ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Winter Newsletter

JANUARY 2025

ISSUE 02

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My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!

Welcome to the second issue of Fiat! This is also the first issue of 2025 which coincides with the beginning of the Jubilee Year. You will be hearing a lot about the Jubilee Year from Frank Cardinal Leo and the communications department at the Archdiocese. I will also be writing about it and preaching about it from time to time. So, I hope to use this letter to explain what a Jubilee Year is and how it can be beneficial for our spiritual life.

Jubilee 2025 began on Christmas Eve 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's in Rome and will conclude on January 6, 2026 when the door of the Vatican basilica is closed. The theme of this holy year is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Boniface VIII inaugurated the practice of holy years in 1300 and it is not something made up by the Church to attract pilgrims to Rome for financial benefits. A Jubilee Year is rooted in Sacred Scripture, Leviticus 25 to be precise, where every 50th year was a year of freedom, family and fullness. It was a year dedicated to rest where the Israelites were not supposed to reap or harvest acknowledging that God would provide for their needs.

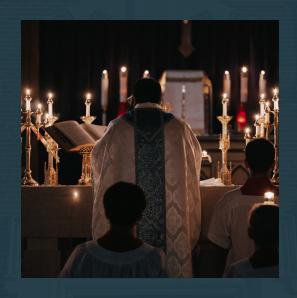
The Year of Jubilee becomes a foreshadowing for the work that Jesus would accomplish on the cross. When he reads from the book of the prophet Isaiah concerning the great jubilee in his hometown of Nazareth, he applies that prophecy to himself (Luke 4:18-19). By His death and resurrection, we are set free from sin, we are given the fullness of life and restored in the family of God as His children.

This year of grace can be greatly beneficial for our spiritual life and for our parish as a harbour of refuge and beacon of hope. I would suggest three things to receive these graces being poured out on us and the Church. The first would be to rediscover the hope in the Sacrament of Penance (Forgiveness of Sins). The second would be to make a regular Holy Hour (taking rest from work and spending time with the Lord). The third is to get to know one or two new saints (our family in heaven).



#### FROM THE PASTORS DESK CONTINUED

This second issue of *Fiat* also coincides with the completion of my 6 years as parish priest and the beginning of my seventh. It has been a great blessing for me and I cannot thank the Lord enough for sending me to St. Mary Star of the Sea. Over these past 6 years, we have been slowly working away with a vision for our parish to guide us in our decisions, restoring the initiative to God. As you will see throughout this issue, we have begun to intentionally embrace the missionary mandate of Our Lord so that we can become the lighthouse of Port Credit. Looking to the seventh year, as we walk together as pilgrims of hope in 2025, I pray that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will continue to shine through each of you as it did Our Lady when she said Fiat.



Rev. Fr Michael Simoes

# Sacramental Updates from Adriene and Samantha!

Confirmation preparation has begun! It started with the Rite of Enrollment on Sunday, January 11th at the 11am Mass where 18 students received their Confirmation Crosses!

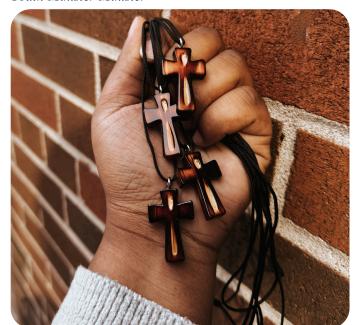
From there they attended their very first Confirmation class run by myself together with and five other catechists. These classes take place twice a month from now until their Confirmation in June!

The structure of the these classes strives to engage the candidates in meaningful conversations about the Catholic faith. It is also designed for them to ask big questions and have those hard discussions before their Confirmation.

Their Confirmation day is set for Saturday, June 7th (Pentecost weekend) at the 5pm Mass! Please pray for all of the candidates as they journey closer to our Lord and His Church!

