

St. Joseph's Church, Highland Creek

Ministered by the Spiritans - Congregation of the Holy Ghost

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Pastor: Fr. Francis Folleh, CSSp pastor@stjosephstoronto.org

Associate Pastor: Fr. Arinze Onwuzulike, CSSp aonwuzulike@archtoronto.org

Deacon: Vinh Tran **Pastoral Associate:** Donna Tomie donna.tomie@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Marla Tanuan MTanuan@archtoronto.org

Temporary Admin Assistant: Cecilia Nguyen CNguyen@archtoronto.org

Custodian: Vince Dumael

Music Directors: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Baya Arts Sunday 9:00 a.m. Isis Rebello

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Jason Gotera Sunday 7:00 p.m. Barbara Sullivan

Organist: Gerard Johnston





4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Week of Dec 23 to Dec 30

Dec 23	Sat	9:00 AM	†	Augustine & Piedade Fernandes † Angelo H. Nepomuceno
Dec 24	Sun	9:00 AM	†	Renante Hingada
		11:00 AM	-	People of the Parish
		5:00 PM	-	Intention of members of the Tanuan family
		7:30 PM	-	Intention of Bunny & James Santos
Dec 25	Mon	12:00 AM	-	People of the Parish
		9:00 AM	†	Bernado Chua Go
		11:00 AM	†	Arlene Eusebio-Angeles
		7:00 PM		<i>No evening Mass</i>
Dec 26	Tue	9:00 AM	†	John Rodrigues
Dec 27	Wed	9:00 AM	†	Casmir D'Silva
Dec 28	Thu	9:00 AM	†	Stephen Wong
Dec 29	Fri	9:00 AM	†	Reynaldo Marcelo † Bernardo Go † Rosa & Ramon Chua † George Tomie - Intention of Gabrielle Laberinto - Intention of Nestor & Debra Silveira
Dec 30	Sat	9:00 AM	-	Intention of Maria Fan
		5:00 PM	†	Giovanni & Aquilina Vacca

PARISH MINISTRY CONTACTS:

(416) 282-0370

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

General meetings: 2nd Mon of the month at 7 PM (the Hall)
Therese Baduria EXT 251.

FAITH ENRICHMENT

Meetings: every Thurs
9:30 AM—10:45 AM (Room 2)
Bonnie Washer EXT 252.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS

General meetings: 3rd Thurs of the month at 7:30 PM (Room 2)
Bryan Noble EXT 253

LEGION OF MARY

Dawne Williams EXT 254.

PRAYER GROUP

Meetings: every other Thurs at 7:30 PM—Patricia Furtado or Michael McManus EXT 255

REFUGEE OUTREACH

Meetings: last Sat of the month
Carmela Gaudet EXT 218.

SENIOR 50+ CLUB (Refreshments, cards & companionship: every Wed 12 PM —3:30 PM (the Hall). Senior Mass: 1st Wed of the month 11AM)
Joe Van Pinxteren EXT 256.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE (Email: bryan-noble1967@gmail.com)

Bryan Noble EXT 215

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

EXT 217

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Email: ABernard@archtoronto.org

Angie Bernard EXT 212

TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY

Isis Rebello EXT 214

YOUTH MINISTRY

Email: JTanuan@archtoronto.org
Jeremy Tanuan EXT 213

REFLECTION

How hard we humans have tried to build a fitting dwelling for the Lord God! Today's first reading tells us of King David's resolve to build a beautiful temple. But God refuses his offer. Instead, David's descendants will become the house in which God dwells, and God himself will do the building. The psalm sings gratefully of the Lord's love. But who could have fathomed God's wonderful plan, praised in the concluding hymn of the letter to the Romans? The annunciation story, the liturgy's prelude to Christmas, tell us how God took on human flesh. The body of Christ (his human body and his body as Church) becomes the living temple where God is adored. Mary, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, is the new ark of the covenant. When God took the initiative in coming to dwell with humankind, it was a graced individual, Mary, who responded with her yes. She could not know all the implications of her answer, and yet she agreed to God's work in her. Through her son Jesus we are able to offer God perfect worship. (*Sunday Mass Book for Canada*)



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:



2023 TAX RECEIPTS

Please note that ONLY Donations received at the parish office by **December 29th, 12 noon** qualifies for a 2023 Tax Receipt.



