

# **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**



Beloved in Christ,

In the stillness of Bethlehem's night, heaven touched earth, and hope was born anew. As we rejoice in the miracle of Christmas, may you find comfort in God's promises and courage to walk in His light. Let us carry the spirit of this holy season into the New Year, serving with compassion and living as witnesses of His love.

I would to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all our parishioners for supporting the parish, and all our volunteers & staff for their selfless service.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Christmas filled with God's abundant blessings, peace, and joy; and may the New Year bring you renewed hope and happiness!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Fr. Charles*

"A God who became so small could only be mercy and love." ~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux ~

### CLOSING MASS FOR THE HOLY YEAR OF JUBILEE

Cardinal Leo extends a warm invitation to the faithful of the archdiocese to join him for the closing Mass for the

Holy Year of Jubilee on Sunday 28 December 2025 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica at 5:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available with numerous priests present from 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. All are most welcome.

Likewise, there will be celebrations for the closure of the Holy Year locally and regionally at the designated pilgrimage parish churches.



#### Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup>

**12:05 pm** In thanksgiving & birthday intentions of Floro Rabadon  
*requested by Elsa Borja*

#### Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

**12:05 pm** In thanksgiving for all God's blessings & for the intentions of Letty Denovan  
*requested by Letty Denovan*

#### Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**5:00 pm †** Lennox & Edna Kelly  
*requested by Alice & Brian Warford*

**9:30 pm †** Eulalie Rosetta & Otto Raymond Mapp  
*requested by their son, Anthony Mapp*

#### The Nativity of the Lord - Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

**10:00 am** For the People of the Parish

#### Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

**12:05 pm †** Don Bosco Monteiro  
*requested by Blossom Che*

#### Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am †** Monica & Russel Masters  
*requested by Henry Masters*

**5:00 pm** Birthday blessings & intentions of Lydia Dormal  
*requested by Nereza Frias*

#### Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 am** Special intentions of Jia Lin Huang  
*requested by Jose Lorenzo Caguimbal*

**11:00 am †** Socrates Fernandez  
*requested by the Llarenas family*

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.**

**Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**New Year's Eve – Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**[New Year's Day]**  
**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**10:00 a.m.**





## Making Room for Jesus

As Christmas fast approaches and Advent is drawing to a close, let us remind ourselves of the importance of this liturgical season. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas as well as His final coming at the end of time. However, the great saints of the church also speak of an intermediary coming, the coming of Christ to our present lives. **Let us take a moment to ask ourselves, if the Lord showed up in our life today, would there be room for Him?**

As stewards, we often face the temptation to let our works of charity become a life of volunteering instead of a spirituality of service. Our many works may begin to take precedence over our relationship with Christ which should

always remain as the source of our stewardship. This Advent, as we are waiting for Christ, Christ is also waiting for us. Jesus says in the Book of Revelation, *"Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you"* (Revelation 3:20). He is waiting for us to open the door and let him in.

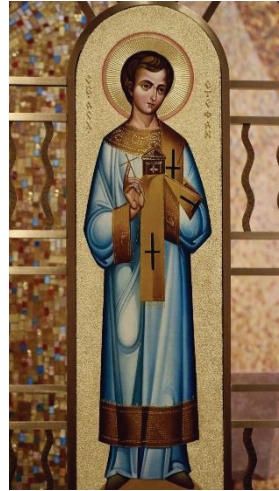
We can let him into our lives as stewards by realizing it is not ourselves ministering to our neighbour, but the love and presence of Christ within us. St. Teresa of Calcutta says it best when she proclaims that, *"it is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand."* St. Teresa of Calcutta fully embodies the spirit of stewardship that makes room for Christ to love others through her. Let us strive to let Jesus into our lives as we approach Christmas.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~



## ST. STEPHEN

Feast day: December 26th



St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr (protomartyr) and one of the first deacons in the early Jerusalem church, serving the community by distributing aid, known for his powerful preaching, miracles, and a vision of Christ before being stoned to death for blasphemy, inspiring a wave of persecution that spread Christianity further, with his feast day celebrated on December 26th in many traditions, often linked to charity and traditions like Boxing Day.



### Pope John XXIII's Christmas Prayer

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,  
grant that we may share with all our hearts  
in this profound mystery of Christmas.  
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace  
for which they sometimes seek so desperately  
and which you alone can give to them.  
Help them to know one another better,  
and to live as brothers and sisters,  
children of the same Father.  
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity.  
Awaken in their hearts  
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.  
Join them all together in your love.  
And give us your heavenly peace.  
AMEN.



### Holiday Office Hours

Closed from Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Will reopen on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Many Blessings  
to you  
& your family,  
Clergy & Staff



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