Samantha Cameron

Youth Minister Minister

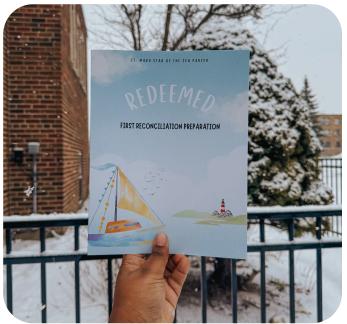


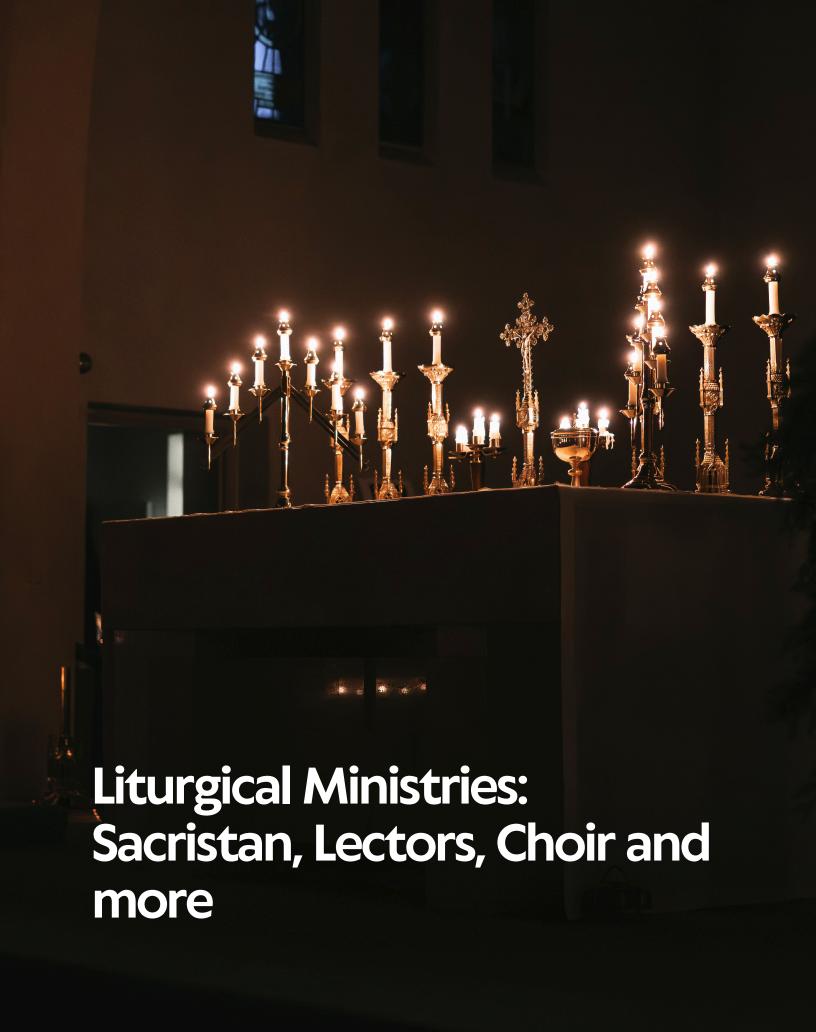
First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion sessions have officially started!

We began our first class this past January 11th with 26 children enrolled. This year we have created our very own program titled, "Redeemed" for First Reconciliation and "Given" for First Communion. This program was inspired and born out of prayer that seeks to bring the children back to the basics of the Catholic faith and launch them into a deeper understanding of the Sacraments all while helping them get to know who Jesus Christ is and what having Him in their lives can do in their hearts.

In between the children's sessions, we also offer two morning retreats for their entire family as a way to walk with the parents as they continue to walk with their children. The children will be making their First Reconciliation on February 8th and receiving their First Communion on May 4th at the 11am Mass. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers!

Adriene Gill
Lay Pastoral Associate







## Lectors, Altar boys and Choir

#### Lectors

Lectors have a particularly important role in the liturgy as they are responsible for proclaiming the Word of God at Mass. This includes the welcoming address, the first and second readings, the psalm (when it is not sung), and the prayers of the faithful.

For more information about becoming a lector please contact our lector coordinator, Sheila Saldanha (shs@rogers.com)



#### **Altar Boys**

Altar boys are responsible for helping the priest throughout the Mass by processing in before the priest holding the cross, candles and incense as well as carrying out different tasks at the altar.



"We are not called to serve merely in order to receive a reward, but rather to imitate God, who made Himself a servant for our love."

Pope Francis, Homily at Church of the Immaculate Conception
Bazu. Azerbaijan. Oct. 2, 2016

However, this ministry can be more than simply helping the priest during the Mass. Altar serving acts as a vocational discernment Music Director 11am Mass for young men who might want to become a priest one day. It gives them an opportunity to experience the liturgy in a way that they would not be able to if they were sitting with the congregation. It can help them develop a deeper relationship with Christ, develop a sense of responsibility and help to understand the Mass!

For any young man who is interested in becoming an altar server please contact Fr. Michael (MSimoes@archtoronto.org)

#### **Choir**

Music has always been one of the cornerstones of Catholic worship which enhances the liturgy. Paul the Apostle says in Ephesians 5:19: "speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."

