

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



Although New Year's Day is not celebrated by the Church, this day has been observed as a holy day of obligation since early times due to the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Today, January 1 (which is the Octave of Christmas), we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Honoring Mary as the Mother of God can be traced back centuries, to the early days of the Church. The celebration has carried a few titles during this time, including the celebration of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (7th century) and the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ (13th century).

Interestingly it was not until 1974 when Pope Paul VI removed the feast of the Circumcision of Christ from the liturgical calendar and replaced it with the feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, that Mary's feast day was brought back to January 1.

Today we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to conceive His Son so that he could live among people. Christ's birth was made possible when Mary embraced God's will and freely chose to cooperate with God's grace, proclaiming, "Be it done to me according to thy word". So, it is that this feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. This, the most significant of her titles and roles – Mother of God – comes from the Greek Theotokos or "God-bearer".

Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give her. The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks her to pray to God on our behalf. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace."

~Extracted from St. Catherine of Siena Academy website~

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Why join the Catholic Women's League of Canada?

Well, the Catholic Women's League is many things to many people. For some, a sisterhood of support and understanding that is more than 63,000 members strong. It is a way to act on important social justice issues by adding your voice to many. It's also an opportunity to be of service to your community, to the country and to God. It is a chance to live your faith with those who share it, so why not become a member in 2023!

We will be holding our membership drive on the weekend of January 7 & 8, 2023 at all the Masses. The Membership fee is \$35.00 for the year. We welcome all women of the parish 16 years of age and up.



This week
The Sanctuary Lamp
is dedicated for
The Holy Souls in Purgatory



requested by
Maria & David Hogg

MASS Intentions

Mon.	Jan. 2	12:05 pm	Intentions of Abraham & Ester Lee, <i>requested by Sara Lee</i>
Tue.	Jan. 3	12:05 pm	Health intentions of Dana Mazare, <i>requested by Carol Morra</i>
Wed.	Jan. 4	12:05 pm	
Thur.	Jan. 5	12:05 pm	† Erlinda Concepcion, <i>requested by her family</i>
Fri.	Jan. 6	12:05 pm	† Jorgina Medeiros on her 1 st year death anniversary, <i>requested by Ida Medeiros & family</i>
Sat.	Jan. 7	9:00 am	† Catalino Pasquin, <i>requested by Nereza Frias</i>
		5:00 pm	† Edward Diogo, <i>requested by the Diogo family</i>
Sun.	Jan. 8	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish
		11:00 am	† Edson Edialn & Abelardo Cruz, <i>requested by Gaudelia Edialin</i>

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY



The office will be closed from Friday, December 23rd 2022 and will reopen on Thursday, January 5th, 2023.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Registration forms are available at our parish office; and also, at the school office. All completed registration forms must be returned by January 6th, 2023. Classes will begin at the end of January. For more information, please contact Alice Warford at



awarford@archtoronto.org.

Thank you!

ABOUT THE INFANT JESUS NOVENA

While there is a longstanding tradition in the Church of devotion to the Child Jesus, when people think of devotion to the Infant Jesus today, a specific and more recent statue comes to mind. The famous statue of the Infant Jesus, standing upright with a crown on His head and an orb symbolizing kingship in his left hand and his right hand extending a blessing, was brought to Prague at the beginning of the 17th century and is still there. The statue's origin is not known, but miracles have been reported associated with the statue for those who have venerated the Infant Jesus. Each year, the statue is paraded through the streets of Prague.



The Infant of Prague Novena is traditionally prayed during Christmastide. Historically, the feast day coincided with Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus but the calendar has changed over the years. It is often prayed leading up to either January 2nd or January 14th.

The Infant of Prague Novena will begin on Thursday, January 5th at 11:30 a.m. Please join us!

Infant Jesus is Patron of...

The Infant Jesus is the patron of schools, vocations, students, foreign missions, health, children, colleges, family life, freedom, finances, peace, travelers, and universities.

Stained Glass Preservation

We are still accepting donations for the preservation of the Stained Glass windows which has now been completed. Kindly contact the parish office for more information:

- If you are interested in donating to one of the windows for a special intention **or** in memory of a loved one.
 - If you would like to make a donation.
- To those have already donated, thank you.



Please support the parish in this project!

NEW YEAR MASSES

**New Year's Eve
5:00 p.m.**

**Mary, The Holy Mother of God
[New Year's Day]
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.**



2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

For 2023, all offertory envelopes box numbers **will be reassigned**. Please pick up a **NEW** box of offertory envelopes at all Masses this weekend – please see one of the volunteers at the back of the church.

Please use these envelopes for 2023 ONLY.

If you do not have envelopes for **2022** and wish to donate, VISITOR ENVELOPES are available in the literature rack for your convenience **or** visit our parish website and click the 'DONATE' button.

Thank you for supporting the parish!

2023 FRIARS' STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

October 4, 2022 to January 16, 2023

Theme: "Do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17)

High School Students (ages 13-19 years) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event that commemorates the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2023 theme.

Great prizes await the top three submissions. Students are encouraged to consult the resources at <https://bit.ly/3AgBy5J> to understand the meaning and purpose of the theme and address the focus question found on the poster at <https://bit.ly/3KXgu8m>.

Contact ecumenism@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 (Ext. 527) for more information or questions.



BE OUR LIGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
May this New Year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,

A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Be with us today and always. Amen.



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