



Parish Week

Sunday
9 January 2022

Saturday, 8 Jan.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving 25th Wedding Anniversary
Ramon & Josephine Seng (family)
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas
(Tharesh Thanarajan)

SUNDAY, 9 JAN. / BAPTISM OF THE LORD

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Indigenous children (D'Souza family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Cerelina Velasco (Helen Serneo)
- 1.30 pm Infant Baptism
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 10 Jan.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Teresita & Bobby del Castillo
(Corine Maulion)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Alicia Queano (Rollio & Cecilia Olmedo)

Tuesday, 11 Jan.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Luigi De Cicco (Emma)

Wednesday, 12 Jan. / St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

- 8.00 am Mass: † Mina Kapadia (Mukesh)

Thursday, 13 Jan. / St. Hilary, bishop & doctor

■ *Bishop Vincent Nguyen: Episcopal Ordination Anniversary (2010)*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Esperanza Epanal (family)

Friday, 14 Jan.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Carmelo Colango (Carol Morra)

Saturday, 15 Jan.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Martyn family (Jane)
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Lea El Haddad (Racquel)

SUNDAY, 16 JAN. / 2-C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

■ *Cardinal Thomas Collins: Birthday (1947)*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Eleanor Alex Aexandris (friends & family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Lea El Haddad (Maria Rodas)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Baltazar, Maria Aninhia & Philip Mendonca
(Tessie & family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Focus on the Word

The Baptism of the Lord, Year C
Isaiah 40.1-11; Titus 2.11-14; 3.4-7; Luke 3.15-22

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Amen.

Pray for the Deceased

26 December 2021

Mel Lastman

The **68** victims of the **October riots** in Ecuador

2 January 2022

Romeo Dulce, Marietta Karls, Johann Schwemlein, David Thompson

The **51** victims of the **mining accident** in Siberia

9 January 2022

Violeta Carino, Johnny Sudaria

The **46** victims of the **bus disaster** in Bulgaria

Liturgy Notes

9 JANUARY: ■ Feast of the **Baptism of the Lord**

For this feast, we renew our *Baptism Promises*.

□ End of the liturgical **Christmas Season**

We remove our remaining Christmas decorations and dismantle the Nativity Scene. Parents: this is your last chance to take the annual photo of your children at the Scene in our Church.

The removal of our Christmas decorations will be held Monday evening, 10 January, after the 7.00 pm Mass.

COMING UP

26c22

30 Jan.	2 nd Collection: Maintenance
7 Feb.	Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
13 Feb.	Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
27 Feb.	2 nd Collection: Maintenance
2 Mar.	Ash Wednesday
6 Mar.	1st Sunday of Lent; - <i>Rite of Election</i> for RCIA Catechumens
7 Mar.	Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
13 Mar.	Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
20 Mar.	2 nd Collection: Maintenance
27 Mar.	ShareLife Collection
28 Mar.	Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
10 Apr.	Palm Sunday; HOLY WEEK begins

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.

Renewal of Baptism Promises



Priest: *Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises?*

All: "I DO."

Priest: *Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?*

All: "I DO."

Priest: *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?*

All: "I DO."

Priest: *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?*

All: "I DO."

Ordinary Time



The day following the Feast of the *Baptism of the Lord* marks the resumption of the liturgical season called ORDINARY TIME. There is nothing "ordinary" about Ordinary Time. Its name refers simply to the fact that weeks are listed by *ordinal* numbers; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. During Ordinary Time, we examine the ordinary ways in which we celebrate the mysteries of God's Kingdom in our lives. Ordinary Time begins after Christmas season. It is interrupted a few weeks later by Lent and Easter; it resumes on the day after Pentecost, and continues until the beginning of a new Liturgical Year on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

During this longest of the liturgical season - 34 weeks altogether - we reflect on the message of Christ and on our role as a Christian community, in helping to bring about the *Kingdom of God* in the world. We focus on the work of being the Church: sharing the mission of Jesus to proclaim God's love.

Spiritual Reflection

Lord, give me Your love and Your grace. They are sufficient for me, and they will never fail me.



RCIA, RCIC



Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults & Children

The RCIA meets Friday evenings at 7.30 pm; their next meetings are on 7 & 21 January 2022. The RCIC meets Saturday mornings; their next meetings are on 8 & 22 Jan.

The current pandemic protocols require strict adherence to the basic safety measures: sign in, face mask, distancing, no food consumption in common areas, etc.

A Special Gift ALTAR FLOWERS

Our Parish gratefully thanks the family of † **Vito Corrado**, who donated the *Altar Flowers* in our Church from his Memorial Mass on 4 December. Your kindness is sincerely appreciated.

