

ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

OCTOBER 2024

ISSUE 01

A HARBOUR OF REFUGE,
A BEACON OF HOPE

A photograph of the interior of a church, looking down the nave towards the altar. The altar is covered with a dark green cloth and has a large, colorful stained glass window above it. The church has a high, vaulted ceiling and wooden pews. The word "Fiat" is written in large, white, stylized letters across the lower half of the image.

Fiat

Fall Newsletter

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FROM THE PASTORS DESK

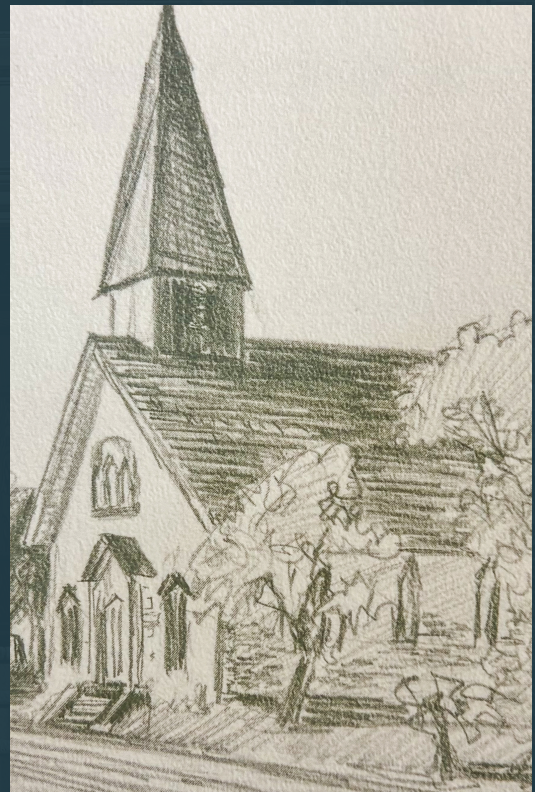
My dear Parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea,

It is with great joy that we bring to you the inaugural issue of our quarterly magazine, Fiat. The idea for this magazine came from multiple sources: working with the parish staff and listening to the advice of both the Parish Finance Council and Senior Leadership Team. But you may be asking, why do we need a quarterly magazine, don't we have the weekly newsletter and email? Great question! The intention for the magazine is to show the strength of our parish through its various ministries and leaders. While there are different parish ministries with different roles to play in building up the Kingdom of God, we are united in the mission of the Church and aligned in the parish vision to receive and share the love and life of Jesus Christ as disciples.

Why Fiat? This is the word spoken by Our Lady in response to God's request to become the Mother of God. He asked and she said "yes". That "yes" from Mary was not just to God, it was to all of her spiritual children that she would have under her maternal care. With the many ministries in the parish that are filled with leaders who have given their "yes", their "yes" is not just to the Lord, for his glory, but to the community, to you and me in humble service. This magazine becomes a way to share how their "yes" is bearing fruit in their lives and in the lives of others in our parish family.

As I look back through the history of the parish, 110 years of pastoral ministry in Port Credit, its awesome and inspiring to think of all the people who themselves said "yes" to the Lord and to this community. As I look back on my last 6 years as your parish priest, I know I am truly blessed to see the many people who are still giving their "yes" to the Lord and to this community.

However, this gaze into the past can also make us get nostalgic for how things used to be. But if we continue to look back, we will lose sight of the present and be stuck, not moving forward as a community of disciples to meet the challenges of our time and be obedient to the missionary mandate from Our Lord.





FROM THE PASTORS DESK CONTINUED

As we look forward, a new bold vision for our parish is being put before us that incorporates our past, embraces our moment in time and will bring us into the future. Where we are going as a parish requires us to become the lighthouse of Port Credit. Where we, a broken people in a broken world can come and find refuge - in prayer, in the sacraments, in a community that is hospitable and where people feel safe and belong. But to also radiate hope to those who are lost and searching to find a way home back to the Church, our Mother.

As you make your way through this magazine, I hope that you are inspired to offer your “yes” to the community in whatever way the Lord is calling you. As St. Joan of Arc said, “Do not be afraid, God is with you and you were born for this.”



REV. FR MICHAEL SIMOES

SACRAMENT SEASON



SACRAMENT SEASON HAS BEGUN!

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

As the new school year begins, we are filled with joy and excitement to invite the grade two students of our parish family to receive our Blessed Lord for the very first time in Holy Communion. During this process, they will also prepare to make their First Reconciliation, where they will come to know the Divine Mercy of Jesus! We are looking forward to walking with your families as you also come to better know the love and fullness of life that is offered by Christ.

