

# **THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

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**Rev. Fr. Charles Collins, Administrator**

**Rev. Fr. Peter Gitendran, In Residence**

*prepare the way...*



## **ADVENT**



My Dear Parishioners in Christ,

**CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FILLED WITH HOPE**

Christmas is a time filled with the virtue of hope. The prophet Isaiah spoke of a time when *“the people walking in darkness have seen a great light”*. I am very happy to pen a few lines at this time of joy. I wish you all the best and thank you for your love and support. My prayers and wishes for something positive or better happening in the future – 2024. Let us become the sign for those undergoing hard times during this Christmas season, and be a sign of hope to them.

With Love & Prayers,

*Fr. Charles Collins*



**MASS SCHEDULE**  
**at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**  
**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**9 am & 11 am**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**5:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.**  
**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Christmas Day**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
**9 am & 11 am**  
**New Year's Eve**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**Mary, The Holy Mother of God**  
**[New Year's Day]**  
**10:00 a.m.**



This week  
**The Sanctuary Lamp**  
**is dedicated**  
**For the repose of the souls of**  
**Edna & Lennox Kelly**  
 requested by  
 Alice & Brian Warford



Monday [Christmas day]	Dec. 25	10:00 am	For the People of the Parish
Tuesday	Dec. 26	12:05 pm	† Teodulo Hipolito, requested by the Llarenas family
Wednesday	Dec. 27	12:05 pm	† Nell Quinto, requested by Migia family
Thursday	Dec. 28	12:05 pm	† Socrates Fernandez, requested by the Llarenas family
Friday	Dec. 29	12:05 pm	† Herbert Lloyd James, requested by the Estavillo family
Saturday	Dec. 30	9:00 am	In thanksgiving & intentions of George & Teresita Migia on their wedding anniversary, requested by the Migia family
		5:00 pm	† Mr. & Mrs. Reperto Mancol, requested by the Estavillo family
Sunday	Dec. 31	9:00 am	For the People of the Parish
		11:00 am	For the intentions & good health of our Parish Priests, Fr. Charles & Fr. Peter, requested by the Sevilla family
	New Year's Eve	5:00 pm	In thanksgiving & good health for Tek Bahadur Kadka, requested by a family friend, Regina

Readily Saying Yes to Stewardship

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

As we approach Christmas, the church encourages us to reflect on the Annunciation. The Annunciation can be seen as the singular event that changed the world for it is during this episode that Mary consents to God's will and Christ is conceived within her. As stewards striving to follow Jesus, we can learn a great deal from prayerfully imitating Mary in our own lives.



Mary had an incredible faith and trust in God to be able to accept His will for her life. It is important to note that Mary wasn't told how her life would precisely unfold. She didn't know she would give birth in a manger, or about her flight to Egypt, or that Jesus would go missing in the temple or that she would stand by as He was crucified. Instead, all she knew

was that she would conceive the Son of God. Many times we seek to know God's entire will for our lives but we can learn from Mary to readily say yes to the current step of the plan that He is calling us to and, like Mary, ponder God's will in our hearts by spending time in prayer.

As stewards, God too is calling us to a very specific and important mission. St. John Henry Newman says that we should all recognize that "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission." We can live out this mission by being stewards of our time and talents for our communities, our parish and the entire Church. Let us seek Mary's intercession and trust in the Lord's call for our lives and readily follow Him.

Summary

The Annunciation can be seen as the singular event that changed the world for it is during this episode that Mary consents to God's will and Christ is conceived within her. Many times, we seek to know God's entire will for our lives but we can learn from Mary to readily and prayerfully say yes to the current step of the mission that He is calling us to. We can live out this mission by being stewards of our time and talents for our communities, our parish and the entire Church.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

CHRISTMAS



Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. Celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, the feast of

God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him, including the fact that he was born to die for us.

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/christmas>



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Serra's 'Vocation Seeds'

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

Email: [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)



"We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." ~ St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta ~



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

Clergy & Parish Staff





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