

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**



**Note from the desk of Fr. Dunstan:** Happy New Year! I am Father James Dunstan belonging to the Voluntas Dei Secular Institute. I will be replacing Father John-Mark Missio from January to June this year as an Administrator. As the first reading from the book of Numbers says, I ask “the Lord to bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you” (Num. 6:24-25) on this first day of 2023 to have joy, peace and good health. In a similar way upon Father John-Mark who is starting his sabbatical six months to deepen his spiritual and intellectual wealth and upon me to walk with all of you as a true shepherd, priest and prophet.

Let us also praise and glorify the Lord for year 2022 for all the marvelous blessings, protections, and guidance rendered to us and allowing us to step into another year with the assurance of His presence.

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The Church proclaims Mary’s divine motherhood (*Theotokos* a Greek term) since fifth century after the dogmatic proclamations of the councils of Ephesus (431) and Chalcedon (451). God has prepared her as an Immaculate and “when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law”. (Gal. 4:4) Thus Mary became the Mother of Jesus (fully human), Mother of Christ the Son of God (fully divine), Mother of the Apostles, Mother of the Church- that is to say Mother of each and every one of us. Let us pray to our Blessed Mother Mary to be with us, guide us and to intercede for us.

The Church also dedicates this day as World Day of Peace. Let us pray for peace in the world very especially those countries involved in war particularly, Ukraine.

**World Day of Peace 2023**

In 1968 Pope Paul VI issued a [Message of Peace](#) for January 1st, which he declared to be the "The Day of Peace." He and every Pope since have continued the custom, and publish a message every year, reflecting upon the "signs of the times" and Jesus Christ, "who is our peace". This year Pope Francis asks that in the coming New Year that "we journey together, valuing the lessons that history has to teach us." "To all men and women of goodwill, I express my prayerful trust that, as artisans of peace, they may work, day by day, to make this a good year!"

**Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

For + HEATHER BAMBERGER

Requested by Miriam McManus

**Wednesday, January 4, 2023**

For + PHILLIP EPTING

Requested by Maureen MacDonald

**Thursday, January 5, 2023**

For + JOAN SCHMIDT

Requested by Brian & Leslie Broughton

**Friday, January 6, 2023**

For + PEGGY BUDGE


Requested by Irene Wintersinger & Robert Schmidt

**Saturday, January 7, 2023**

For + JANITHA SAMARAWEERA

Requested by Veronica Samaraweera

**MASS INTENTIONS:** The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, for anniversaries, weddings and birthdays, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition. Masses can be scheduled Tuesday to Friday at 8:15 am. If you wish to schedule a Mass, please contact the Parish Office. Having a Mass said is a great gift for someone who has everything.

*The Sanctuary Light burns this week for the intention of Rosemary Walcher*

**Please Pray For The Sick**  
Diane Meldrum, Paul Decourcy, Jack Lees, Stella Avery, Carmel Richard

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**  
Monday January 2nd & Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>



Thank you for making a gift to your Parish.

	2019	2022
Sunday Offertory (Dec.18)	\$ 5723	\$ 4329
Offertory PAG:	\$ 1064	\$ 1183

**In The News**

**WHOLENESS AND HOLINESS FRIDAY AT MANRESA:**

A silent Ignatian weekend retreat for men. As faithful, we are aware of the universal call to holiness. All Christians in any state or walk of life, are called to holiness. On this retreat we consider our own wholeness as we approach this call. Am I complete and harmonious within myself? or am I somehow divided or lacking or even broken? Through praying with scripture and through entering into silence we begin to see the person whom God sees, and the person God desires us to be—the person God calls to holiness. Facilitated by Fr. Jim Kelly, SJ. A suggested offering of \$245 per person. Includes 2 nights accommodation, meals, program and spiritual direction.

**FAITH, REASON & BEAUTY THE FALSE, BAD, AND UGLY:** Looking For Faith And Beauty In Movies And Other Dark Mirrors: Join us on Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm at The Newman Centre for a Faith & Reason Lecture featuring Professor Randy Boyagoda. A free will offering event! Registration is required through Eventbrite.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** Prayer Service: Join His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins and a wide representation of Christian leaders on Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 4 pm, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches (GTACCC). All are welcome to attend in person.

**CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE MASS:** As part of Marriage Sunday 2023 celebrations, Bishop Vincent Nguyen will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, especially those celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+) in 2023. The Mass will take place at 2:30 pm on Sunday, February 12 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica . All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their vows and milestone anniversary celebrants will be honoured with a special blessing. The Mass is open to all, but due to space restrictions those wishing to attend are asked to register online. Can't attend, join the livestream at <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>. The broadcast will begin at 2:15 pm. Please visit [www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage) to register and to access resources for couples or contact [formation@archtoronto.org](mailto:formation@archtoronto.org).

**VOCATIONS:** Mary treasured all that God had done for her and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.968.0997. Email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org).



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

**Parish News**

**2023 PARISH OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** The 2023 Parish Offertory envelopes are ready and waiting for you to pick up in the vestibule. Don't forget to put your name and address on the first few envelopes. Please don't take a box that doesn't belong to you. If you can't find a box with your name on it, email the office.

**2023 WILL BE A FINANCIALLY CHALLENGING YEAR.** We are asking all our parishioners to consider making an increase in your weekly offering, otherwise we will face a third year of a significant operating deficit. Your offertory contributions are our only source of income in support of normal parish operations. Please consider giving generously or increasing your donations.

**ST. JOHN'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION:** registration will open the second week of January for registered parishioners of St. John's parish with either Catholic School or public school students. Please visit our website the week of January 9 for full details. [www.stjohnsto.archtoronto.org](http://www.stjohnsto.archtoronto.org).

**YOU CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE:** in someone's quality of life. Please remember that there is always a box in the east vestibule of the church, collecting good used eyeglasses. We've recently been asked to donate items you may already have in your home; a bar of soap, a tooth brush, or half bottle of Tylenol/Advil. All items will be sent to recipients in the Third World who cannot afford to buy their own, through the organization of Dr. Joan Simone.

**BE A SERVER AT THE ALTAR:** The Altar Servers form a very important part of the Church and every parish is enriched through their dedication and service. Contact Lisa Charette, [lisacharette@rogers.com](mailto:lisacharette@rogers.com), if interested.



We welcome the newest members of our parish family:



Liam Naranowicz

Gabriella Oolup

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT, REGISTER:** We welcome all who have moved into our parish. To be a registered member of our parish is to have a sense of belonging to a Community of Faith. So help us so we can help you! Email the office.

**Little Levity:** A man who had too much to drink decides to walk home on New Year's Eve. A policeman stopped the man and asked where he was going. "I'm on my way to a lecture," the man replied. The cop scoffed, "Who gives lectures on New Year's Eve?" The man answered: "My wife"  
*Peace begins with a smile.....Mother Teresa*