Registration for First Holy Communion
Preparation 2024-2025 is now closed.

Confirmation

As we have begun a new academic year, we are looking forward to inviting our Catholic grade seven students to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, through the Sacrament of Confirmation! Candidates will receive the fullness of initiation into the Catholic Church, through their own Profession of Faith. We are excited to take part in this journey with you and your family.

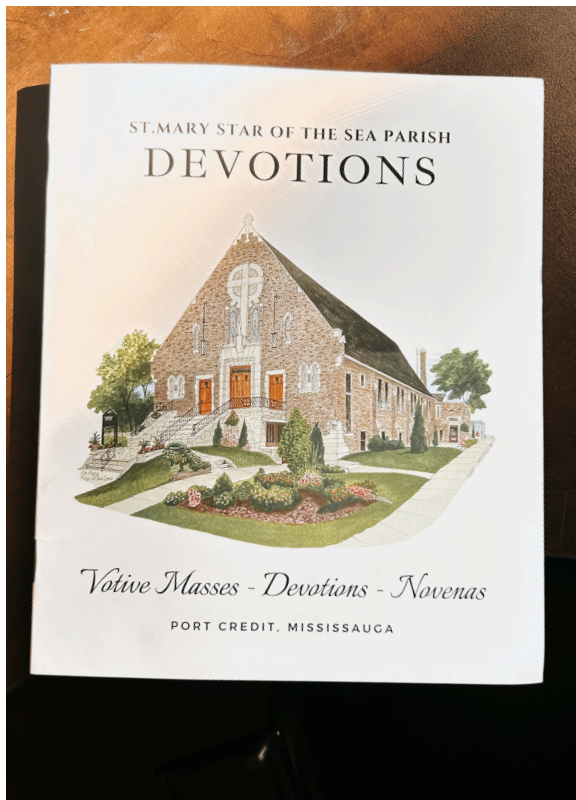
Registration is now open! You can go to the parish website (for more information or contact Samantha (SCameron@archtoronto.org)).

The image shows the front facade of a brick church. The central feature is a large, light-colored stone cross set within a circular window. Below the cross is a statue of a standing figure, likely the Virgin Mary, flanked by two tall, narrow arched windows. The entrance is a wooden double door with a transom, reached by a wide set of stone steps with black metal railings. The church is built of red brick with light-colored stone accents around the windows and doors. Two lantern-style light fixtures hang on either side of the entrance. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE MINISTRIES WE
HAVE GOING ON IN
THE PARISH!

Parish Ministry

Prayer Ministry



At the beginning of Advent in 2023, we invited Dr Josephine Lombardi to lead our advent retreat entitled, “Lord, teach us to pray.” The fruit of that retreat for our parish which coincided with the “Year of Prayer” called for by Pope Francis was establishing a prayer ministry. This ministry helps our parish become a “school of prayer” where we are able to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, to trust in Him and receive the life and love that He offers to His disciples. It is within this relationship that we are able to become a lighthouse so that many people can find refuge from the storms of life and a hope that saves.

Beginning in October, we are resuming our prayer ministry with 1st Friday Adoration and Fellowship, 1st Saturday Intercessory Prayer, the rosary before Mass and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet online.

New This Year - Votive Masses

Also beginning October, we are growing our prayer ministry with the use of Votive Masses from the Roman Missal. These Masses will be said on days during Ordinary Time and there is no obligatory memorial in our liturgical calendar. These Masses are being said for the sake of the devotion of the faithful and chosen to support our daily devotions.

Tuesday - Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday - Votive Mass of St. Joseph

Thursday - Votive Mass of One Holy Apostle

Friday - Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart

Saturday - Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Worship Aid

With the addition of these Votive Masses, we also thought it would be beneficial to put together a “Worship Aid” for those participating in Holy Mass. In this booklet you will find the Mass prayers for the Votive Masses, our Daily Devotions, Marian Antiphons and our Novenas.

If you would like to purchase one of these books for your personal use, they will be sold at \$10/book.



Youth Ministry: Back to Basics

Samantha Cameron, Youth Minister

To all the Youth out there... Youth Ministry is back for a third year! It's crazy how fast time flies but we are more than excited to be bringing Youth Ministry back with some fun changes; LifeTeen is back, Edge ages are changing and the collaboration of the year is happening...



Edge Ministries

For those who may not know Edge is a ministry for middle schoolers! It is a time for them to enjoy fellowship, play some games and learn more about their faith! This year we have extended the Edge age to include all youth from grades 4-8 (4-6 being our Juniors and grades 7-8 being our seniors).

This year we will be taking it back to the “basics” and taking a deep dive into the **Mass**. With fun games and small group conversation!