Stewardship



2021 Receipts, 2022 Envelopes

The *Charitable Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations during 2021 are in the Vestibule, for pick up after Mass.

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.

Parishioners are invited to pick up their 2022 *Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Office Lobby after Mass. They are for registered parishioners only; if you are new to the parish and have not yet registered, *welcome to our neighbourhood!* Go to the Office window, introduce yourself, and complete a *registration form*.

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.

Our *legal title* is: "**St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, Scarborough, Ontario.**" Correspondence is addressed to the *Pastor*, 717 Kennedy Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1K 2C1.

BIBLE VERSE

It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on heights. He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great. You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. Psalm 18:32-36

PRAYER

Dear God, please arm me with strength and make my way perfect. Make my feet like the feet of a deer. Enable me to stand on heights. Broaden the path beneath me so that my ankles will not twist and fail. Make me victorious this week. Amen!

(Thanks to Antoinette Benedict.)

Christmas Flowers

Many thanks to all our generous Christmas Flower sponsors! Your thoughtfulness in allowing us to obtain the flowers which beautify our Church at this holy season is greatly appreciated.

Below is the dedication list for living (IN HONOUR OF) and deceased (IN MEMORY OF) intentions, which was compiled on 21 December.

PATRONS

Corine Maulion



Large Arrangement

IN HONOUR OF

Glenn & Gina Arroyo
The Bermudo Family
Samantha Fernando
Holy Souls In Purgatory
Dory Osting
Angelo Palacios 32nd Birthday
Jose Reyes & Family
The Seng Family

IN MEMORY OF

Joyce & Anton Legory Abraham
Alois Aschauer
Arsenio & Victoria Avila
Aloysius Bastiampillai
Vincent Peter Boila
The Camacho Family
Domingo Catolos
Hoel & Roselle Celda
Lusia Cho
The Co-Carlading Family
Cyprian Cyrus
Nieves & Feliciano Daroy
Domingo & Rose Garcia
Deceased Members, Gutierrez & Reed Family
Liu Tseng Hsiang & Liu Fang Chiu Mei
Agnes Joseph
The Nidea Family
Juan Blanco Racoya
Deceased Members of the Serneo Family
Arjune & Nandrani Singh
Virginia, Orlando & George-Arnel
Tolentino
John Marie Tolentino
Eileen Wright

Small Arrangement

IN MEMORY OF

Edgar Noli Ambat

**Isidora, Ricarda, Patroncenio, Helen
Moreno**

Rodolfo & Anita Abaya, Antonio Ambat

Eduardo & Joselito Ambat

Espiridion Antigua

The Deceased Members of Durano Family

Aurea & Marcelino Gabales

Deceased Members of Ramon Gatchalian

Deceased Members of Juntilla-Laurel Family

Peter Joseph Liu

The Deceased Members of the Magdadaro Family

Linda, Teofisto Jr. & Ted Magdadaro

Michele Morra

Eufracio & Silveria Mundo

Deceased Members of Mulla Family

Judith & Graciano Primero

Recardo, Antonio & Alfonso Rhoda

Juanito, Feloppia, Moreno & Maxima

Rhoda

Yacintha Sivakumar

Jose, Isabel & Larry Trinidad

Juan & Felisa Trinidad

IN HONOUR OF

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Pamela Cereso-Lawrence Amizola

Lauren & Francis Amizola

Andrea Cereso

Jason & Isabelle Lam

The Mulla Family

The Penalosa Family





The joy of Christmas in our Church and in our homes. God bless us everyone!

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.



Pope Francis: “Adoption is among the highest forms of love. St. Joseph knew this.”

Text of Pope Francis’ weekly audience, 5 January 2022.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will reflect on Saint Joseph as the father of Jesus. The evangelists Matthew and Luke present him as the foster father of Jesus, and not as his biological father. Matthew specifies this, avoiding the formula “the father of,” used in the genealogy for all the ancestors of Jesus; instead, he defines Joseph as the “husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ” (1:16). Luke, on the other hand, affirms it by saying that he was Jesus’ “supposed” father (3:23), that is, he appeared as His father.

To understand the alleged or legal paternity of Joseph, it is necessary to bear in mind that in ancient times in the East the institution of adoption was very common, more so than today. One thinks of the common case in Israel of the “levirate,” as formulated in Deuteronomy:

“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead shall not be married outside the family to a stranger; her husband’s brother shall go in to her, and take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his brother who is dead, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel” (Deuteronomy 25:5-6).

In other words, the parent of this child is the brother-in-law, but the legal father remains the deceased, who gives the newborn child all hereditary rights. The purpose of this law was twofold: to ensure the descendants of the deceased and the preservation of the estate.

