

St. Joseph's Church, Highland Creek

Ministered by the Spiritans - Congregation of the Holy Ghost

200 Morrish Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M1C 1E8

Phone: 416-282-0370

Fax: 416-282-9378

E-mail: stjosephsSC@archtoronto.org Website: www.stjosephstoronto.org

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





FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 31, 2023

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Week of Dec 30 to Jan 06

- Dec 30** Sat 9:00 AM - Intention of Maria Fan
5:00 PM † Giovanni & Aquilina Vacca
- Dec 31** Sun 9:00 AM † Pasquali Agata
11:00 AM - People of the Parish
5:00 PM - People of the Parish
- Jan 01** Mon 9:00 AM - Intention of Bunny & James Santos
11:00 AM - People of the Parish
7:00 PM - Intention of Thor & Margie Nicolas & their family
- Jan 02** Tue 9:00 AM - Intention of Angela Leung & Michael Okelicz
- Jan 03** Wed 9:00 AM † Simeon Maristanes
- Jan 04** Thu 9:00 AM † Bonnie Pinto
- Jan 05** Fri 9:00 AM † Giuseppe Riggi
† Donald Bastiampillai
† Sally Atkinson
† Naseem (Jimmy) Shiekh
† Patrick Pinto
- Intention of Mathilda & Denis Gracias
- Intention of Mario & Maria Simao
- Intention of Ricardo & Cornelia Chua's family
7:30 PM † Mateo Tanuan
† Sydney Fonseca
† Theresa Joseph & Joe Yoganathan
- Jan 06** Sat 9:00 AM † Florie Vegas D'Souza
5:00 PM † Liam Traynor

REFLECTION

Every year, Christmas unites the weary and warring human family for a few days of rejoicing. Each year, we are surprised anew at the richness of God's gift to us of Christ. From contemplating this gift, we learn the meaning of self-giving love. Today's Mass centers on our human school of love, the family. Sirach comments on the fourth commandment, to honor one's parents. The last verses of Colossians draw on a pre-Christian household code, but its first two sections are remarkable within a patriarchal culture for their fully Christian values: relationships are based on mutual love and forgiveness rather than subordination. With such love, God sent his Son. The gospel readings remind us that the Holy Family was not spared the pain, separation, and need for trust experienced by those who love. Our suffering can be transformed by imitating Christ's love—a love which he learned from his parents. The miracle of Christmas assures us that God boundlessly enriches our everyday lives when lived with love.

(Sunday Mass Book)



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 MINISTRY CONTACTS:

(416) 282-0370

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Gen-

eral 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.

KNIGHTS 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

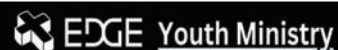
Email: JTanuan@archtoronto.org

Jeremy Tanuan EXT 213

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS

MON JAN 01, 2024 Closed

TUES JAN 02, 2024 Back to our regular schedule



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Please contact Jeremy Tanuan for more information:
JTanuan@archtoronto.org or 416-282-0370 ex. 213.

The Family as a Communion of Love

Today we honor family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families.



By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of very little in the Scripture. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little.

The line from today's Gospel, however, give us some insight worth pondering. First, we see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord..." Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord.

The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives.

Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfill this duty of love?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a model for us all.

Excerpt from Thomas, J. P. (2022, September 30). *The Family as a Communion of Love*. My Catholic Life! <https://mycatholic.life/books/catholic-daily-reflections-series-two/advent-christmas-series-two/christmas-octave/>



Christmas & New Year's Schedule

	<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
Jan 6	<u>The Epiphany of the Lord</u> 5:00 PM
Jan 7	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

NOTE: 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.

Spiritus East Young Adult Ministry (18-39)

"TOLKIEN'S LITTLE WAY"

WEDNESDAY, JAN 3, 2024 • 7 PM

St Barnabas Catholic Church (10 Washburn Way)

Please join us for 7pm mass followed by a talk from Eden O'Brien. The talk will explore why Tolkien entrusts the central mission of the Lord of the Rings novel – the guarding and destruction of the Ring – to the most seemingly incapable characters: the Hobbits. In addition, this discussion will also reflect on Tolkien's approach in relation to the Catholic Tradition.

**For more info, please contact Samantha Goh:
spirituseast@gmail.com or 416.599.7676.**

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