



# ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st, 2023



*O Mother of God, you birthed the one who created all.  
 How beautiful the mystery.  
 How exalted your vocation that precedes and makes  
 possible the Apostles' own vocations.  
 At home you bounced on your knee the one who spins  
 the world on His finger.  
 Help us start this new year with wonder more than  
 resolutions, with eternal gratitude  
 more than mundane goals — Amen*

MY CATHOLIC LIFE

**Our mission at St. Francis de Sales** is to joyfully welcome you to our parish family of faith, trusting that: if you are seeking Christ, you will find Him here. If grieving, you will receive comfort. If troubled in spirit, you will receive the blessing of peace without being judged. If discouraged, you will rejoice in hope. If alone, you will find companionship and Christian love. May our parish be a sanctuary of peace for you as we journey together to the Father's house.

### Parish Hours

#### DAILY MASS

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 am  
 FRIDAY 7:00 pm  
 SATURDAY 9:00 am

#### SUNDAY MASS

SATURDAY 5:00 pm  
 SUNDAY 8:30 am | 10:15 am | 12:00 pm | 7:00 pm

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

FRIDAY 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm  
 SATURDAY 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

#### OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30 am - 3:30 pm  
 SATURDAY 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

### Parish Contacts

|                                 |  |           |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|
| PASTOR                          | <b>FR. JOSEPH SINGH</b><br>sfdspastor@gmail.com      | ☎ ext 105 |
| ASSOCIATE PASTOR                | <b>FR. STEVEN KWON</b><br>associatesfds40@gmail.com  | ☎ ext 104 |
| DEACON                          | <b>DEACON ALBAN SOARES</b><br>alban.soares@gmail.com | ☎ ext 108 |
| PARISH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR     | VANESSA LOWING<br>sfrancisdesales@archtoronto.org    | ☎ ext 103 |
| CONFIRMATION, & YOUTH MINISTRY  | NOAH AQUINO<br>naquino@archtoronto.org               | ☎ ext 100 |
| FIRST COMMUNION, RECONCILIATION | DAWN SELDA<br>dawn.selda@archtoronto.org             | ☎ ext 102 |

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# Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Excerpts from HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

.... For the shepherds, the manger was a joyful sign: it was the confirmation of the message they had heard from the angel....

Yet such was not the case with Mary, the Holy Mother of God. She had to endure “the scandal of the manger”. She too, ... received the message of an angel, who spoke to her solemnly about the throne of David.... And now, Mary has to lay him in a trough for animals.... How can she reconcile the glory of the Most High and the bitter poverty of a stable? ....

... Mary, instead... keeps all these things, pondering them in her heart... the expression of a mature, adult faith ... For spiritual fruitfulness is born of trials and testing....

.... The Gospel speaks of Mary “bringing together”, comparing, her different experiences and finding the hidden threads that connect them.... she binds together the beautiful things and the unpleasant things....that the glory of the Most High appears in humility; she welcomes the plan of salvation whereby God must lie in a manger. She sees the divine Child frail and shivering, and she accepts the wondrous divine interplay between grandeur and littleness....

... And this is Mary’s attitude: she keeps and ponders right up to Calvary.

.... At the beginning of the New Year, then, let us place ourselves under the protection of this woman, the Mother of God, who is also our mother. May she help us to keep and ponder all things, unafraid of trials and with the joyful certainty that the Lord is faithful and can transform every cross into a resurrection.... Amen.

Source: [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2022/documents/20220101\\_omelia-madredidio-pace.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2022/documents/20220101_omelia-madredidio-pace.html)



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## REFLECTION

This Sunday we continue looking at the connections between Christmas and Easter. On this New Year's Day, the eighth day of Christmas we read in St. Luke's Gospel, *"When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb"* (Lk 2:20).

Before 1974, when 1 January was dedicated to Mary the Mother of God by Pope St. Paul VI, it was previously known as "Circumcision day or Holy Name day." This shedding of Jesus' Precious Blood at His circumcision would be the first of seven times.

For the Jewish people, to covenant themselves with God was to "seven" oneself. The Hebrew word for "seven" was closely related to the word "to covenant."

Fast forward to Holy week where we read that the other six times that Jesus would shed His Blood are: sweating blood in Garden; being flogged at the pillar; being crowned with thorns; carrying His Cross; being nailed to the Cross and being speared in His side after Jesus dies.

Already only eight days after His birth, Jesus experiences excruciating pain in circumcision, as a foreshadowing at what would happen towards the end of His human life. We could say that the shadow of the Cross had reached back in time to that place in Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Next week we continue looking at the connections between the two great feasts of the Church.



I hope all of our youth had a blessed and safe Christmas weekend. Don't forget, just because the day is over, doesn't mean the season is! The season of Christmas in the church continues. Edge will begin again at the end of the month on Jan 27, 2023 from 7:30pm – 9:00pm (approx.). Life Teen will begin on Saturday, January 21, and is a combined night at St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Pickering. Please ensure that you register for that Life Teen night. It is separate from the one you did in the beginning of the year, and specific to this combined night. We look forward to seeing all of you at Mass. Wishing all of our parish youth a blessed, safe, healthy and prosperous New Year. God Bless.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Happy New Year! It has been so beautiful to see all the children preparing for their sacraments at Mass throughout the Christmas season. The children will continue to prepare for their two very special Sacraments in January. Please see below for the class starts dates and please review the Sacramental schedule on the back of your child's passport for the upcoming First Reconciliation date and second passport review.

First Reconciliation/Communion Preparation classes at our 6 Parish schools:

These classes will begin the week of January 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please note that Mrs. Selda will be preparing all of the grade 2 children from our 6 Parish schools in class.

RCIC Classes at the Parish:

Classes will resume on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Parish, for all the children attending Public/Private schools, Other Catholic schools and for the children in grades 3-6.

God Bless.

## CONFIRMATION

I hope all of our Confirmation families had a blessed and safe Christmas weekend. Don't forget, just because the day is over, doesn't mean the season is! The season of Christmas in the church continues. **Classes will begin either on Sunday, Jan 15 from 4pm – 6pm or Monday, Jan 16 from 7pm – 9pm, depending on which day your child has been assigned.** All classes will be in person at the church. Please review the class expectations documents prior to your arrival. If you did not pick up your Confirmation class book after confession, they will be waiting for you on your first day of class in the church. If you have any questions, please email Noah Aquino. Wishing all our sacramental families a very safe, healthy and joyous New Year!

God Bless.



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



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