



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 **The Magbalot Family**
- 9.00 am **Stephonie Gomboa**
- 10.30 am **Jennifer Andrade**
- 12.00 pm **Judel, Ezmon & Mely Villardo**
- 7.00 pm **Melvin & Leigh Zamora**



Pray for the Deceased

Gloria Anuat, Natalie Carter, Anna Maria Fattore, Selenita Perez, Terence Gracey, Edward Smith, Bernard Francis Grogan

The **188** victims of the recent floods in India and Nepal

Parish Week / Sunday, 12 Dec. 2021

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

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Aniko & Lajos Ziembra (Christa Hahn)
- 11.30 am 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

Monday, 13 Dec. / St. Lucy, virgin & martyr

- 8.00 am Mass: † A. Susairaj (Rosemary Senegal Gudur)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Anacleto Miraflor (family)
- 7.40 pm Church decoration for Christmas

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

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Kari Wagner (Christa Hahn)
- 12.00 pm Holy Mass: Nancy Simone (Nigel)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Loretta D'Mello (friends)

Wednesday, 15 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Caroline)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Alma Marie Harrison (Marg McConkey)

Thursday, 16 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Adela & Fructuos Arroyo (Gina)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Mike D'Mello, First Death Anniversary (Esme)

Friday, 17 Dec.

■ Birthday of Pope Francis (1936)

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Caroline)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Arnjyen Thanksgiving (Mom)

Saturday, 18 Dec.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Henry Carta (family)
- 11.30 am Mass: RCIC Baptism
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Delia Olayon (Glenn & Gina Arroyo)

SUNDAY, 19 DEC. / Advent 4-C

■ Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati

- 9.00 am Mass: † Alma Marie Harrison (Evelyn Walsh)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Mervyn & Delicia Rajapakse (D'Souza family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Eleanor Alex Alexandris (friends & family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

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.

Christmas Decoration 13 December

The decoration of our Church for Christmas will be held after the 7.00 pm Mass on Monday, 13 December.

COMING UP

13a21

- 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)
- 7 Feb. Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
- 13 Feb. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*
- 27 Feb. **Ash Wednesday**
- 2 Mar. **Palm Sunday**
- 10 Apr.

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 **Sacramental** celebrations, check pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.



Sacramental Preparation

Baptism, 1st Reconciliation, etc.

The celebration of **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION** for the Grade 3 & 8 students in our Parish Schools has been completed. This is an extremely important time in their lives.

In January 2022, we will focus our attention on scheduling the Sacrament of **1st Reconciliation** for all the students who made their First Communion in 2021.

If there is no dramatic change in the public management of the pandemic, the preparation for the Sacraments of **1st Communion** and **Confirmation** for the students currently in Grades 2 & 7 should start in February 2022. This would only be one month later than the traditional start time, so it is a sign that we are making progress in resuming a more normal pattern in attending to the spiritual needs of our Youth.

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 7 January 2022. The RCIC meets Saturday mornings; their next meeting is on 8 January.

During the Christmas break, both the RCIA and RCIC will attend the Sunday and Christmas Masses that comprise the key spiritual highlights of this important liturgical season. The Candidates may attend any of the Masses scheduled on the bulletin cover; there is no need to gather at any one Mass

A Special Gift FLOWERS, BEVILACQUA-KEATS WEDDING

Our Parish gratefully thanks the families of **Vittorio Bevilacqua** and **Sara Keats**, who donated the *Altar Flowers* in our Church for their Wedding on 6 November. 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."

Sunday Missals

The 2022 Sunday Missals are available at the Office.

Stewardship

2022 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!* Come to the Office and fill out a *registration form*.

