

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Vocation Seeds

By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If God is calling you, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416 968 0997

email: vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca

New Year's Message from Fr. Steven 2024

On New Year's Day we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. This feast reminds us of, and points to, the real meaning of Christmas; that the Christ Child who was born for us is God, the Second Person of the Trinity who assumed human nature and became one of us. The year 2024 also reminds us that it was 2,024 years ago that Christ was born into this world. Celebrating Christ's birth is a reminder to us of all the good Christ came to accomplish, and of all the darkness, suffering and evil He came to overthrow and conquer. In our age it is easy to be discouraged by some world events that seem to threaten of war or frightening future calamities. Christ had predicted difficult times for His followers and for the world, especially near the end times. He wanted His followers to be prepared and to have the correct attitude towards such things. He teaches us to not to be afraid and not to place all our hope in human wisdom and human endeavors but rather in God. He tells us not to be afraid to bear present day burdens and crosses but to lay up for ourselves heavenly treasures. We do this partly by daily prayer. Prayer is more powerful than we realize. If more people prayed, things would be much better off for everyone. Prayer can give us hope. It can make us realize that each one of us can make a difference. It can help us remain focused on what is truly important. It can also help us spread the peace and love of Christ to everyone. May all of you receive an abundance of Christ's blessings this coming year.

First Friday is January 5

We will again have our All Night Vigil of Adoration after the Friday evening 7:30 pm Mass. Our Eucharistic Lord will be placed on our altar for adoration. Various communal prayers will be recited during the night. Coffee and snacks will be available in the parish hall. Adoration will conclude just before the 9:00 am Saturday morning Mass with Benediction. Everyone is welcome to participate .

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 30:

5:00 pm In Thanksgiving of Acheron-Vasquez Family
Birthday Blessings for Donna McCarthy
Alex, Jeff Lemos & Family
Benefactors
Living & Deceased Bishops, Priests, Nuns
and Deacons
+Sydney Noronha
+Louisa & Louis Dos Santos
+Philip YU

Sunday December 31:

9:00 am In Thanksgiving of Anthony Wai & Family

10:30 am In Thanksgiving of Pearl, Colleen and
Malcolm

12:00 pm Pro - Populo

5:00 pm Vigil Mass for New Year's

Monday January 1, 2024 New Year's Day

9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12 noon

Tuesday January 2:

9:00 am In Thanksgiving of McClod and
Ylagan Families

Wednesday January 3:

7:30 pm Special Intention of Acheron-Vasquez Family
Special Intention of Rozel Eballo
+Go Yee Long

Thursday January 4:

9:00 am +Stella Wong

Friday January 5:

9:30 am Celebrant's Intention

7:30 pm Pearl, Colleen & Malcolm

Saturday January 6:

9:00 am Celebrant's Intention

If the poison of pride is swelling up in you, turn to the Eucharist; and that bread, which is your God humbling and disguising Himself, will teach you humility.—
St. Cyril of Alexandria

December 31, 2023

Epiphany Blessing

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is traditionally on January 6 but is now celebrated on the Sunday that falls closest to it. This 2024 it falls on Sunday January 7th. There is a tradition that on the feast of Epiphany, the head of each household would lead his/her family in prayer and blessing of their home. The parish priest cannot bless everyone's home and so the head of the family would do this every year. After doing the blessing, he would sprinkle holy water about the house and use blessed chalk to mark the main entrance lintel of their home with the following: 20+C+M+B+24 (the number would change every year; to indicate the year we are in). The letters stand for the three Magi or Wisemen: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also represent the Latin blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house". Fr. Steven will try to have blessed chalk available on the feast of Epiphany for everyone to bless their homes. All you need is a small container to get some holy water.

Holy Water

Catholics are encouraged to use holy water in their homes. Water is a natural symbol of purification and life. Water has been blessed is efficacious in warding off evil spirits, preserving us from sin, even sickness. Holy water is also a good source of obtaining more of God's blessings and graces. You are welcome to take water from our holy water font. You will need to bring your own small bottle or container. The holy water dispenser is on the left side of the church, close to the pieta statue.

Friars Student Writing Contest

High school students, ages 13 to 19, 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 500 word essay that explores the 2024 theme: you shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27). Great prizes await the top three submissions. Students are able to consult the resources at <https://rb.gy/wajo9> to understand the meaning and purpose of the theme and address the focus question found on the poster and submit their entries at <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>. Submissions must be received before January 15.

2024 Donation Envelopes

Please pick up your 2024 Donation Envelopes arranged in numerical order. If you can not remember your envelope number, one of us from the gift shop can gladly help you. Please start using these envelopes in the New Year. New parishioners who wish to use donation envelopes please register in the gift shop or from our website.

Saint Aidan Book Club

Next meeting on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 pm at St. Aidan's to discuss the book, "Confessions" by Saint Augustine, where he narrates how he came to turn away from his youthful ideals and licentious lifestyle to become one of Christianity's most influential thinkers and saints. Come join the St. Aidan book club. To register, contact Rosario Dizon at 416-731-0484.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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www.svdptoronto.org

Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received—only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage. - St. Francis of Assisi

Sayings of the Saints

No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross. No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ.— St. Leo the Great

When we have been to Holy Communion, the balm of love envelops the soul as the flower envelops the bee.— St. John Vianney

The remembrance of my faults humbles me and helps me never to rely upon my own strength which is mere weakness.— St. Theresa of Lisieux

You will accomplish more by kind words and a courteous manner than by anger or sharp rebuke, which should never be used except in necessity.— St. Angela Merici

We've had enough exhortations to be silent. Cry out with a thousand tongues. I see the world is rotten because of silence.— St. Catherine of Siena