As the official father of Jesus, Joseph exercises the right to impose a name on his son, legally recognising him. Legally he is the father, but not generatively; he did not beget Him.

In ancient times, the name was the compendium of a person’s identity. Changing one’s name meant changing oneself, as in the case of Abraham, whose name God changed to “Abraham,” which means “father of many,” “for,” says the Book of Genesis, he will be “the father of a multitude of nations” (17:5). The same goes for Jacob, who would be called “Israel,” which means “he who struggles with God,” because he struggled with God to compel Him to give him the blessing (cf. Gen 32:29; 35:10).

But above all, naming someone or something meant asserting one’s authority over what was named, as Adam did when he conferred a name on all the animals (cf. Gen 2:19-20).



Joseph already knows that, for Mary’s son, a name had already been prepared by God—Jesus’ name is given to him by his true father, God—“Jesus,” which means “the Lord saves”; as the Angel explains, “He will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21).

This particular aspect of Joseph now enables us to reflect on fatherhood and motherhood. And this, I believe, is very important: thinking about fatherhood today. Because we live in an age of notorious orphanhood, don’t we? It is curious: our civilization is something of an orphan, and this orphanhood can be felt. May Saint Joseph, who took the place of the real father, God, help us to understand how to resolve this sense of orphanhood that is so harmful to us today.

It is not enough to bring a child into the world to also be the child’s father or mother. “Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person” (*Apostolic Letter Patris corde*). I think in a particular way of all those who are open to welcome life by way of adoption, which is such a generous and beautiful, good attitude.

Joseph shows us that this type of bond is not secondary; it is not an afterthought, no. This kind of choice is among the highest forms of love, and of fatherhood and motherhood. How many children in the world are waiting for someone to take care of them! And how many married couples want to be fathers and mothers but are unable to do so for biological reasons; or, although they already have children, they want to share their family’s affection with those who do not have it. We should not be afraid to choose the path of adoption, to take the “risk” of welcoming children. And today, with orphanhood, there is a certain selfishness.

The other day, I spoke about the demographic winter there is nowadays, in which we see that people do not want to have children, or just one and no more. And many, many couples do not have children because they do not want to, or they have just one; but they have two

dogs, two cats... Yes, dogs and cats take the place of children. It's funny, I understand, but it is the reality.

And this denial of fatherhood or motherhood diminishes us, it takes away our humanity. And in this way civilization becomes aged and without humanity, because it loses the richness of fatherhood and motherhood. And our homeland suffers, as it does not have children, and, as it has been said somewhat humorously, "And now who will pay the taxes for my pension, if there are no children?": with laughter, but it is the truth. Who will take care of me?

I ask of Saint Joseph the grace to awaken consciences and to think about this: about having children. Fatherhood and motherhood are the fullness of the life of a person. Think about this. It is true, there is the spiritual fatherhood of those who consecrated themselves to God, and spiritual motherhood; but those who live in the world and get married, think about having children, of giving life, which they will take from you for the future. And also, if you cannot have children, think about adoption.

It is a risk, yes: having a child is always a risk, either naturally or by adoption. But it is riskier not to have them. It is riskier to deny fatherhood, or to deny motherhood, be it real or spiritual. But denial, a man or woman who do not develop the sense of fatherhood or motherhood, they are lacking something, something fundamental, something important. Think about this, please. I hope that the institutions will always be ready to help regarding adoption, by seriously monitoring but also simplifying the necessary procedure so that the dream of so many children who need a family, and of so many couples who wish to give themselves in love, can come true.

Some time ago I heard the testimony of a person, a doctor—an important profession—who did not have children, and he and his wife decided to adopt one. And when the time came, they were offered a child, and they were told, "But we do not know how this child's health is. Perhaps he has an illness." And he said—I saw him—he said, "If you had asked me about this before coming, perhaps I would have said no. But I have seen the child: I will take him with me." This is the longing to be an adoptive father, to be an adoptive mother too. Do not be afraid of this.

I pray that no one feel deprived of the bond of paternal love. And those who are afflicted with orphanhood, may they go forward without this unpleasant feeling. May Saint Joseph protect, and give his help to orphans; and may he intercede for couples who wish to have a child. Let us pray for this together:



Saint Joseph, you who loved Jesus
with fatherly love,
be close to the many children
who have no family
and who long for a daddy and mommy.
Support the couples who are unable
to have children,
help them to discover, through this suffering,
a greater plan.
Make sure that no one lacks a home, a bond,
a person to take care of him or her;
and heal the selfishness of those
who close themselves off from life,
that they may open their hearts to love.

Thank you.

