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SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st, 2024



*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 : We joyfully welcome you to our parish family of faith. 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

HOLY HOUR

FRIDAY 6:00 pm - 7:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

FRIDAY 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm
SATURDAY 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm
or by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
SATURDAY 9:30 am - 12:30 pm | 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm
SUNDAY 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Parish Contacts

PASTOR	FR. JOSEPH SINGH sfdspastor@gmail.com ☎ ext 105
ASSOCIATE PASTOR	FR. DEREK ALI fr.derek.ali@gmail.com ☎ ext 104
DEACON	DEACON ALBAN SOARES alban.soares@gmail.com ☎ ext 108
PARISH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	VANESSA LOWING stfrancisdesales@archtoronto.org ☎ ext 103
CONFIRMATION, & YOUTH MINISTRY	NOAH AQUINO naquino@archtoronto.org ☎ ext 100
FIRST COMMUNION, RECONCILIATION	DAWN SELDA dawn.selda@archtoronto.org ☎ ext 102

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St. Francis de Sales Parish

www.stfrancisdesales.archtoronto.org

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



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THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, 1 JANUARY *New Years Day*

- 10:00 AM + JOHN & JANET SOARES AND DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS
+ EDITH & EDWIN FERNANDES
+ HILARIO RABOY
- 11:30 AM S.I. ELLIE DEMATTOS
+ ALLY HOOSAIN
+ NENETTE PASIGAN
- 1:00 PM + ARTHUR RONALD PERILLA NAVASERO
+ JACOB FAVILA

TUESDAY, 2 JANUARY

- 9:00 AM S.I. JOSEPH & JULIE GALEA
+ REMEDIOS CORTEZ ESGUERRA

WEDNESDAY, 3 JANUARY

- 9:00 AM S.I. MICHAEL ARBOUR
+ EDMUNDO & MILAGROS BALLERAS

THURSDAY, 4 JANUARY

- 9:00 AM S.I. PAULA RAGGIUNTI

FRIDAY, 5 JANUARY

- 9:00 AM S.I. IN THANKSGIVING FOR A SAFE TRIP
S.I. ELLIE DEMATTOS

SATURDAY, 6 JANUARY *St Andre Bessette*

- 9:00 AM S.I. HERMOGENES & TARCELA
MAQUIRANG
+ MCCANNON NEWALLO

- 5:00 PM S.I. PETAL LALLA-PROUT
+ RICHARD CLARK
+ ALFRED PELOI

SUNDAY, 7 JANUARY *The Epiphany of the Lord*

- 8:30 AM S.I. CYNTHIA SHIM
+ JOSE ANTONIO MOURA & FAMILY
+ RITA BRETT
- 10:15 AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH
- 12:00 PM S.I. ALEXANDER FAMILY
S.I. LOUISE CABRAL
- 7:00 PM S.I. GRETTA CARDOZ

A CATHOLIC CACKLE

Need a little laughter to brighten your day? Try out this joke.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle Age is when you're forced to!



Visit our **NEW** website:

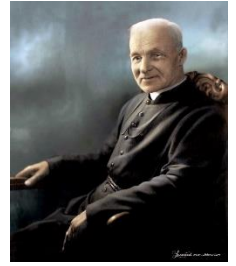
www.stfrancisdesales.archtoronto.org

REFLECTION ON ST. ANDRE BESSETTE

Feast Day: January 6th

Alfred Bessette was born in Quebec on August 9, 1845. He had to work to support himself and had little formal education, but from an early age he had a lively faith and a strong devotion to St. Joseph. After a few years trying to find work in the United States, he returned to Quebec. There, his childhood pastor encouraged him to consider a vocation to religious life. He sent Alfred to the Congregation with a note that said, "I am sending you a saint". Upon entering the Novitiate, Alfred took the name André. His desire to increase devotion to St. Joseph inspired him to found a shrine now known as the oratory of St. Joseph. Brother André died on January 6, 1937 at the age of 91. On October 17, 2010, he was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI. On this day, the Church recognized that God chose a very simple man for a remarkable life of service to the Church.

Source: <https://holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/st-andre-bessette/>



VOCATIONS



Mary treasured all that God had done for her and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God's gifts and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.**

Email: vocations@archtoronto.org

Website: www.vocationstoronto.ca

2024 SUNDAY MISSALS

We're so glad so many of you have picked up a Missal for this year! Unfortunately, we are not able to use old missals from previous years so you are invited to simply recycle them at home. May the new missal for the year help you enter ever deeper into the Mysteries of our Faith!



2024 OFFERTORY BOXES



Please be sure to pick up your 2024 Sunday Offertory envelopes. If you do not see your name on a box of envelopes, please contact the parish office. **Please do not use the 2024 envelopes until January.**

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



A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

God of all time,
help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.
May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,
help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.
May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,
help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts with thanks
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.
May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have
made.
May the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and, in
the days, ahead
Amen.



MARRIAGE & COMMUNION

Due to the many misconceptions regarding the Catholic Church and marriage, please note that a Catholic may marry a non-Catholic in the Catholic Church, without his or her conversion to the faith. In some instances, a person, who has been previously married, can also be married in the Catholic Church after consultation with the priest. If as a Catholic you're married outside of the Catholic Church without the permission of the Church, we respectfully ask that you refrain from receiving the Eucharist until your marriage has been validated ("sacramentalized") by a Catholic priest or deacon. To remedy this situation, please call one of the priests to make an appointment to have your marriage validated. We are only too happy to bring back to the couple, the graces necessary to live out their marriage, and to reconcile them with the graces of the Eucharist.



CONFIRMATION

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! We wish all the children, their families and our sacramental team a beautiful Christmas with hope, peace, joy and so much love! We pray for great health and safe journeys as you enjoy all the special moments of this special Season! **For those in confirmation, classes will begin January 14/15.**

Christmas Blessings,
Mrs. Selda & Noah Aquino

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Happy New Year! It has been so nice to see all of the children preparing for their sacraments at Mass throughout the Christmas Season. The children will continue to prepare for their 2 very special sacraments in January. Please see below for the class start dates and please review the sacramental schedule on the back of your child's passport for their upcoming First Reconciliation date and 2nd passport review.

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

These classes will begin the week of January 16th. Please note that Mrs. Selda will be preparing all of the grade 2 children in our 6 Parish schools in class.

RCIC Classes at the Parish:

Classes will resume on Saturday January 27th at the Parish, for all of the children attending Public/Private/Other Catholic Schools and for the children in grades 3-6.

God Bless,
Mrs. Selda

PARKING – FIRE ROUTES



We have a problem regarding our fire routes and parking. Please respect the fire routes and do **not** park in front of them. Recently, fire trucks and ambulances have had a hard time accessing the parking lot because people who are illegally parked in the fire zones and driveways. Time is crucial if a parishioner needs medical attention and needs to be rushed to the hospital. Bylaw officers will issue tickets to those who do not comply especially during the holiday season.

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