

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024 (5:00 PM)



†Angela Lawrence

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Paul Griffin

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024 (11:00 AM)

For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 (7:00 PM)

Special Intentions of Melissa Farrell

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of Ann Fernandes, Vincent Ghisleni, Alex Riddell and Devin Anthony

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Melecio Capillo Sr.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of Tessie Tesoro

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Hugo Benedict, †Joao & Artemisa Viveiros and family

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wed & Thurs - 9:30 am to 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

DECEMBER 1, 2024

The Journey of Advent

As the saying goes, time certainly flies. It does not seem all too long ago that I was writing about getting back to school and all the events that we had in September. And now it is the beginning of December and the beginning of Advent. With only 4 weeks (25 days) left until Christmas (thank God for Advent calendars to keep me in the moment), there are many things that you probably have to do, as do I at the parish, to get prepared for Christmas. With all the noise of the world, especially in the commercial world that advertises for sales and other offers, it is wise to keep all of that in perspective with our focus on the reason for Christmas being the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Flowing from that perspective comes the family gatherings and other socials that celebrate the gift of Jesus in our hearts and lives. The love that He brings into our darkened world, should be brought into our families and to look for opportunities to share that love with members of the family that are in need of it during this time of year.

To help us keep focused on the reason for Christmas during the Advent season, there are a lot of resources to assist. One resource that you can access through the FORMED platform which the parish pays an annual subscription fee for, so that our parishioners can access all the materials for free? It is like Catholic "Netflix" with a tonne of great materials. Here is the link from our parish website that will show you how to access all the content on the FORMED platform for free:

<https://stmarystarofthesea.ca/resources>

The program that they have put together is called Rooted which is a 25 day daily devotional that uses the Jesse Tree model for reflections. It is great a resource for families that want to journey to Christmas through salvation history with activities for children each day.

Ascension Press has put together a resource with celebrity priest, Fr Mike Schmitz called Face to Face. You will probably have to download the Ascension Press app and pay the monthly subscription fee (they might have a Black Friday sale, so keep your eyes peeled). For more information and to sign up:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/frmikeadvent>

For some Canadian content, this Advent season, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) presents an online weekly video series titled "Journey through Advent." This year's English reflections will be led by Archbishop Leo.. The series is intended to help the faithful prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord by offering meaningful reflections on the Gospel readings during each of the four Sundays of Advent. "Journey through Advent" will be released weekly and will be available on the CCCB website and on their YouTube channel.

Also, the National Catholic Broadcasting Council has an Advent Retreat series, this year led by Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Thomas Collins.

Both of these resources can be accessed via www.archtoronto.org

Preparing for Christmas through Advent

With your personal preparations for Christmas, the preparations at the parish continue to roll along. I would draw your attention to our schedule for Advent and Christmas so that you can connect with us during this season.

One area that I could use your support and help is with regards to our Christmas decorations. We want our Church to always look beautiful for Christmas as we welcome not only you but also your family members and guests. Our budget this year for decorating the Advent wreath, outdoor decorations, along with all the indoor decorations is \$1,500. In your box of envelopes, you will find an envelope that is for Christmas flowers. You can drop that off in the offertory bin at any Mass, bring it to the office, or speak to me. Many thanks for your generosity!

Liturgical Considerations for the New Year

With the season of Advent also begins a new liturgical year. With this change in time is also an opportunity to make a few liturgical changes. I have been praying about this for quite sometime and I figured this would be the best time to begin.

The first change effects all Masses and that is with regards to the singing of the psalm. We have become accustomed to the psalm being sung from the choir loft. But, because the psalm is integral to the Liturgy of the Word, the primary place for it to be sung is at the ambo, where the Word of God is proclaimed. And so, beginning this weekend, the psalm will be sung by our cantor at the ambo. My hope with this change is that by seeing the cantor sing the psalm, it will provide you with support to sing the psalm refrain with confidence and joy.

The next change effects the 5pm Saturday Vigil and the 9am Sunday Masses. In Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, we have been using Latin parts of the Mass for all Masses and then in Ordinary Time, we shift to English. Beginning this 1st Sunday of Advent, the 5pm Saturday Vigil and 9am Sunday Masses will be singing the parts of the Mass in English year round. We will be using the ICEL chants that you can find in your Sunday Missal, pages 643-651 for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. We will continue to use the current English parts of the Mass for Ordinary Time. Once again, this is to encourage singing the parts of the Mass with the cantor and providing you with options that would suit your preference.

