

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

2473 Thorn Lodge Dr., Mississauga, ON L5K 1K8

Tel: 905-822-8132 Fax: 905-822-6620

www.stfrancisofassisimi.archtoronto.org

stfrancisofassisimi@archtoronto.org

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Damian Ali, Pastor

Don Roberts, Richard Te, Richard Noronha, Deacons

Brenda Penney, Parish Bookkeeper

Arlene Morgan, Lay Pastoral Assistant Rickeeann Kitchura, Office Assistant



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2023

“And he was called Jesus”



What's the significance of a name? A Jewish male child was named at the time of circumcision, eight days after birth. This rite was instituted by God as an outward sign to single out those who belonged to the chosen people (Genesis 17:10-12). It was a sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his posterity.

Joseph and Mary gave the name Jesus because that is the name given by God's messenger before Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb (Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21). This name signifies Jesus' identity and his mission. The literal Hebrew name means the Lord saves. Since God alone can forgive sins and free us from death, it is God who, in Jesus, became a man to offer up his life as the atoning sacrifice to save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The son that Mary bore is both God and man - the "Word who was God" (John 1:1) and who "became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). That is why Mary is not only called the mother of the Christ (Philippians 2:9-11). The name Jesus is at the heart of all Christian prayer. It is through and in Jesus that we pray to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Many Christians have died with one word on their lips, the name of Jesus. Do you exalt the name of Jesus and pray with confidence in his name?

HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED



The Knights of Columbus will be accepting non-perishable food items after all Masses the weekend of January 28 and 29. Our collected food will be delivered, sorted and stocked by the Knights at Eden Food for Change, our neighbourhood food bank serving those in need in our very own Erin Mills community. Thank you for your support.

YOUTH CHOIR

Children grade 2 and up are invited to join the St. Francis of Assisi Youth Choir. Rehearsals will be held on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. starting on January 7, 2022. The choir will be a part of the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass starting January 21, 2023. We'd love for your children to join us! If you have questions, please contact Arlene Morgan at 905-822-8132 ext. 6.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, JANUARY 2 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3 – 8:30 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 – 8:30 A.M.

For an increase in vocations to the Priesthood,
Religious

Life and Permanent Diaconate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Monica and Doug Stanley

+ William and Helen Yanchus

+ Christina Veronica Connally

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7 - 5:00 P.M.

+ Purissima Melchiorre

+ Ted Wielgus

SUNDAY, JAN. 8 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

S.I. Parish Community

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.

2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2023 are now available at the back of the church. Please take any box and **CLEARLY PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS** on

the first 5 envelopes you use in JANUARY 2023. Please remember to finish using your 2022 offertory envelopes before using the 2023 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.

A NEW YEAR - 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Each New Year offers us hope. In spite of personal and financial turmoil within families, continuing violence in the GTA and the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, we pray for peace in our hearts, our homes and throughout the whole world. Indeed, this is a peace which only Christ can give. On this first day of 2023, we invoke the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Mary, who is the Queen of Peace.

In spite of the challenges associated with the pandemic, St. Francis of Assisi Parish has been running like a well-oiled machine because of the competence and dedication of our parish staff

and volunteers. I am profoundly grateful for the ministry of Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te and the recently ordained Deacon Richard Noronha.

I do not have the words to adequately express my gratitude to Doug and Monica Stanley for the many things they do for me and for the parish, too numerous to list. I am also grateful to everyone involved in one or more of our various parish ministries and the coordinators of those ministries. Our Social Committee is now active again, having organized a fabulous Parish BBQ last June and, more recently a very successful Pasta Night. There are many more wonderful events to come!

In June, I hired a new Lay Pastoral Assistant, Arlene Morgan, to coordinate preparation and celebration of the sacraments, develop a youth ministry programme and assist with parish events. In the 6 months since her arrival at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Arlene has already made a significant positive impact.

I am also grateful for the wonderful support provided by Rickeann Kitchura in the Parish Office. Delia Cabioc (Rectory Cook and Housekeeper) continues to take very good care of me and Kimberly McBride does a great job cleaning the church and parish hall.

In August, after 12 years as Parish Book Keeper, Joan Cabri retired, and just before Christmas, Melinda Mayo accepted a new position at Sts. Martha and Mary Church after 5 years as Parish Secretary here at St. Francis of Assisi. We are grateful for all that Melinda and Joan accomplished, and we wish them well in their future endeavors. Our new Book Keeper, Brenda Penney, is doing a wonderful job. I will be looking for a new Parish Secretary in the weeks to come.

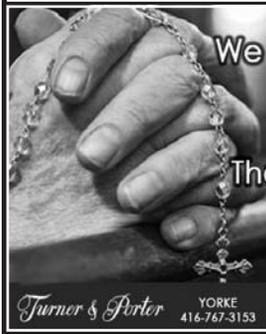
Thank you for your support of my efforts as Pastor and for your continuing generosity to our weekly Sunday offertory collections, many special Archdiocesan collections and especially your ongoing commitment to ShareLife.

Finally, thank you also for all the kindness and hospitality extended to me during the past year, especially at Christmas. If I have offended you in any way, please accept my humble apology. I am a human being with many sins and imperfections, very much in need of God's grace and mercy.

I wish you peace, joy and good health during the remainder of the Christmas Season and throughout 2023.

Fr. Damian Ali, Pastor

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