2024 DONATION ENVELOPES

The 2024 donation envelopes are available for pick up in the Narthex. **They are alphabetized within each tray.**

Please be patient and ensure you are taking your own box. Please help us return those boxes that are not yours to their original spots to save everyone's time. We thank you for your generosity and for following and respecting this guideline.

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS

FRI DEC 22, 2023	9:00 AM - 12 NOON
MON DEC 25, 2023	Closed
TUES DEC 26, 2023	Closed
WED DEC 27, 2023	9 AM - 5 PM (lunch 12:30 - 1:30 PM)
THU DEC 28, 2023	9 AM - 5 PM (lunch 12:30 - 1:30 PM)
FRI DEC 29, 2023	9:00 AM - 12 NOON
MON JAN 01, 2024	Closed
TUES JAN 02, 2024	Back to our regular schedule



Let us Pray! For the sick members of our parish & for those who love and minister to them.

Pondering the Birth of Christ

“So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” (Luke 2:16–19)



How well do you understand the awe-inspiring mystery of Christmas? How fully do you comprehend the significance of God becoming a human, born of a virgin? Though many are quite familiar with the beautiful and humble story of the birth of the Savior of the World, that familiarity can have the surprising negative effect of keeping our intellect from deeply probing the depths of the meaning of what we celebrate.

Mother Mary was the one person who would have understood the mystery of the birth of her Son, the Son of God, the Savior of the World, far more deeply than anyone else. It was to her that the Archangel Gabriel appeared, announcing her pregnancy and His birth. It was to her that Elizabeth, her cousin, cried out, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:42).

Our Blessed Mother, more than any other, understood the incredible event that had taken place in her life. But, the Gospel above says that “Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” One thing this tells us is that even Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God, needed time to ponder, reflect and savor this most holy mystery. She never doubted, but her faith continually deepened, and her heart pondered the unfathomable and incomprehensible mystery of the Incarnation.

Another thing this tells us is that there is no end to the depth of the “pondering” to which we must commit ourselves if we want to enter more deeply into the mystery of the birth of the Son of God. Reading the story, setting up a nativity scene, sharing Christmas cards, attending Mass and the like are central to a holy celebration of Christmas. But “pondering” and “reflecting,” especially during prayer and especially at the Christmas Mass, will have the effect of drawing us ever deeper into this Mystery of our Faith.

Reflect, today, with our Blessed Mother. Ponder the Incarnation. Place yourself into the scene that first Christmas. Hear the sounds of the town. Smell the smells of the stable. Watch as the shepherds come forth in adoration. And enter the mystery more fully, acknowledging that the more you know about the mystery of Christmas, the more you know how little you actually know and understand. But that humble realization is the first step to a deeper understanding of what we celebrate this day.

Excerpt from Thomas, J. P. (2022, September 30). Pondering the Birth of Christ. My Catholic Life! <https://mycatholic.life/books/catholic-daily-reflections-series-two/advent-christmas-series-two/christmas-octave/#buy>



Advent, Christmas & New Year Schedule

	<u>4th Sunday of Advent</u>
Dec 23	5:00 PM
Dec 24	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM
	<u>Mass</u>
	5:00 PM (Carol singing at 4:30 PM)
	7:30 PM (Carol singing at 7:00 PM)
	9:30 PM (Carol singing at 9:00 PM)
	- Pilipino Mass (Misa de Gallo)
	12:00 AM (Carol singing at 11:15 PM)
Christmas Eve	
	<u>Christmas Mass</u>
	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM
	No evening Mass on Christmas Day
	<u>Sunday Mass: Feast of Holy Family</u>
Dec 30	5:00 PM
Dec 31	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM
New Year's Eve	<u>Mass</u>
	5:00 PM
New Year's Day	<u>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God/ New Years</u>
	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM

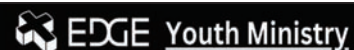
NOTE:

Since the 4th Sunday of Advent is the same day as Christmas Eve, parishioners must attend:

- One Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent.
- One Mass (either on Christmas Eve or Day) to fulfill Christmas obligation.

Since the Feast of the Holy Family is the same day as New Year's Eve, parishioners must attend:

- One Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family.
- One Mass (either on New Year's Eve or Day) for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the New Year obligation.



Are you in grade 6, 7, and 8? Join EDGE

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JTanuan@archtoronto.org or 416-282-0370 ex. 213.

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