

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 (5:00 PM)

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 | Psalm 85:9-14 | 2 Peter 3:8-14 | Mark 1:1-8

For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 (9:00 AM)

†Alan Sr. & †Alan Jr. del Puerto

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 (11:00 AM)

†Angela Anastasi & †Maria Sena

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

Isaiah 35:1-10 | Psalm 85:9ab,10-14 | Luke 5:17-26

NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 (7:00 PM)

Zecariah 2:14-17 | Psalm Judith 13:18BCDE,19 | Luke 1:26-38

†Joseph, Teresa & Clinton Vaz Corera

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Isaiah 40:25-31 | Psalm 103:1-4,8,10 | Matthew 11:28-30

†Dorothy Galea

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Isaiah 41:13-20 | Psalm 145:1,9-11,12-13ab | Matthew 11:11-15

†John Secko, †Simon & Anna Stoklas

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Isaiah 48:17-19 | Psalm 1:1-4,6 | Matthew 11:16-19

†Anthony Menezes

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 (RORATE MASS 7:00 AM)

Sirach 48:1-4,9-11 | Psalm 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19 | Matthew 17:9a,10-13

†Claudio Rosales and †Pascalia Rodrigues

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wed. & Thurs. 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Friday 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

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

PASTOR'S BLOG

First Week of Advent complete! The week began with our (Pre)-Advent retreat on Saturday December 2nd with Dr Josephine Lombardi. I did my best to hype up the retreat and speaker. I am so very grateful that she delivered what we needed to hear. It was a beautiful and blessed day. Amazing talks, great discussion, a time of prayer in Adoration of Our Blessed Lord...what more could one ask for in a half day retreat! To organize such a retreat, it takes many hours in prayer, in planning and in executing. My thanks to Adriene, Sam and the hospitality team for their dedication and commitment. Over the next couple of weeks of Advent you will get to hear from Sam and Adriene on their experience of the retreat.

The next event that we hosted was our combined school Advent Mass with the blessing of our outdoor creche. We began this custom last year with the idea coming from one of our principals who had seen it done at one of the former schools where she was an administrator. I figured, let's give it a try. While last year's attendance at the Mass was okay, this year we more than doubled that attendance. We made some adjustments, brought in a combined school children choir, and had the blessing of the creche. It was family oriented and everyone who came was grateful for having the opportunity to worship God as a parish family and for the fellowship in the hall. My sincere thanks goes to Mrs McCann and Mr Gibson for their support and encouragement, the teachers who organized the children's choir and those who were present at the Mass, and to the parent councils of both schools who organized the light refreshments in the hall.

In the spirit of Advent of looking back and looking forward to situate us in our present, we now look forward to our Rorate Mass on December 16th at 7am, Bambinelli Sunday and then Christmas. I figure I would spend the rest of my blog trying to explain how we can meet our Sunday and Christmas obligations this year with Christmas falling on a Monday. I know we will be getting a lot of phone calls and questions about this anyways, but here we go. For reference and a more detailed explanation, please check out this awesome article at [The Pillar](#).

Option 1: Two for two

Many, maybe most Catholics will opt for simply going to their usual morning Mass on successive days — first on December 24 for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and then again the next day for Christmas. It's easy to remember, simple to plan around, and the no-nonsense solution. Two obligations, two Masses, two days, Sunday and Monday.

At St. Mary's, the Mass times for Sunday December 24th are 9am and 11am and Monday December 25th are 9am and 11am.

Option 2: 'Vigil' all the way

There is, of course, more than one way to go to Mass twice in two days — especially at Christmas when a lot of people prefer to go to the Mass in the night. Anticipatory Masses can take place the day before a Sunday — and “vigil” Masses the day before a feast.

At St. Mary's, the Mass times for the “vigils” are Saturday December 23rd at 5pm and Sunday December 24th at 5pm and 10pm.

Option 3: The long weekend

If you want to take Sunday December 24th to relax, meal preparation, or travel long distance for family functions, you can attend a Saturday anticipated Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and then go for morning Mass on Christmas Day, essentially giving yourself a day off in between celebrations.

