

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 23, 2023

Saturday 5:00 pm †Anthony Lobo Sr.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 24, 2023 24

9:00 am For the People of the Parish

11:00 am †Deceased members of the Tan & Torralba families

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

5:00 pm †Antonietta Valentino

10:00 pm For the People of the Parish

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

9:00 am †Erma & Guido Barbisan

11:00 am †Nicola Piacentino

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023 (9:00 AM)

†Wieslaw Hutny

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Blessings for Devina & Matthew Tamburello

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023 (9:00 AM)

†Martin Znidarec

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023 (9:00 AM)

†Angelo Fietta, †Richard Antonio and †Giorgio Circosta

**NO MASS ON TUESDAY
NO EUCHARISTIC
ADORATION THIS WEEK**

DAILY DEVOTIONS (after Mass)

Tuesday – Sts. Anne & Joachim
Wed. – Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Thursday - St. Jude
Friday – Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday – St. Michael

Confessions: Sat. 9:30 to 10:30 am

Support Your Parish:

1. Drop off or mail your regular weekly offertory contribution to the parish office.
2. Contribute to your parish offertory by credit card. You can make a one time or recurring contribution to your parish's offertory or other special funds.
3. Contribute through Pre-Authorized giving (PAG). You can obtain a form from the parish office or [click here](#) to download the form.
4. You can contribute to the offertory via on-line banking. Email campaign@archtoronto.org

LPA's Blog - Advent Retreat Spiritual Nuggets

Last week we had the honour to read about Sam's experiences during the Advent Retreat we hosted back on December 2nd. Before I share my main takeaways from this retreat, I wanted to begin this blog by jumping back to 2022 where we had Fr Thomas Lim lead us in our parish Lenten retreat. When he began his talk, he said something that forever changed my disposition whenever I attend retreats. He said...

"In every retreat or pilgrimage, the Lord wishes to impart a special grace or gift for you - a spiritual nugget of some kind. Don't try to accumulate all kinds of spiritual gifts, rather seek the one blessing that he has in store for you!"

In the hustle and bustle that comes with coordinating retreats, I was looking forward to receiving my spiritual nugget from the Lord. Dr Lombardi led the retreat by breaking down the "Our Father" line by line to better recognize and understand the profound beauty and truth behind this prayer. She concluded each of her two talks with songs which is what ended up being my spiritual nugget from this retreat!

I was amazed at how each of these songs in some way connected with the "Our Father". The first song she played was called "O God Beyond All Praising". She prefaced the song by saying that it's words directly mirrors the prayer of Our Father. This song is probably one of my most favourite hymns but I never linked it to this prayer. Before playing it she also encouraged us to reflect on what it means to rejoice in hope and to keep the faith. I was particularly touched by this lyric, "and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still." I was reminded of the line, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven". Our good Father in Heaven sees us and knows us, so even through life's challenges we can rest in His plans knowing that He is trustworthy and good.

The second song was more of a contemporary song called "You Say" by Lauren Daigle. This song cuts straight to the heart as it addresses our frailties and weaknesses and what the Lord has to say about all of them. It speaks truth into the doubts and discouragements that sometimes arise in our hearts. If there is one thing I take away from this song it's that any fears, doubts, and discouragements take their proper place in the presence of God our Father.

During this Christmas season, I encourage you to take these songs to prayer and allow the Lord to speak to you through them. Perhaps there is a spiritual nugget the Lord wants to give you through them too.

1. O God Beyond All Praising - https://youtu.be/Ym-14f8j6_c?si=cWZ_5RmXyx7uegOp
2. You Say - Lauren Daigle - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slaT8JI2zpl>

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES

Offertory Envelope boxes, for the year 2024, are now available. If you have not received your box of envelopes or did not sign up for one, but would like to do so, please see Marilyn Fernandes at the back of the Church before or after any Mass on the weekend, call 905-278-2058 or email MFernandes@archtoronto.org

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

In Loving Memory of Mary Barbisan
In Loving Memory of Riccardo Barbisan

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In Loving Memory of Pietro Piccolomo
In Loving Memory of Gina Zinga

OUR BLESSED MOTHER

In Loving Memory of Anita Coleman
In Thanksgiving

ST. JOSEPH

Successful Wedding of
Uche Bende & Uchenna Arukwe

SSVP - WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our 12 members wish you many blessings this Christmas and throughout the New Year! We are humbled by your support, which allowed us to make over 300 visits in 2023 to Neighbours in Need (NIN) in Port Credit.

Our NIN wrote you many Christmas cards (please look at them in the basket under the tree in the entrance of the church). I leave the last word to them. "You have made such a difference in ours and others lives." Another wrote "With God's help I hope to be on the giving end. I would like to pay it forward and know I made a difference in someone's happiness." And another said "Thank you for being there for those struggling. Your kindness will not go unnoticed by God."

2023 TAX RECEIPTS

Please note that 2023 tax receipts will be issued for all donations received latest by December 31, 2023 (this includes donations received at all the Masses on December 31). Donations received on or after January 1, 2024 (this includes the New Year's Day Masses on January 1), will be receipted at the end of 2024.

If you have moved, please email your new address to Marilyn at MFernandes@archtoronto.org so that we can update our records before the tax receipts are mailed out.

SSVP HPLINE : 647-628-2058

Leave your name, number and a brief message and someone will get back to you at the earliest.

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VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE

Connect with us online! Scan the QR code to visit our parish website.
If you are new to the parish, welcome! Register on the website.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

***Holy Days of Obligation**

***CHRISTMAS EVE**

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

5:00 PM & 10:00 PM

***CHRISTMAS DAY**

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023

9:00 AM

Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

9:00 AM

Followed by Devotion to St. Jude

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023

9:00 AM

Followed by Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

9:00 AM

Followed by Devotion to St. Michael

No Eucharistic Adoration this week

***VIGIL OF THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

5:00 PM

***FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

***NEW YEAR'S EVE**

VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

5:00 PM

***NEW YEAR'S DAY**

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM