

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

131 BIRCHMOUNT ROAD, SCARBOROUGH, ON M1N 3J7

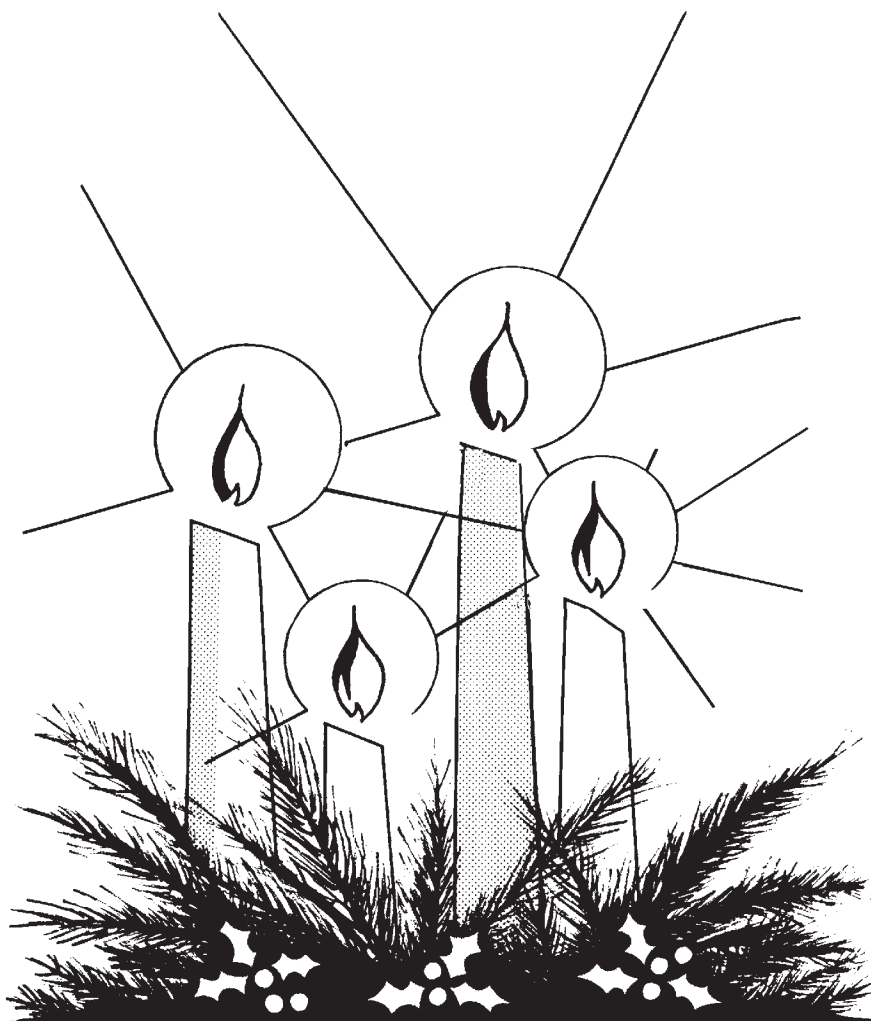
Tel: 416.691.6968 Fax: 416.691.3947

immaculatechurch@rogers.com

www.immaculateheartofmarysc.archtoronto.org

Rev. Fr. Charles Collins, Administrator

Rev. Fr. Peter Gitendran, In Residence



Advent

A Christmas Message

From the Administrator

My Dear Parishioners:

Once again this year 2020, the Lord has given us the opportunity to be with him in prayer which strengthens our fraternity and is grounded in our contemplation of God's love revealed at Christmas.

*"The birth of Christ is the greatest and most eloquent witness of how much God loved man."
He loved him with a personal love. That is why he took human body, united it to himself and made it his own forever.*

The birth of Christ is itself a " covenant of love"- sealed for all time between God and Man".

Dear brothers and sisters, keep well and safe at home. It is time for us to celebrate 2020 Christmas with our family. I am with your family in prayer always and I miss you all. I trust that we will soon be able fully to resume public worship at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Let us make every effort to reach those who are isolated in creative and profound ways in this Christmas and New Year 2021. May you and your family be blessed with gifts this Christmas that remind us of the greatest gift of all –Jesus!

Wishing you all a Holy and Blessed Christmas and many Blessings in the New Year 2021

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Charles Collins



CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday from 11 am to 1 pm

- For private prayer **only** & Confession is available
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 10 people in attendance only

Sunday from noon to 2 pm

- For private prayer **only** & Confession is available
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 10 people in attendance only

Christmas day from 10 am to 2 pm

- For private prayer & Adoration



MASS LIVESTREAMED:

Sundays at 9 am in **ENGLISH** and can be viewed online at anytime throughout the day at www.olghtamilparish.com



