



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Damian Ali, Pastor
Don Roberts, Richard Te, Richard Noronha, Deacons
Melinda Mayo, Office Administrator
Brenda Penney, Parish Bookkeeper
Lay Pastoral Assistant - Arlene Morgan
Rickeeann Kitchura - Office Assistant

New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Please register by filling out a form available at the back of the church or online.

Sacrament of Baptism

The desire for Baptism for a child must be accompanied by a very serious commitment to raise the child within the Catholic faith community and to educate the child in the truths of the church. An essential part of the commitment is regular attendance at Sunday Mass. Baptisms are usually held on two Sundays every month. Please contact the parish office for a Baptismal package.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning to be married should contact the parish one year in advance. They must also attend a Marriage Preparation Course prior to entering marriage. If either party has previously gone through any form of civil divorce or religious marriage with another person, please notify the priest as soon as possible as the priest is not permitted to set a wedding date until the Bishop's Office has been contacted.

Sacrament of the Sick

In this Sacrament we celebrate Christ's healing presence among us today. If you, a relative or friend, require this Sacrament at home or nursing home, please call the parish office. For your spiritual needs during a hospital stay, the Archdiocese of Toronto has assigned a full time Roman Catholic Chaplain to each of the two Mississauga hospitals. For the Chaplain, speak to the Nurses' Desk or call the Spiritual Care Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM
(or by appointment)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Closed Daily: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MASS

Sunday Eucharist
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM (fulfills the Sunday obligation)
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 NOON

Weekday Eucharist

Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays	7:00 PM
Tuesdays / Thursdays	8:30 AM

DEVOTIONS

Holy Hour

Fridays (excluding holidays) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rosary

Wednesday during Mass
Monday & Wednesday at 6:40

PARISH LIFE

Charismatic Prayer Goup	905-822-8132
Legion of Mary (Wed 7:30 PM)	905-822-8132
Knights of Columbus (Mike Genua)	416-804-3457
RCIA	905-822-8132 ext. 3
St. Vincent de Paul	905-822-8132 ext. 5
Catholic Cemeteries	416-733-8544

SCHOOLS

St. Francis of Assisi	905-822-3183
St. Margaret of Scotland	905-820-5115
Christ the King	905-569-0220

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

They Shall Obtain Joy and Gladness

Joy



Why did Jesus praise John the Baptist as the greatest person born of a woman and then in the same breath say that those who enter God's kingdom will be greater than John? John is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets - to be fingers pointing to Jesus Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John saw from a distant what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross - our redemption from bondage to sin and death. When King Herod tried to silence John by throwing him into prison, John sent his disciples to Jesus after John had heard the reports about Jesus performing signs and wonders and speaking to people about the coming of God's kingdom. John wanted his disciples to hear and see firsthand what Jesus was doing to bring the kingdom of God to those who were receptive and ready to receive his message.

Jesus confirmed for John that the miracles and healings which he performed were in direct fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies announced by Isaiah some 700 years previously. Isaiah had prophesied that when the Messiah would come to save his people he would "open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, the lame would leap, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy" (Isaiah 35:5). Jesus' miracles are a demonstration of the power of God's kingdom at work in the midst of his people.

When Jesus had answered the disciples of John, he in turn asked them a question "Why did you go out in the wilderness to see John the Baptist?" "Did you go because you were hungry for the word of the Lord?" Jesus said that John was more than a spokesman for God. John was the faithful witness and friend of the bridegroom who pointed others to the coming of the Messiah in their midst. Jesus contrasted John with the image of a reed shaken by the wind. Unlike a reed which is weak and spineless and can be easily crushed or bruised, John stood as a pillar of strength and truth in the face of opposition and persecution. No demonic force could weaken or crush John in his unswerving trust in God and his word.

Jesus knew that what the Father in heaven had sent him to accomplish for our sake would supersede all that the prophets had done and foreseen in the past. Jesus' atoning death on the cross cancels the debt of our sins and sets us free to live as citizens of his kingdom. He gives us pardon, healing, and abundant life through his Holy Spirit, and the promise of unending joy with him in his everlasting kingdom.