The last change effects the 11am Sunday Mass. Rather than shifting to English during Ordinary Time, we will be using Latin parts of the Mass year round. The laminated cards in the pews will help you to sing with the choir as you have become accustomed to over these many years. For Ordinary Time, we will be using the ICEL Latin chants that you can find in your Catholic Book of Worship, 299. The other change coming to the 11am Mass is that we will begin to chant the Our Father in English. The tone is fairly straight forward and you will easily be able to follow along. It will be an adjustment at first, but will help us in our worship as we sing the Mass.

Alright, that was a long one. Of course, if you have any questions, please, please, PLEASE do not be afraid to ask me.

Happy Advent!

Fr Michael

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2025



Confirmation Registration closes on December 1st - if you have any questions about registration, please contact Samantha for more information (scameron@archtoronto.org)!

THE ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA CRAFT GROUP

is having their Christmas Craft Sale after all Masses on the weekend of Nov. 30 / Dec. 1. You will find an amazing array of handmade "crafty" items offered for sale including Christmas crocheted ornaments, Baby layettes and blankets, Children's sweaters, hats, mitts, and socks, Adult knitted hats, and scarves, Adult bibs, Men's "beard" bibs as well as a wide range of household gifts and much more. Oh, and don't forget the "Art on the rocks".

AND JOINED BY THE CWL, they will be holding a COOKIE AND BOOK SALE for your sweet tooth and reading enjoyment. In addition, the CWL will be collecting Personal care, dental care, hats, mitts, and scarves for the Elisa House Gift Bag project. A total of 42 bags will be donated to the residents of Elisa House (a shelter run by St. Vincent De Paul for homeless & abused women). Your contribution or monetary donations are appreciated.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

Special intentions of Francesca Racco
Special intentions of Francesca Racco

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In thanksgiving
For the souls in purgatory

OUR BLESSED MOTHER

In thanksgiving
For the souls in purgatory

ST. JOSEPH

In thanksgiving

SSVP – THE GIVING SEASON

Last week's liturgy was the feast of Christ the King, Just as Christ used His power in humility and service, we are challenged to use the power we have (our time, treasure and talent) to serve others. We have received a very encouraging response from our parishioners to our Christmas appeal, and are now feeling in a much better position to offer assistance to our NIN this Christmas and beyond. Thank you for your generosity. But we continue to receive calls asking to be added to the list. If you would like to make a donation, see the options below. God bless you.

How to Donate to SSVP

There is a Christmas envelope in your box of envelopes. Or you can use one of the SSVP envelopes found on the poor boxes or a regular envelope marked SSVP.

To donate online through Canada Helps, please visit

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/>,

and search for "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, St. Mary Star of the Sea Conference" or use the QR Code (also found on the poor boxes):



To donate by Interac e-Transfer, please direct your donation to the email

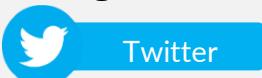
stmarystar@ssvptoronto.ca, and use the Question 'Saint' and password 'Vincent'. Your ongoing generosity means the world to us.

Thank you all for your support.

SSVP HELPLINE: 647-628-2058

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

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @STMARYSTAROFTHESEAPARISH



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.



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA
ADVENT SCHEDULE

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9th: 9am Mass

Blessing of the Crèche

Tuesday, December 10th: 7pm Mass

Rorate Mass

Saturday, December 14th: 7am Mass

Blessing of the Bambinelli

Weekend of December 14/15: All Masses

Advent Day of Confessions

Friday, December 20th:

9:30am-12:00pm - Visiting Priest

2:00pm-4:00pm - Fr. Michael

6:00pm-8:00pm - Visiting Priest

ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The parish office is closed from December 24th-January 3rd

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th: 5pm Mass and Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25th: 9am Mass and 11am Mass

**Please note: There will be no Mass celebrated Dec 26-28th*

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 28th: 5pm Mass

Sunday, December 29th: 9am Mass and 11am Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31st: 5pm Mass

Wednesday, January 1st: 9am Mass and 11am Mass