

**O Come O Come Emmanuel!**

Now that we are at the precipice of the Nativity of the Lord, there is a tradition in the Church called the "O" Antiphons. The Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

**December 17**

O **Wisdom (Sapientia)** of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

**December 18**

O **Sacred Lord (Adonai)** of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

**December 19**

O **Root (Radix)** of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

**December 20**

O **Key (Clavis)** of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

**December 21**

O **Radiant Dawn (Oriens)**, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**December 22**

O **King (Rex)** of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

**December 23**

O **Emmanuel**, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE**

<b>Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	
4:15PM	Christmas Children's Pageant
4:30PM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
7:45PM	Prelude – Caroling
8:00PM	Mass Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
9:45PM	Prelude – Caroling
10:00PM	Mass Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
<b>Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	
11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
<b>Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</b>	
4:30PM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
<b>Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Wednesday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>	
11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Pro Populo

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Pro Populo

**Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Thanksgiving to God  
Requested by Catherine Chang

**Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

Intentions of Cynthia Romeo  
Requested by the Romeo Family

**Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Intentions of Fr. John Mark Missio

**REST IN PEACE**

In your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of:  
*Arnold Lo, Basil and Mary Sherry*

**SANCTUARY LIGHT**

The Sanctuary Light burns this week in loving memory of  
*Edmond Valin Sr*

IN THE NEWS

**Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year** – All are welcome to join in this special Mass to formally launch the Jubilee year in the Archdiocese of Toronto. St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica – Sunday, Dec 29, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.

**Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Churches** – We have identified holy places of worship in each of the major regions of the archdiocese to serve as pilgrimage destinations during the Jubilee Year. The locations are as follows:

<b>Archdiocese</b>	St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica,
<b>Shrines</b>	Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland
<b>Central Region</b>	St Paul’s Basilica St Mary’s, Toronto St Edward the Confessor
<b>Western Region</b>	Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Etobicoke St. Mary’s, Brampton
<b>Eastern Region</b>	St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough St Gregory the Great, Oshawa
<b>Northern Region</b>	St Padre Pio, Kleinburg St Mary’s, Barrie

**Vocations:**

If you feel God is offering you the grace of a Church vocation, call, Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.968.0997.

Email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)



Help support your parish so that we are able to keep our doors open to support you when you need us. Contact the office if you wish to begin using envelops or for more information on our Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). Alternatively, scan the QR code and link will take you to our “Donate” button on our website where you can donate through your credit card; select “St. John’s Parish, Toronto” in the drop-down menu.

*Mary’s divinely assigned role is to make the Lord known, and loved by all. She is our privileged companion during Advent, learning from her heart on how to love Christ more. She is our Mother, our Queen, and helper. ~Archbishop Leo*

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

**Parish Office Closed**

The parish office will be closed Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> to Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please call (416 698 1105) or email ([stjohnsto@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohnsto@archtoronto.org)) if you need assistance.

**Confirmation Registration**

Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation is now open and online on the website ([stjohnsto.archtoronto.org](http://stjohnsto.archtoronto.org)) – please fill out the form and submit it by January 5, 2025.

**DONATIONS**

**FOR 2024:** Must be post marked December 31, 2024 and be into the office no later than January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to be eligible for 2024 tax receipts.

**2024 PARISH OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** The 2024 Parish Offertory envelopes are ready and waiting for you to pick up in the vestibule. Please note some of the previously assigned envelope numbers have changed, especially those who had envelopes 401 and up. If you can’t find a box with your name on it, contact the office. Don’t forget to put your name and address on the first few envelopes.

**KNIGHTS ADVENT SOCK & MITTS DRIVE:** Continues until the end of Advent. We have also been asking for donations of small deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, combs, and reusable shopping bags as well. These items help the Good Shepherd provide for those men who, after assigning the 30 or so beds they only have available, a sense of formality in bearing and appearance they otherwise would not have.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ellwood Donnelly, Philip Teixeira, John W., Paul Holliday, Gerry Genuino, Baby Isaiah Liam, Baby Owen, Patrick O’Neill, Jacob McLean, Mary McLean, Elaine Atwood



Please remember the St. Vincent De Paul poor box as you exit the church.