Edge will take place on the 4th Sunday of every month after the 11am Mass from 12:30-2pm! Our Kickoff date is **October 27th with a parents session included!** For registration details you are more than welcome to contact me, Samantha by e-mail! (SCameron@archtoronto.org)



LifeTeen

Calling all high school teens! We are bringing back your own ministry and we are doing it in a **BIG** way! This year we will be collaborating with St. Joseph's LifeTeen - the more friends the merrier! For more information on this collaboration and further logistics please see the parish website!

Our kick off will be **October 26th** at St. Joseph's Parish! Pumpkin carving anyone?

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference consists of 6 teams who actively serve the needy in our parish community with dedication. We support families by doing home visits with food and bus vouchers who are facing food insecurity and provide bus tickets for essential travel. This helps maintain stability and dignity for those enduring difficult times.

1. Our bi-annual Bundle Sundays have been instrumental in gathering much-needed clothing and household items, which are distributed to the needy.

2. We encourage our neighbours to apply for the Ozanam Education Fund enabling them to receive funds for higher education. We inform and assist with government education funds, such as RESP as we know education plays an important role in breaking the cycle of poverty.

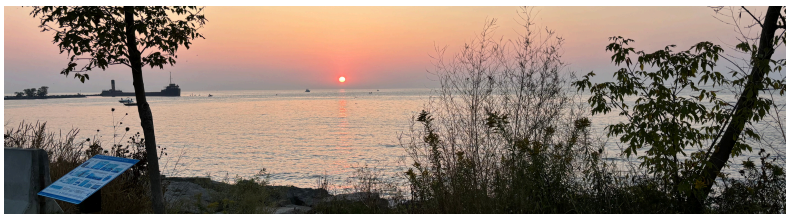
With declining donations in the last few years and increased number of calls for help,

we ask for your continued support through much needed donations, volunteering, and prayers. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to compassion and solidarity helping us make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Blessings,

Angela Menezes, President

furtado_menezes@yahoo.com



...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada is the official development organization of the Canadian Catholic Church and is inspired by the values of the Gospel, particularly “the preferential option for the poor.”

At the parish level, members of Development and Peace share the information with parishioners about the year’s new campaign through bulletin items, bulletin boards at the church, short talks at the end of mass and meeting parishioners at the exits of church after mass handing out literature and prayer cards. We believe that ministry is about relationship – with our God, with ourselves and with each other. This social ministry calls us to live our faith by putting it into action. We are called “to do justice”, not just to say the words.

The Fall 2024 campaign is called “Reaping our Rights” and encourages Canadians to learn more about peasants’ rights as outlined in UNDROP (the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Rural Workers). We will be inviting parishioners to sign an action card calling on the Canadian government to adopt strong mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation.

Development and Peace

Such a law would require Canadian companies to prevent, report, address and remedy human rights and environmental abuses across their global supply and value chains and would provide the victims of any abuses access to justice in Canadian courts.

We always welcome new members and invite all parishioners to join us in this year’s campaign, which will be introduced by November. For further information please contact the parish office to get in touch with me.

Maureen Teixeira

*Parish Coordinator of
Development and Peace*

Catholic Women's League

This is a time for connection, purpose, and unforgettable moments. As we head into the final three months of the year, I can't help but feel the excitement building. This is when we come together as sisters, supporting each other with causes that mean so much to us, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. This last quarter, our meetings are geared towards planning and co-ordinating our fundraising events and disbursing our collection to the local charities. As our members may seem aged, or with mobility issues or tired, don't be fooled. The spirit and drive behind these women of steel never fails to amaze me. They all come together and make it happen, bringing every sense to the phrase, 'Many hands make light work'. I have seen this over and over again and am truly amazed every time. Very true to our mission statement of the CWL, 'The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith and to witness the love of God through ministry and service.'

To our ladies of the parish, I invite you to join us for coffee and a bite of something sweet at our meeting.

This October starts the co-ordination of a heartfelt project we have cherished for the past seven years: assembling 42 gift bags for Elisa House, a shelter for women run by SSVP. We are eager to mobilize our efforts, and we will need all the hands we can get to make this happen. Your support means everything! I may be Co-President, but I have a team of amazing hardworking executives that work behind the scenes for which I am so grateful for. Thank you for keeping that light burning.

Charmaine Saldanha
CWL – Co President
charmainecsaldanha@gmail.com



"Joining the Mothers' group at St. Mary Star of the Sea parish has been a transformative experience. Being part of a community of mothers has provided me with a sense of belonging. The advice, tips, and stories have helped me understand that I am not alone. The group has been a source of wisdom, helping me navigate life challenges, change habits I thought were right, and find balance in my journey as a mother." - Mother's Group Participant

Catholic Mom's Group

We are part of a global ministry geared to support moms in their vocation. Being a mom, wife, daughter, often also working outside the home is very challenging.

