

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

Brenda Penney, Parish Bookkeeper

Ella Alvares, Parish Secretary

Arlene Morgan, Lay Pastoral Assistant Rickeeann Kitchura, Office Assistant



Feast of the Holy Family

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Favor of God Was upon Him

“Lord Jesus, you are my hope and my life. May I never cease to place all my trust in you. Fill me with the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit that I may boldly point others to your saving presence and words of eternal life.” Amen.



MONDAY, January 1 - 8:30 A.M. 10 A.M & 7 P.M.

No Mass Intentions

TUESDAY, January 2 - 8:30 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, January 3 - 7:00 P.M.

† Matteo Lombardi

† Daniel O'Donnell

† Patrick O'Donnell

THURSDAY, January 4 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. For an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life and Permanent Diaconate

FRIDAY, January 5 – 7:00 P.M.

† Purissima Melchiorre

S.I. Rocca & Gabby Mansour

SATURDAY, January 6 - 5:00 P.M.

† Janet Banks

† Ivy Rose Pacheco

† Denyse Schnoeckel

SUNDAY, January 7 -

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2024 are available at the back of the church after all masses. Please take any box and **PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS on the envelopes you use in the month of JANUARY 2024.** Just

as a reminder we cannot issue tax receipts without this information.

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 and return to the Office.



2023 DONATION TAX RECEIPTS

2023 is coming to a close. All donations you wish to include for your 2023 Tax Receipt must be **dated and received no later than December 31, 2023.** Thank you for your continued generous support.



SIX TUESDAY EVENINGS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT HOSTED BY ELIZABETH PIETRANTONIO ON ZOOM

Beginning January 9, Liz Pietrantonio will be facilitating a workshop on the Holy Spirit on 6 Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm. Since it is cold and dark and might even be snowing at this time of the year, Liz will use Zoom for these sessions. If you wish to deepen your love for the Third Divine Person of the Holy Trinity and strengthen your faith-life as you learn about grace, gifts and docility, please call the Parish Office to register. Registration is limited.

OFFICE IS CLOSED

The parish office will be closed in the afternoon on Thursday, December 21. On Friday December 22, the office closes at 12pm.

Re-opening on Tuesday January 2, 2024 at 9am.

Fr. Damian will continue to check voicemail messages when the office is closed during the Christmas break.

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Please let me take this opportunity to wish you peace and joy during the remainder of the Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

2023 has been a year of turmoil because of the Israel-Hamas war, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, continuing violence in the GTA, homelessness facing refugees and new immigrants and the personal and financial turmoil of so many families in our community. Nevertheless, every new year offers hope for better days ahead. On January 1st, when the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we pray that with the help of our Blessed Mother's intercession, there will be true and lasting peace in our hearts, our homes and throughout the world.

Despite our challenges, there have been many blessings as well. I am profoundly grateful for the compassion and generosity demonstrated by this parish community. Thank you for the kindness and hospitality extended to me during the past year, especially at Christmas. Thank you to the many parish volunteers for your willingness to offer your time and talent to serve the Lord. Thank you also for your support of the Sunday offertory collections, diocesan collections and for your ongoing commitment to ShareLife.

I am profoundly grateful for the ministry of Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te and Deacon Richard Noronha and for the personal support and encouragement I receive daily from them. I am also grateful to the members of our Parish Finance Council who have been prudently steering our proverbial ship through turbulent fiscal waters. Special thanks to Doug and Monica Stanley for all that they do, and to everyone involved in our various parish ministries, as well as the coordinators of those ministries.

Our entire parish staff is very dedicated and hard-working, always going above and beyond the mandate of their job descriptions. Sincere thanks to: Arlene Morgan, who coordinates preparation and celebration of the sacraments and organizes activities for youth and families; Ella Alvares, our Parish Secretary, who has been doing a wonderful job since being hired in May; Brenda Penney, the Parish Bookkeeper; Delia Cabioc, the rectory cook and housekeeper; and Kimberly McBride, the cleaner for the church and parish hall. Rickeann Kitchura, who has been a tremendous asset as our part-time Office Assistant, has decided to retire at the end of December. We will certainly miss Rickeann, but we wish her well.

While I try to do my best to serve the Lord and the people entrusted to my pastoral care, I am a mere human being with many sins and imperfections, very much in need of God's mercy. If I have offended anyone in any way, please accept my humble apology. Kindly remember me in your prayers.

I have always been inspired by these words of St. Francis: "We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way." In 2024, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ for the graces we need to accomplish these laudable tasks.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Damian Ali, Pastor



OBLIGATIONS TO ATTEND MASS DURING THE 2023 CHRISTMAS SEASON

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 30 – 5pm

Sunday, December 31 – 8:30am, 10am, 12pm

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve - Sunday, December 31 – 5pm

New Year's Day - Monday, January 1 – 8:30am, 10am, 12pm (No 7pm Mass)

Tuesday, January 2 – Normal Mass schedule resumes for the remainder of the week

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 6 – 5pm

Sunday, January 7 – 8:30am, 10am, 12pm

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday, December 8 – 7pm

OBLIGATIONS TO ATTEND MASS DURING THE 2023 CHRISTMAS SEASON

Catholics are obliged to attend Mass **for the Feast of the Holy Family** – Saturday evening,

December 30, OR during the day on Sunday, December 31, **AND AGAIN for the Solemnity of**

Mary, the Holy Mother of God – Sunday evening, December 31, OR on Monday, January 1.

Archdiocesan Survey

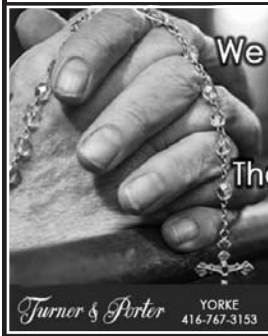
Thank you to all those who have taken the time to both participate in and promote the Archdiocesan Consultation process that has been underway the last several months. We very much appreciate your ideas and efforts to raise awareness of this important initiative throughout the archdiocese.

Recognizing that is a very Busy Advent period, we wanted to offer a gentle reminder to those who have not yet had an opportunity to provide their feedback. While we have indicated a deadline of December 15, 2023, we will keep **the survey open until early January** to include those who may learn about the initiative over the Christmas break in parishes or through other channels.

A reminder that the survey and supporting materials can be accessed by visiting:

www.archtoronto.org/consultation **Your input is invaluable!**

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