

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

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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



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022

"He will save his people from their sins"

Love



Do you hold on to the promises of God at all times, especially when you are faced with uncertainty or adversity? The prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope in a hopeless situation for Israel. When Ahaz, the apostate king of Judah and heir to the throne of David was surrounded by forces that threatened to destroy him and his people, God offered him a sign to reassure him that God would not abandon the promise he made to David and his descendants. King Ahaz, however, had lost hope in God and refused to ask for a sign of favour. God, nonetheless, gave a sign to assure his people that he would indeed give them a Saviour who would rule with peace and righteousness. Like the prophet Isaiah we are called "in hope to believe against hope" that God can and will fulfill all his promises. Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. That required faith and trust in God and in his promises. Second, Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises.

Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer and God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.

Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems? God has not left us alone, but has brought us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, with joyful hearts and let us renew our faith and hope in God and in his redeeming work.

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.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. Katherine Rajewski
S.I. Rebbie Santiago
S.I. Vickie Peralta

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. Lourdes Valenton
S.I. Jo Paz
S.I. Merly Talag

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Fely and Cesar

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. In reparation for sins committed against the
Most Holy Eucharist

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Eleanor & Milan Bizek
S.I. Henry Rodrigues
S.I. Janessa Javier

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 P.M. + Lionel De Souza
S.I. Richard and Celissa Noronha & Family

6:30 P.M. + William & Helen Yanchus
+ Manuel, Maria & John Calhau
+ Jane Quigg

8:30 P.M. + Thomas Lawrence Saldanha
S.I. In thanksgiving for the Manalo and
Quiogue Families
+ Olga Werbowski & Alex Churchman

10:30 P.M. No intentions available

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

S.I. Parish Community

2022 SHARELIFE GOAL SURPASSED

Thank you to all parishioners who have contributed to ShareLife. The extended deadline for the 2022 parish campaign and YOUR continuing generosity allowed us to surpass our goal of \$135,000. I am delighted to announce that our new ShareLife total is \$144,597, which even exceeds the amount raised last year. At a time when we are all facing so many financial constraints, this is a tremendous accomplishment!

HOPELINE – A NEW HOTLINE TO HELP WITH ACCESS TO PALLIATIVE CARE

Thanks to funding from ShareLife and co-ordination from Catholic Charities, the Archdiocese of Toronto now has a “hotline” for palliative care information called *HopeLine*, which is operated by Saint Elizabeth Health Care. By calling 416-619-5700, anyone in the Archdiocese of Toronto area, from Oshawa to Midland to Oakville, can learn more about what palliative care can do for you and your family, how to get access to palliative care services nearby, and how to advocate for better care. A call to the *HopeLine* will prompt callers to leave a name, phone number and the location a person is calling from. Saint Elizabeth staff will get back to callers with relevant information. The hotline is not for crisis situations, but is intended for families and individuals trying to plan for hospice and palliative care.

FAREWELL WISHES

Our Office Administrator, Melinda Mayo, has accepted the position of Parish Secretary at Sts. Martha and Mary Parish, in Mississauga. Melinda’s last day at St. Francis of Assisi was Wednesday, December 14th. Melinda was a great help and support to me, especially during the pandemic which closely followed my arrival in 2020. I wish her well. I know many parishioners will profoundly feel her absence. Please join me in praying for Melinda as she begins her new venture.

-Fr. Damian S. Ali, Pastor

2022 DONATIONS AND EXPENSE CLAIMS

Thank you for all of your generous support during the past year. Any donations you wish to include for your 2022 charitable donation tax receipt must be received at the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, December 28th.

Also, any remaining expense claims by parishioners must be submitted to the Parish Office no later than December 28th.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to sincerely thank you for your incredible generosity to their Christmas collection for those in need at Christmas. With your help they raised over \$6000.00. The Society will be able to help many local families have a Merry Christmas this year.

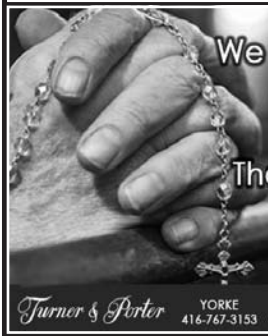
PLEASE NOTE

Mass on Boxing Day, Monday, December 26 will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., instead of the usual 7:00 p.m.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your home address or telephone number has changed, please send us an email at stfrancisofassisimi@archtoronto.org.

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