It is said that It takes a Village to raise a child. With life changes, we often "lose" our Village... our family and friends might live far away, sometimes even in different cities or countries.

At St Mary's Star of the Sea, we know how challenging being a mom is. We also know that Motherhood is crucial for the building of better societies. We want to help recreate and be part of "The Village".

On our own, life can sometimes feel heavy. Walking by the hand of our Heavenly Mother and our friends/sisters in Christ, the journey is lighter.

Come, join our by-weekly meetings (1st Saturdays-10am, 3rd Thursday-7:30pm) and find friendship, support and tips about motherhood and family life while growing in faith.

Dinorah McCash
Parish Coordinator of the Catholic Mom's Group
staroftheseacatholicmomsgroup@gmail.com

The Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a worldwide organization of Catholic lay people. The mission of this movement is for active members to serve God under the banner of Mary. Any Catholic can apply for membership by contacting the members of the Legion of Mary at parish church.

Here at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, we hold our meeting every Sunday after the 11:00 am mass.

Our work is comprised of the following: 1) Pilgrim Virgin Statue visitation, where we bring the statue of Our Lady to the homes of those who requested it, 2.) Consecration of the family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 3.) Visitation of the sick and 4.) Helping in the parish works.

Tessie Tesoro

Parish Coordinator of the Legion of Mary



PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY



**Under the Spiritual guidance of Fr. Michael, join us on a Pilgrimage to Italy
in celebration of the Jubilee year of Hope!**

**For more information please contact Agnes the tour coordinator
(agnes@cttour.ca) or grab a blue flyer from the Parish!**

Income	
Church Revenue	\$141,121.25
Sundry Receipts	\$51,204.08
Diocesan Collections	\$22,342.85
Investments Redeemed	\$44,338.97
All Other	\$34,447.75
Total Income	\$293,454.90

Expenses	
Operating	\$286,446.09
Diocesan Collections	\$22,207.85
Archdiocese Assessments	\$38,138.00
Total Payments	\$346,791.94

Financial Update: January to June 2024

In this inaugural issue of *Fiat* we wanted to make sure that we are providing updates for our parish finances. We are required to provide a detailed report for the previous year. However, in order to maintain financial transparency throughout the year, we wanted to present to you a summary of our finances for the first 6 months of 2024.

Whenever we look at parish finances, we are filled with gratitude for your generosity in supporting our beautiful Church and her mission here in Port Credit. Yet, as our community grows, we are being invited to be a lighthouse for Port Credit where people can find refuge and hope. To achieve this vision, we need your ongoing financial support. We would like you to consider the many ways to support our parish and her mission:

- 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 2024 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 FINANCE COUNCIL

FULL PARISH EVENT CALENDAR

Every Friday (3pm) - Divine Mercy Chaplet online

October 12/13 Weekend - Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thursday, October 17th (7pm) - Catholic Mom's Group Meeting

Saturday, October 19th - Legion of Mary Congress

October 19/20 weekend - SSVP Bundle Up Sunday

Monday, October 21st - Catholic Women's League General Meeting

Saturday, October 26th - LifeTeen Kickoff

Sunday, October 27th - Edge Kickoff

Sunday, October 27th - Legion of Mary Book Borrow

Every Friday (3pm) - Divine Mercy Chaplet online

TBD - Prayer Ministry Workshop

TBD - Adult Faith Formation

Friday, November 1st - First Friday Adoration at 7pm (Solemnity of All Saints)

Saturday, November 2nd - First Saturday Intercessory Prayer (All Souls)

Saturday, November 2nd (10am) - Catholic Mom's Group Meeting

Sunday, November 3rd - All Saints Day Coffee Sunday

Thursday, November 7th - Mass for the deceased members of the Legion of Mary

Thursday, November 14th (7pm) - Catholic Mom's Group Meeting

Monday, November 18th (6pm) - Catholic Women's League General Meeting

DECEMBER

FULL PARISH EVENT CALENDAR

Every Friday (3pm) - Divine Mercy Chaplet online

**November 30/December 1st Weekend - Catholic Women's League Bake Sale +
Craft Ladies Craft Sale**

Friday, December 6th - First Friday Adoration at 7pm

Saturday, December 7th - First Saturday Intercessory Prayer

Saturday, December 7th (10am) - Catholic Mom's Group Meeting

**Tuesday, December 10th (7pm) - Advent School Mass and Blessing of the
Creche**

Saturday, December 14th (7am) - Rorate Mass

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



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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)

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