The 11 AM Choir leads the congregation in singing and more recently, assists the congregation with the Responsorial Psalm refrain from the Ambo. While the choir is small in number, we are blessed with a wonderful group of individuals from various musical backgrounds. Weekly rehearsals are on Thursday evenings.

If you are interested in joining, please leave your name and phone number at the parish office or email me and I will send you a registration

### **Jeff Glover**, jglover@archtoronto.org

"We have a good time at practice for the choir learning new hymns and songs to enhance the liturgy. Everyone is friendly and welcoming, and we all work together to create a joyful noise and to give praise to God." - St. Mary Star of the Sea Choir Member



## Sacristan & Ministry of Care

#### Sacristan

The Sailor in the Sacristy

When I come to church, it is as though I am going aboard a ship. When I enter the sacristy, it seems I am accessing the captain's navigating bridge. When I open a drawer or a cupboard, it is like peeking inside a treasure chest.

My duties as a volunteer sacristan include various things that can be summed up in two categories: setting up for mass and adoration; cleaning up after mass and adoration.

I feel privileged to be able to touch sacred vessels and maintain them in good order. My favourite task is polishing ciboria (a ciborium is a vessel that contains the Body of Christ and is veiled when placed inside the Tabernacle) to make them as clean and as bright as possible. Doing this activity in silence brings much inner peace to me.

I was a sailor, lost at sea. Then I found a lighthouse...

May the light of Christ shine brightly in the life of all who enter our little parish in search of Him. St Mary of the Sea, pray for us.



Volunteer Sacristan



#### **Ministry of Care**

The Ministry of Care is a work of love and privilege for those who bring the Eucharist to parishioners who cannot attend Sunday mass. By our presence and concern we support the sick in their pain and help to relieve their loneliness. Through this involvement of our parish community in the spiritual care of the sick, we are fulfilling the words of Jesus – "I was sick and you visited me."

Currently, the members of our Eucharistic team go out each Sunday after the 9am mass to visit either Mississauga Long-Term Care, one home or 2 of three retirement homes – the Regency, Port Credit Residences and the Shores. The commitment is for one or two Sundays a month. Presently, we spend between 1 and 1 ½ hours visiting.

Some of the qualities needed for this ministry are – love of the Eucharist, compassion and sensitivity, good listening skills, being non-judgmental and being open to receiving the many graces that are associated with service to others. Jesus stated: "Truly I tell you, as often as you did it to these the least of my brothers and sisters you did it to me."

Please come and join us in this important ministry. Training and support will be provided on an ongoing basis. If interested and would like more information, please contact me.

Several team members have joined this ministry after a family member or they themselves received visits while sick. I myself have been involved in this ministry for over 20 years and was inspired to join in memory of my mother. Please remember our ministry members and those we visit in your prayers.

Maureen Teixeira, maureenteixeira8@gmail.com Coordinator of the Ministry of Care



## **PARISH MINISTRY**

"It has been a 10 year's pleasure for me to go to the Craft Group on Wednesdays, knowing I participate with wonderful ladies in doing something which becomes donations for charities. Join us to enrich your soul!" - Cecilia, Craft Group Member

#### The Craft Group

The Craft Group at St. Mary's has been part of the Parish for over 60 years, originally founded by a group of CWL members who enjoyed crafting and wanted to meet regularly for fun, friendship, and to share their talents.

The group continues to thrive, creating beautiful handcrafted items for sale at Bazaars, with proceeds benefiting local charities. We welcome new members to join on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and we are open to new ideas!

We also thank everyone who supported the successful Craft Sale in December.

Noreen, Barb, Cecilia, Loraine, Diana, Joane & Anne St. Mary Star of the Sea Craft Group







#### Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Our SSVP team has 12 members, consisting of 10 women and 2 men (c'mon men, why not give us a try?!). It's interesting to note that 3 of our members are in their 80's and are a great asset to the team (way to go, Renzo, Anne and Pat!) – and we will have a new member (Maureen) in that age bracket soon. (We salute the senior members of the other parish ministries also!). It's never too late (or too early) to serve the Lord – it's always the right time!

In 2024, we made 290 home visits. There's a lot of need for our help in Port Credit (and for the help of our donors, to whom we are so grateful). That's an average of 24 visits a month.