John the Baptist paid the ultimate sacrifice of his life for speaking God's word and preparing the way for Jesus the Lord and Saviour of the world. The Lord Jesus offers us the same assurance of faith and the strength to stand against every force that would try to rob us of our conviction and courage to live and proclaim the good news of God's kingdom. Do you know the joy, strength, and power which Jesus gives to everyone who puts their trust in him and the power of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Lord Jesus to increase your faith and hope in his promises for you.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Sat., Dec. 24 - 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm
Christmas Day, Sun., Dec. 25 - 8:30am, 10:00am, and 12:00 noon. Mass on **Mon., Dec. 26, 2022** (Boxing Day) - has been moved to 10:00am (NO 7:00pm Mass on December 26).
New Year Sat., Dec. 31, 2021 - 5:00pm
Sun., Jan. 1, 2022 - 8:30am, 10:00am and 12:00 noon

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is the best way to prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas. Please take advantage of the opportunities available.

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 - 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - (2 priests available), 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - (2 priests available), 7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (AFTER 7:00 p.m. MASS) - (5 priests available)

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 – 8:30 A.M.

+ Alvin Mendiola
+ Carmel Fleming

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. Sebastian Heath
+ Maria Cardoza

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Desmond Somers
+ Miriam D'Sousa

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. For healing and reconciliation in troubled marriages and families.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Kerry English
+ Giorgio Capra

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 – 5:00 P.M.

+ Ann O'Grady
+ Desmond and Margaret Somers
+ Carmelita Garcia

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

S.I. Parish Community

CALLING YOUNG CAROLERS

Does your child enjoy singing or have a musical talent to share? All children from grades 1 to 8 are invited to sing before the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass. Children interested are asked to attend 3 one-hour practices in the church at 3pm on the following Saturdays: December 3, December 10 & December 17. We look forward to hearing the beautiful voices of our children on Christmas Eve! To sign-up your child, please email Ms. Arlene at amorgan@archtoronto.org or call 905.822.8132 ext. 6.

ADVENT CELEBRATION FOR YOUTH

Guess WHO is coming to visit us on Sunday, December 18th? Come and join us to find out as we transform our Parish Hall into an Advent Wonderland. From 3:30-6:00pm, we welcome families with children of all ages to decorate Christmas cookies and Christmas ornaments. Don't forget to bring your camera to take a memorable photo with our very special visitors from the North Pole. It's only \$5.00 per child to participate in all of these pre-Christmas activities. Please visit our website to [SIGN-UP](#) now to join in this celebration in preparation for Christmas. For more information, please contact Ms. Arlene at ext. 6.

CHANGE IN MASS TIME

On Monday, December 12, from 8:30am until 8:30pm, the Parish Hall will be used as a voting station for the bi-election. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church will be at 8:30am. There will NOT be 7pm Mass on December 12.

PICTURES OF ASSISI, ITALY, IN THE PARISH HALL

The Italian Consulate in Toronto has loaned our parish a collection of beautiful photographs of Assisi, Italy, for six months. They are displayed in the parish hall, so please look at the images when you have the chance. Thank you to Angela Del Vescovo, from the Consulate, for entrusting these pictures to our church. Thanks also to our parishioners, Susan & Andrew Turnbull, for mounting and hanging the pictures along the walls in the hall.

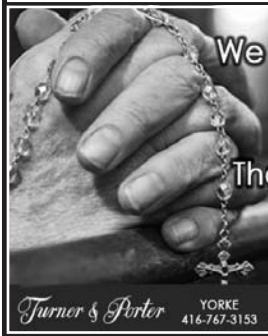
SUPPORT YOUR PARISH AND/OR SHARELIFE WITH A GIFT OF SECURITIES

While you are planning your seasonal giving, benefiting the parish and the community, please consider making a gift of securities. It is one of the most financially sound ways to make a difference. When you donate stocks, bonds or mutual funds, you pay no capital gains tax and receive a tax receipt for the full value of your securities. It means a great tax break for you and greater support to the parish. To learn more about gifting securities and how you can make an impact for the 2022 tax year, contact the Development Office at 416-934-3400 ext. 561/519. To donate listed securities, you can obtain the information sheet and Letter of Direction by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/ArchTOGiftsofSecurities>. Thank you for your continued support!

2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES

Offertory envelope boxes for 2023 are now available at the back of the church. Please take any box and **PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS** on the first 4 envelopes you use in JANUARY 2020. Please remember to finish using your 2019 offertory envelopes before using the 2020 ones. If you would rather make your regular offerings through **Pre-Authorized Giving** (PAG), kindly complete a PAG Form, which are available at the back of the Church with the envelopes, and return to the Office. Please note you still need a box of envelopes for the other Special Collections.

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