

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024 (5:00 PM)

†John MacDonald

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 (9:00 AM)

For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 (11:00 AM)

†Lino Rebello

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Special Intentions of Maria Simoes

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024 (7:00 PM)

†Joseph, Teresa & Clinton Vaz Corera

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Antonio Palmieri

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of Laura Bodner

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of Devyn Bhatia

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Martin & Helen Znidarec



EUCARISTIC 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

LPA's Blog - December 7/8

Last Saturday, November 30th, we had about 20 families/couples/individuals who attended our first ever Advent Craft Event to make their own Advent wreaths. Before we started crafting, we first paused and talked about what the season of Advent is and the purpose of the Advent wreath. When everyone had completed their wreaths, Fr Michael came down to bless each one! It was a morning of beauty both in the life-giving conversations that were shared but also in the creations of each unique wreath. We the Gills now have our first ever family Advent wreath!

As we continue on through the season of Advent, we wanted to take a moment to invite you and your families to the Rorate Mass which will take place on **Saturday, December 14th at 7am**. I am very fond of this particular Mass because of the way that it highlights the true spirituality of Advent. Attending this Mass for the first time two years ago truly changed my disposition during Advent and encouraged me to go deeper in what this season is all about - preparing for the coming of Christ.

What is the Rorate Mass?

The Rorate Mass, also called the Rorate Caeli Mass, is celebrated in Advent just before dawn. It is a fully candlelit Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, presenting her role in bringing the Light of the world into the darkness of the world. Celebrating this particular Mass at our parish, St. Mary Star of the Sea, is very fitting since she is our guiding star that leads us to Jesus, her Son, the Light.

Rorate Caeli is Latin for "Drop down, ye heavens". These are also the opening words of the Introit from Isaiah 45:8. "Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum, aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem." Which means:

"Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour."

How is it Celebrated?

The Rorate Mass begins in darkness just before sunrise with no light in the Church other than candles. This darkness is supposed to remind us of the world in darkness and sin as we wait and anticipate the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. As Mass continues, the church becomes brighter as the light peaks through the stain glass. It is so beautiful witnessing this at our parish as the central stain glass is the scene of the Nativity of our Lord, the heart of what we are preparing for in this season. The readings and prayers of this Mass also articulate the prophecies of the coming of Christ and the role of Mary in bringing the Light into the world.

Features of the Rorate Mass:

There are some key features of the Rorate Mass that might be different from what we are used to. That is okay since these key features are meant to highlight that something different, unique, and extraordinary is happening.

The Use of Gregorian Chant

You will notice that hymns are not sung during the Rorate Mass and instead, gregorian chant is used. Gregorian chant takes its proper place in the Rorate Mass where you will notice that the words in gregorian chant come first before the melody. What's beautiful about this is that these words are from Sacred Scripture, the word of God which is living and active! Think about other music you hear, usually the melody comes first and then the words. The words in gregorian chant are prioritized which points to the Sacred that we experience during Mass.

The Use of Latin Mass Parts

Let me be clear, the Rorate Mass is NOT a Latin Mass. It is a Mass celebrated in English with only specific parts of the Mass in Latin. We use Latin Mass parts since Latin is the universal liturgical language that takes us out of the ordinary and lifts us to Heavenly realms. We will be creating a worship aide with the Latin Mass parts to help you follow along and participate.

The Use of Ad Orientum

The Rorate Mass is celebrated Ad Orientum, meaning "to the East". This is when the priest orients his direction towards the Tabernacle. Matthew 24:27 says "for as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the

coming of the Son of Man." suggesting the East as the place from which Christ will return. We are all pilgrims on a journey awaiting the coming of our Lord. There is a great beauty to be appreciated when celebrating this Mass in this orientation.

If you are reading this and perhaps are feeling intimidated by these features or are worried that you may not be able to fully understand and participate, I want to encourage you that all of these things are meant to glorify the Lord and bring you into an experience of greater encounter with Him through the celebration of Holy Mass.

"If there are some present who do not understand what is being said or sung, they know at least that all is said and sung to the glory of God, and that is sufficient for them to join in it devoutly." - St. Augustine

Perhaps you've read this and are thinking, "this is too early to attend". I understand, I get it, it is very early however I promise you that if you can make this sacrifice and wake up and make it on time, the beauty of this Mass but more importantly your presence in worshipping the Lord, will make it worth it because He is always worth it.

All in all, the Rorate Mass is a beautiful way to enter deeper into the Advent season as it emphasizes true Advent spirituality - the world waited in darkness for the coming of Christ, our light, which came through Mary. The Rorate Mass also gives us an opportunity to reflect on how we wait again for the Lord's second coming at the end of time.

We truly hope that you can make it to this Mass as it is one of the most beautiful Masses I've ever attended. You are brought into the Heavenly realm in a unique way and every single thing about this Mass is oriented towards that.

A MEMO FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

This weekend in Rome, Archbishop Leo will be elevated to the College of Cardinals, a tremendous blessing for the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto. Please pray for our new cardinal as he begins this important role of service to the Church. If you wish to follow the events in Rome, and get some details on the local events to celebrate, continue to read on:

Vatican Events

Sunday, December 8, 2024 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Mass with Pope Francis and members of the College of Cardinals. 9:30 a.m. (Rome time), 3:30 a.m. (Toronto).

The celebrations above will be broadcast and livestreamed on Salt & Light Catholic Television and accessible by visiting: www.slmedia.org. Updates will also be posted on the archdiocesan website: www.archtoronto.org.

Local Events in the Archdiocese of Toronto

St. Michael's Cathedral (Mass to celebrate elevation to the College of Cardinals - by invitation only) – Wednesday, January 15, 2025 (Mass only, no reception following Mass)

Western Region - Wednesday, January 29, 2025 – St. Mary's Parish, Brampton

Both Masses will be offered at 7:00 p.m.

SSVP

This Sunday in our parish hall we welcome Neighbours in Need from 65 households which we assist to our Christmas party, where we will have food, music and gifts, and distribute envelopes with grocery and Walmart gift cards, as well as bus tickets. In this season of Light, when we prepare to welcome Jesus more fully into our lives, thank you for sharing your light with others by your donations to our work. The donations we receive now help us with our Christmas distribution, as well as with our ongoing ministry in the new year. Advent blessings!

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.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @STMARYSTAROFTHESEAPARISH



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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.



SSVP HELPLINE

For assistance, please call 647-628-2058

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

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

In thanksgiving
For the souls in purgatory

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

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