Many of our Neighbours in Need (NIN's) live alone – it's expensive not having someone to share the rent. Very few are working – a number of NIN's are seniors, and many are on ODSP or OW. Some have mental health issues; some have grown up with little education; a number have serious medical issues. Nobody lives in their own house. Only 1 or 2 people own a car. We strive to serve with compassion and the love of Christ. We pray at every meeting, and pray before doing our visits. We feel the call to share our blessings.

May God bless all of us.

#### Sal Badali

Secretary, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

#### Catholic Women's League

As we enter 2025, we begin with our membership drive through the end of January. Women 18 years and older are encouraged to join this bond of sisterhood. This is a wonderful opportunity for mothers and daughters to connect while working on meaningful projects that serve our community.

Join us for coffee and dessert at these gatherings! We are seeking volunteers for our upcoming projects, starting with the Mary Badali Vita Center Drive at the end of April. Volunteers are needed to sort, box, and deliver baby clothes and food donations to the Vita Centre. Our next project will take place in June. We

hope you will join us in these meaningful efforts to

Many thanks to all the parishioners who supported the Elisa House Gift Bag Drive last December. Your generosity was overwhelming, we were able to donate 42 gift bags. Your kindness has made a tremendous difference in the lives of those in need.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are hopeful and excited for what lies ahead. Extra hands are always appreciated, and we thank you in advance for your continued support.

May God bless you all!

#### **Charmaine Saldanha**

Co President, St. Mary Star of the Sea Council



"I participate in CWL because it's a community where I've formed deep friendships while growing in my faith. The bond we share through prayer, reflection, and service strengthens our spiritual lives, creating a place of love, encouragement, and connection. It truly is the best women's group, offering a sense of belonging and purpose that's hard to find anywhere else."

- Diana Meola, Treasurer, St.Mary Star of the Sea Council

#### **Catholic Mom's Group**

support our community!

We are a ministry geared to support and revive the vocation of motherhood in the Church. Being a mom, wife, daughter and often also working outside the home can be challenging.

It is said that "It takes a Village to raise a child". We wish to bring together like minded mothers who crave to find a community, form new friendships, grow spiritually and share parenting ideas for their growing families.

At St Mary's, we believe that supporting Motherhood is crucial for the building of a better community... a better world for our kids. By the hand of our Heavenly Mother, we want to be part of your "Village"

Come and share in the "Love, Laughter and Moments of Grace" with your new group of Catholic Friends!

#### **Dinorah McCash**

Parish Coordinator of the Catholic Mom's Group





# YOUTH MINISTRY: IGNITING FAITH IN THE SUMMER MONTHS

"Dear young people, like the first disciples, follow Jesus! Do not be afraid to draw near to him, to cross the threshold of his dwelling, to speak with him, face to face, as you talk with a friend." - John Paul II's Message to young people for the 12th World Youth Day

#### Welcome to 2025

How times flies! Welcome to the 2025 Youth Ministry year! We have a lot in store for the youth this year!

First and foremost we are continuing on with our Edge and LifeTeen programs. As a refresher of what those are: Edge is for our elementary/middle schoolers (grades 4-8) and runs on the 4th Sunday of the month from 12-2pm in the parish hall. We are also continuing our collaboration with St. Joseph's with LifeTeen for our high schoolers taking place every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 5-8pm.

#### Stella Maris Summer Camp

The biggest news I have to share with you in this new edition of *Fiat* is summer camp! For the past two years, we have participated in *Totus Tuus* which is run by the Archdiocese. While it has been successful we have decided it is time to spread our wings and create our own parish summer camp: *Stella Maris Summer Camp!* 

We will be running <u>two weeks</u> of summer camp this year so put these dates in your calendar:

Week 1: July 7-11 Week 2: July 21-25

Camp will be open to all kids entering into SK-grade 6! It will run similarly to Totus Tuus but the difference is that we are looking to hire young people from our own parish community to run it!

More information will be coming out next month but for now I am asking for



donations. These donations will go directly towards camp funding whether it be for operating cost or to help subside campers' registration. If you would like to make a donation please contact me by e-mail, phone or stop me after Mass!

God bless,

Samantha Cameron, SCameron@archtoronto.org

Youth Minister

## **Parish Financial Updates**

We would like to take this opportunity in our first 2025 *Fiat* edition to thank you for all of your support and participation in 2024.

Due to your generosity over the years and contributions through the Building and Maintenance Fund Offering – "the green envelopes" - we were able to conduct a very necessary safety measure of repairs to the stairs and support structure for the entrance of the church. We successfully completed this in the Fall and within budget! Going forward, because there will be further important repairs and upgrade projects coming our way,

we would encourage you to use the green envelopes to help fund these projects. Know that any increase you are able to support through either of your envelopes that these monthly contributions will make a big difference toward ensuring we will be in a strong financial position to fund the church's initiatives.

