out their volunteer ministry are complying with our health and safety measures and do not present a risk to them.



The Bishops of Toronto

Toronto has had 12 bishops in its 177 years of history, from its first, the saintly Bishop **Michael Power** in 1842, to its current, Archbishop **Thomas Cardinal Collins**, who was installed on 30 January 2007.





Above: In October 2009, **Diego Frazao Torquato** cried as he played the violin at the funeral of his teacher, John Evandro da Silva, the man who had given him hope of escaping poverty through the mastery of a musical instrument in the *Afro Reggae* group. John, who was a coordinator of the group, was murdered in Rio de Janeiro. Diego never overcame the pain of John's death. He died of leukemia the following year, aged 12.

Below: **Pope Francis** signs a Harley Davidson motorbike for the Christian motorcycle group *Jesus Biker*, as his cape is blown by the wind during the general audience at the Vatican, 29 May 2019. (photo: Yara Nardi / Reuters)



Ste. Thérèse of Lisieux in the convent garden. She wrote: *How often have I thought that I may owe all the graces I have received to the prayers of a person who begged them from God for me, and whom I shall know only in Heaven.*

Below: U.S.-born giant panda **Bei Bei** eats bamboo after arriving at his new home in China at the Ya'an Bifengxia Base of the *Giant Panda Conservation and Research Center* on 21 November 2019. (photo: AFP Getty)

