

Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of Holy Family has always been a tough feast for many families to understand. Working with young people, to them it was was the feast of the perfect family. It was the measure of a family – the perfect child with the perfect parents. It was what God expected of all children and all families. But people found that neither themselves, nor their siblings, nor their parents, ever measured up. Each year no one could be the “perfect family.” But if you think about it, the Holy Family didn’t quite measure up either. We forget that. Certainly social services would have been called for a child left alone in Jerusalem for three days.

These days, the Feast of the Holy Family is more a feast of God’s great love and boundless mercy as children, parents, families struggle in a real and too often harsh world. And that makes it a challenge of a different sort. Measuring up, being perfect, has no part of it. Staying in the struggle does. Being open to love does. Making mistakes and creating reconciliation does. Having one’s heart broken open does. That was, I think, what the Holy Family did.

It is a feast where we break open our hearts. To allow grace and mercy to flow over the brokenness of human life and the real-world struggles of families, sometimes our own, and to plant promise and hope knowing that God is faithful. It’s not a story of the perfect family living a happy-ever-after life. It is a feast celebrating the daily victories of hope and compassion and love where there is pain, suffering, fear, violence, poverty, sin and uncertainty. It’s about the hard work of love — even as swords pierce your heart.

Today’s feast, and indeed, the entire feast bundle that makes up the Christmas season is a deeply human feast — and one that spills over to all of creation – offering the hope and the promise of God with us to everyone always. It’s a feast of incredible courage. Its gift is the courage to keep going on.

New Year’s Schedule

Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Tuesday, Dec. 31st 2024	
4:30PM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Wednesday, Jan. 1st 2025	
11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua

Please note, there will be no Daily Mass on January 2nd, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday Dec. 31st

+ Nelson D. McPherson
Requested by Monish Salker

Wednesday, Jan. 1st

Pro Populo

Thursday, Jan 2nd

NO MASS THIS DAY

Friday, January 3rd

+Margaret White

Saturday, January 4th

Intentions of Catherine Chang

REST IN PEACE

In your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of:
All those who have lost a loved one this past year

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light burns this week in loving memory of
Arnold Low

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, Elaine Atwood, Mary McLean

IN THE NEWS

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

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:

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

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

Please note the parish office will be closed from Dec 23rd to January 2nd. During the closure, please contact the parish via email (stjohnsto@archtoronto.org) or phone (416 698 1105) if the need arises.

Confirmation Registration

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

2024 / 2025 Sunday Missals Are Available For Sale

The cost for the adult missals is \$8 and the Children's missals remain at \$11.

DONATIONS FOR 2024: Must be post marked December 31, 2024 and be into the office no later than January 5th, 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.



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



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 envelopes 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.