**This week
the Sanctuary Lamp is
dedicated:**

**For the repose of the souls of
Rod & Clara McDougall
requested by Virginia Kanary**



MASS Intentions

Mon. Dec. 21	12:05 pm	† Joan Caffrey Connors <i>requested by her husband, Jim Connors</i>
Tue. Dec. 22	12:05 pm	
Wed. Dec. 23	12:05 pm	In thanksgiving <i>requested by Letty Denovan</i>
Thu. Dec. 24	5:00 pm	† Delfin Briones, <i>requested by the Briones & Patacsil families</i>
Fri. Dec. 25	12:05 pm	<i>For the People of the Parish</i>
Sat. Dec. 26	9:00 am	† Don Bosco Monteiro, <i>requested by the Che family</i>
	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parish
Sun. Dec. 27	9:00 am	† Fr. Peter Tammearu, <i>requested by Brian & Alice Warford</i>
	11:00 am	† Socrates Fernandez, <i>requested by Laurie & Serg Llarenas</i>

Note:

All Mass intentions, which already been booked, will be offered during the private daily Mass celebrated by Fr. Charles.



The parish office is presently closed until further notice. Please feel free to contact us via email at

immaculaechurch@rogers.com or leave a voice message at 416-691-6968. We will respond at our earliest convenience.

Just how long is the Christmas season?

It depends on what you mean by “Christmas season.” The Church marks the end of the Christmas season on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (usually the second Sunday of January). However, others measure the Christmas season differently, and even within the Church, the various feasts and observances can get a little tricky. Like, what is the “Octave of Christmas”? And, what about the famous Twelve Days of Christmas—do we do those? And, how come some people keep their Christmas tree up until February?

Advent - Four Sundays prior to December 25 – sunset on Christmas Eve

Advent is not part of the Christmas season, either. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is a season of prayerful anticipation of the coming of Christ at Christmas. During Advent, the liturgical readings recall Israel’s longing and waiting for Christ, as well as the Church’s longing and waiting for his return in the fullness of time. The observance of Advent dates back to at least the fifth century, and perhaps longer. At one time, this was a significant penitential season, like Lent.

Christmas Day - After sunset on December 24 – sunset December 25

For the Church, Christmas Day begins not at midnight, but with the celebration of Mass following sunset on Christmas Eve. This follows the ancient Jewish way of keeping liturgical time. (This way of marking “sacred time” is also the reason you can attend Sunday Mass on Saturday evening.) Similarly, Christmas Day ends (liturgically, anyway) at sunset.

Octave of Christmas - December 25 – January 1 (inclusive)

An octave extends the celebration of a feast or solemnity for eight days. During the Octave of Christmas, for example, all the readings and prayers during the celebration of Mass are related to the birth of Christ. Octave celebrations got their start in the Church way back in the fourth century. The “octave day” (eighth day) of Christmas is January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God—a holy day on which all Catholics are obliged to celebrate Mass.

The Twelve Days of Christmas (Christmastide) - December 26 – January 6 (or Epiphany)

Amazon and other retailers run “12 Days of Christmas” sales during the twelve days leading up to Christmas, but traditionally, the twelve days of Christmas begin on December 26 and end on January 6, the traditional date of Epiphany. (Other traditions mark the twelve days beginning Christmas Day and ending January 5, the day before Epiphany.) Many Christians continue to celebrate Twelfth Night with special foods and traditions.

Since 1970, Roman Catholics have celebrated Epiphany on the first Sunday after the Octave of Christmas (that is, the first Sunday after January 1) . . . which kind of messes up the whole twelve nights tradition. However, the twelve days of

Christmas and Twelfth Night are not official liturgical celebrations, but more of a popular tradition.

The Christmas Season (for Catholics) - December 25 – The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Roman Catholics (and some other Christians) mark the end of the liturgical Christmas season with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on the Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany (usually the second Sunday of January). Ordinary Time begins the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Fun fact: Centuries ago, the baptism of Christ was the primary event celebrated as part of the feast of the Epiphany, along with the visit of the Magi and other events from the childhood of Jesus. *Epiphany* means “manifestation” or “appearance.” So while the baptism of Christ marks the beginning of his public ministry, it is also part of his “manifestation” or “appearance”—one of the events signaling that God has broken into human history in a unique way.

Bonus! The Presentation of the Lord - December 25 – February 2 (The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord)

But wait, there’s more! The Church circles back around to the Christmas season forty days after Christmas, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The Law of Moses required first-born sons to be dedicated to the Lord, so Mary and Joseph dutifully brought the baby Jesus to the Temple for his dedication and circumcision (Luke 2:22-38). In some countries (and some households), it is traditional to keep Christmas decorations up until this feast.

This feast is also traditionally known as Candlemas; centuries ago, the feast was accompanied by a candlelight procession and a blessing of beeswax candles from the home.

Every day is Christmas - For Catholics, every day is, in the most basic sense, Christmas. That’s because every day, the Word becomes flesh in the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist; and through the sacraments, the people of God become of the Body of Christ in the world. Just as Mary’s “yes” made her an instrument of God’s incarnation in the world, by our “yes,” we too birth the Son of God into the world.



“Every day is Christmas in the hearts of Christians. And every day we are called to proclaim the message of Bethlehem to the world – ‘good news of great joy’.”
~St. Pope John Paul II~



Wishing all our parishioners
& families
a Holy and Blessed Christmas!
Clergy & Staff



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