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: _____

Upcoming Weddings

Jefferson and Richein / 22 April 2022

Abe Sena and Jan Wage / 16 July 2022

Michael Aliteri and Concetta Ferlenda
17 September 2022, St. Patrick Church, Markham



The beautiful flowers donated to the Church by Rhea Fortuno and Kevin Turner from their Wedding, 29 Oct. 2021



Canadian Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Provide an Update on the Delegation to Rome

7 December 2021

After careful assessment of the uncertainty and potential health risks surrounding international travel amid the recent spread of the Omicron variant, the **Canadian Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami** have jointly decided to reschedule a delegation to the Vatican in December 2021 to the earliest opportunity in 2022.

The decision to postpone was a heartbreaking one, made after careful consultation with delegates, family members, community leaders, public health officials and the leadership of each of the three National Indigenous Organizations.

Particularly for many elderly delegates as well as those who live in remote communities, the risk of infection and the fluid nature of the evolving global situation presents too great a threat at this time.

We take comfort in the desire, conveyed to us by the Holy See, that the safety of the delegation should inform any decision to move forward. It is also important to note that the delegation is *postponed*, not cancelled. The world's health experts are still learning about the transmissibility of the Omicron variant. As more information is available, we will continue to assess the feasibility of future travel plans, based on guidance from the Canadian government and relevant international authorities.

Letter to Chief Cadmus and the People of Cowessess First Nation

The following letter was written by Archbishop Don Bolen of Regina, after the discovery of unmarked graves at the former site of the Marieval Residential School, in the Cowessess First Nation in southeastern Saskatchewan. We ask that everyone continue to pray and work towards reconciliation.

24 June 2021

Dear Chief Cadmus,
dear people of Cowessess First Nation,

Words fail in the face of the news that the ground radar search at the Cowessess cemetery has revealed an unthinkable number of unmarked graves, up to 751 burials there. The news is overwhelming and I can only imagine the pain and waves of emotion that you and your people are

experiencing right now. Thank you for your powerful words, Chief Cadmus, at the press conference this morning, and for the witness of Knowledge Keeper Florence and FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron.

The grave site findings on your First Nation impact us on a deeper level because of the relationships we've built with so many members of the Cowessess First Nation.

Several Cowessess members have been involved in the Archdiocese of Regina's Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, or have worked with us on projects trying to address the Calls to Action. Because of that network of relationships, we feel even more intensely the overwhelm of this moment.

The grave site work brings us face to face with the brutal legacy of the Indian Residential School system, a product of a colonialist history which has left so much suffering and intergenerational trauma. The operation of the Marieval Residential School at Cowessess left many people deeply wounded by various kinds of abuse. As you have communicated elsewhere, Chief Cadmus, even for those of us who were not there or not involved, it is nonetheless the painful legacy that we need to carry. The incredible burden of the past is still with us, and the truth of that past needs to come out, however painful, as only truth can lead to reconciliation. As you said of the grave site, "the truth is there." Thank you for your courage as Chief and that of your whole community as you seek out the truth and search for a reset that brings an end to racism and opens a path to justice and to healing.

It was 3 years ago that you first wrote to me about the cemetery at Cowessess, about the Calls to Action that called for churches who had been involved in residential schools to assist in various ways with cemeteries, and about the need for work at the Cowessess cemetery. As we entered into conversation you and others from Cowessess shared about the many unmarked graves, about terrible abuse and suffering that happened at the residential school, and about how one priest who served in the region in the 1960's destroyed headstones in a way which was reprehensible. Two years ago at Flower Day you gave me the privilege of sharing a few words with members of your community gathered at the cemetery, and I extended an apology for the failures and sins of Church leaders and staff in the past towards the people of Cowessess. I know that apologies seem a very small step as the weight of past suffering comes into greater light, but I extend that apology again, and pledge to do what we can to turn that apology into meaningful concrete acts - including assisting in accessing information that will help to provide names and information about those buried in unmarked graves - and to stand by you in whatever way you request.

With you as able at this most difficult of times.

Sincerely Yours,

+ **Don Bolen**
Archbishop of Regina



Images of our RCIC Youth candidates and their parents after their Saturday meetings, August – November 2021.

They were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw it he said to them, "Let the children come to me, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them. (Mark 10.13-16)