We are very grateful for all that you do for St. Mary Star of the Sea. We look forward to another successful year together.

On behalf of St. Mary Star of the Sea your Finance Council

Income					
Church Revenue	\$103,504.80				
Sundry Receipts	\$37,585.68				
Investments Redeemed	\$349,213.71				
All Other	\$45,363.77				
Total Income	\$535,667.96				

Expenses				
Operating	\$479,931.28			
Diocesan Collections	\$13,889.20			
Archdiocese Assessments	\$19,672.00			
Total Payments	\$513,492.48			

#### Financial Update from July to November

- Drop off or mail your offertory contribution to the parish office. Please do not use prior year envelopes. If you do not have a box of 2025 envelopes contact Marilyn Fernandes at 905-278-2058 or MFernandes@archtoronto.org and one will be assigned to you.
- Contribute to your parish offertory by credit card. You can make a one time recurring contribution to your parish's offertory or other special funds.
- Contribute through pre-authorized giving (PAG). Forms are available at the exits of the Church or click here to download the form.
- · Contribute via on-line banking. Email campaign@archtoronto.org.
- A donation of securities is one of the easiest and smartest ways to donate in Canada. With a gift of securities, you can receive an immediate donation receipt for the fair market value of the security. In addition, there is no capital gains tax applied to any benefit received from the sale of these securities. Listed securities include, stocks, bonds and mutual funds. To donate listed securities, you can obtain our form, the letter of direction, by visiting this link: https://bit.ly/GiftofSecurities. For further information, contact the Development Office at: 416-934-3400 ext. 561/519 or development@archtoronto.org.

## **Parish Calendar**

#### Reoccurring Events:

Craft Group meets every Wednesday from 10am-2pm Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed every Friday online at 3pm

February

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						l First Saturday Prayer Mother's Group (10am)
2	3	4	5	6	7 First Friday Adoration (7pm)	8 LifeTeen (6pm)
9	10	1	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Catholic Women's League General Meeting (1:30pm)	20	21	22 LifeTeen( 6pm)
23 Edge (12:30pm)	24	25	26	27	28	

March

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						l First Saturday Prayer Mother's Group (10am)
2 Pancake Sunday Fundraiser	3	4	5	6	7 First Friday Adoration (7pm)	8 LifeTeen (6pm)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 St. Joseph Food Drive
16 St. Joseph Food Drive	17	18	19 Catholic Women's League General Meeting (1:30pm)	20 Mother's Group (7pm)	21	22 LifeTeen (6pm)
23 Edge (12:30pm)	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31		E A			N. S.

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 First Friday Adoration (7pm)	5 First Saturday Prayer Mother's Group (10am)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 LifeTeen (6pm)
13	14	15	16 LifeTeen (6pm)	17	18	19
20	21 Catholic Women's League General Meeting (6pm)	22	23	24	25	26 LifeTeen (6pm)
27	28	29	30			

The mission of the Church, following the Great Commission of our Lord to his apostles, is to make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Given that mission, the vision of St. Mary Star of the Sea parish is to invite the parish family to know and receive the love and fullness of life that is offered by Jesus Christ and to share His love and life with others as His disciples.

## St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish



**PASTOR** 

**REV. FR MICHAEL SIMOES** 

MSimoes@archtoronto.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

**MARILYN FERNANDES** 

MFernandes@archtoronto.org

LAY PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

**ADRIENE GILL** 

AAdona@archtoronto.org

YOUTH MINISTER

**SAMANTHA CAMERON** 

SCameron@archtoronto.org

CUSTODIAN

**SERGIO IAVICOLLI** 

#### **SUNDAY MASS:**

Saturday (Vigil): 5pm Sunday: 9am and 11am

#### **CONFESSIONS:**

Saturday: 9:30-10:30am (or call the parish office for an appointment)

#### **ADORATION:**

Wednesday and Thursday: 9:30-10:30 (following Mass)
Friday: 9:30-12:00pm
First Friday: 9:30-12pm and 7-8pm

#### DAILY MASS:

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 7pm (Devotions to Sts. Anne and Joachim)

Wednesday: 9am (Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help)

Thursday: 9am (Devotion to St. Jude)

Friday: 9am (Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

Saturday: 9am (Devotion to St. Michael the Archangel)

11 Peter Street S, Port Credit Mississauga, ON L5H 2G1 (905)-278-2058 StMaryStaroftheSeaMl@archtoronto.org