At St. Mary's, this option is going to Mass on Saturday December 23rd at 5pm and then going to Mass on Monday December 25th at 9am or 11am.

Option 4: Super Sunday

Not for the faint-hearted, but instead of spreading your Eucharistic obligations across three days, you could opt to pack them all into one Super Sunday. To do that, you would go to Sunday morning Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and then to Mass again, later that afternoon or evening, for a Christmas vigil Mass.

At St. Mary's this option is going to Mass on Sunday December 24th for the 4th Sunday of Advent at 9am or 11am and then coming to Mass in the evening for the 5pm or 10pm Christmas vigil Mass.

Option 5: Double Christmas

If you really want to maximize your carol singing chances, and double down on nativity narratives for the Gospel reading, you could opt for two Christmas Masses.

The Sunday obligation — that Catholics attend weekly Masses on the Lord's Day — is one of those cases in which "liturgical time" and of-the-clock-time don't exactly overlap, at least sometimes.

Catholics are obliged to attend Mass every Sunday, including the Fourth Sunday of Advent. And they are obliged to go to Mass for the feast of Christmas. Those two obligations are distinct and have to be met separately — but there's no rule mandating that the Mass Catholics attend for their Sunday obligation actually be celebrated liturgically for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

So you could attend back-to-back vigil Masses for Christmas on Sunday evening, or a vigil Mass in the evening, followed by another Mass in the evening or Mass on Christmas Day, and have satisfied both your Sunday and Christmas Day obligations.

At St. Mary's this option will have you attending Mass on Sunday December 24th at 5pm and then coming to Mass again at 10pm or going to Mass on Monday December 25th at 9am or 11am.

Now that was a lot. To help those who learn better with visual aids, here is a diagram (this is not the smile of the week!):

Christmas Mass 2023		
It feels like an algebra problem, but it's not! Deep breaths. You can do this!		
Use the chart below to choose TWO Masses (one from each column) to attend.		
MASS TIMES	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	CHRISTMAS
Saturday Evening, 12/23 Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (generally starting after 4pm)	✓	✗
Sunday Morning, 12/24 Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (generally starting before 3:59 pm)	✓	✗
Sunday Evening, 12/24 Mass for the Nativity of the Lord (generally starting after 4pm, until 11:59pm)	✓	✓
Monday, 12/25 Mass for the Nativity of the Lord (starting at 12am or later)	✗	✓

Fr Michael

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

What makes you happy? This Sunday from 4:30-6:00 pm we will be having our next Navigation Night and exploring what truly makes us happy! All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome!

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 this weekend, call 905-278-2058 or email MFernandes@archtoronto.org

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

In thanksgiving
For all Souls

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In thanksgiving
For all Souls

OUR BLESSED MOTHER

In thanksgiving
For all Souls

ST. JOSEPH

In thanksgiving

SSVP

As we anticipate the festive Christmas season and joyous gatherings with family and friends, we hope you will remember the less fortunate families in our community and keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing generosity throughout the year. This weekend, we extend a warm invitation to our Neighbours in Need to join us in the parish hall, and thanks to the incredible kindness of our donors, we can significantly enhance their Christmas.

It has been an interesting year, as we lost a couple of team members but also added three new members to join us. We are actively seeking more individuals to join our cause. If you feel compelled to assist the needy in our parish, please contact Angela at 647-998-5183 to find out how you can contribute. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your continued support!

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.

SSVP HELPLINE : 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.



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JOIN US IN AN ADVENT TRADITION

THE RORATE MASS

**Saturday, December 16 at
7:00AM**

Solemn candlelit Mass
in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Advent



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH
11 PETER STREET SOUTH
MISSISSAUGA, ON



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Weekend of December 16/17

The blessing of the Bambinelli takes place on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. The blessing of the Baby Jesus figurines - known as the 'Bambinelli' in Rome - reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy.

All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass on Saturday, December 16th at 5pm or Sunday, December 17th at 9am or 11am to be blessed as we celebrate Bambinelli Sunday!