

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH

New Year's Message from Father Steven 2025

On New Year's Day we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. This feast reminds us and points us 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. Being the Mother of Christ means that Mary is the Mother of God. The year 2025 reminds us that it was 2,025 years ago that Christ was born into this world. Every 25 years is a Jubilee year. The theme for this year's jubilee is HOPE. Despite the many terrible things happening in many places in the world, we are called to have great hope. We know that a better future awaits us, if we trust in God and continue to live as He has called us to. The Jubilee Year presents us with many opportunities to receive an ever greater abundance of God's blessings and graces. May your 2025 be filled with success, fulfillment and joy.

Epiphany Blessing

The Solemnity of Epiphany is traditionally on January 6 but is now celebrated on the Sunday that falls closest to it. This 2025 it falls on Sunday January 5th. There is a tradition that on the feast of Epiphany, the head of each household would lead his/her family in a prayer and blessing of their home. The parish priest cannot bless everyone's home so the head of each 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+25 (the number changes every year; to indicate the year we are in). The letters stand for the three Magi or Wisemen: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also represent the Latin blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house". Fr. Steven will have blessed chalk available on the feast of Epiphany for everyone to bless their homes. It is always a good idea to have holy water in your homes. All you need is a small container.

2025 Donation Envelopes

Please pick up your 2025 Donation Envelopes arranged in numerical order. If you cannot remember your number, one of us from the gift shop will gladly help you. New parishioners who wish to use donation envelopes, please register in the gift shop or from our website.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 28:

5:00 pm In Thanksgiving of Benedict Francis
Wedding Anniversary of Romanie and
Ruben Mariathan
Wedding Blessing for Charlotte Peng and
Martin Wong
Birthday Blessings for Ryno Heystek
Birthday Blessings for Vanessa Fernandes
In Thanksgiving of Adelo & Esther Ortiz
In Thanksgiving of John Almirol & Family
Conversion of China
+Edelberto Contreras Acon
Souls in Purgatory

Sunday December 29:

9:00 am 45th Wedding Anniversary of Ivan and
Marian Pais

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

12:00 pm Pro-Populo

Monday December 30:

9:00 am In Thanksgiving of Glen & Gina Arroyo

Tuesday December 31:

9:00 am Birthday Blessings for Savio Fernandes

5:00 pm New Year's Eve Mass

Wednesday : January 1, 2025 New Year's Day

9:00 am; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon

No 7:30 pm Mass

Thursday January 2:

9:00 am +Ignatius M. Mendes

Friday January 3:

9:30 am Celebrant's Intentions

7:30 pm +Go Yee Long & Dy Cio Lin Chua

Saturday January 4:

9:00 am Celebrant's Intentions

December 29, 2024

Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

The Catholic Church worldwide will be celebrating a special Jubilee Year in 2025. This Jubilee Year is also referred to as a "Holy Year". Many graces can be gained by the faithful in honouring and participating in the Jubilee Year. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee will be "Pilgrims of Hope". The Holy Father will open the Jubilee Year on December 2024. In the Archdiocese of Toronto we will launch the Jubilee Year with a Solemn Opening Mass taking place on Sunday, December 29, at 5:00 pm at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. All are invited to join in this special celebration. Please note that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to the Eucharist from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm. May this Holy Year provide a grace-filled opportunity to nurture the seeds of faith for you and your loved ones, immersing ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope into a year-long journey of prayer, witness and service drawing on the example of Jesus, our Lord.

Handicraft Holy Land Christians

On the weekend of January 18-19, we will welcome a representative of "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the Masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding Christians' presence in the Holy Land.

Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through prayer and we will have unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every Mass.

Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

May God Bless you and your generosity, for your help and for your prayers.

Cash, debit, credit cards and cheque will be accepted.

You can visit and support us at
www.HolylandChristians.ca

The ordinary acts we practice every day at home are of more importance to the soul than their simplicity might suggest. - St. Thomas More

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 to be a priest, religious or deacon contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997

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

First Friday is January 3

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 9:00 am Saturday morning Mass with Benediction. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Mary Help of Christians

The Legion of Mary invites everyone to attend their monthly Patrician meeting which will be conducted on the 3rd Saturday of every month in the church hall after the 9:00 am morning Mass. The coming Patrician meeting will be held on Saturday January 18 and the topic will be on the "Holy Eucharist.". The purpose of a Patrician meeting is to enhance our knowledge and our ability to speak confidently and persuasively about our Catholic beliefs. We invite our parish family to come and learn more about the Catholic faith, in a friendly and social atmosphere. Coffee and biscuit will be served.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Tel:647-772-1319 www.svdptoronto.org

Happy New Year!

Thank you for your continued support and your generous contributions throughout 2024. Your commitment has made a significant impact, and we are truly grateful for your involvement. As we enter the New Year, we wish you a profound sense of peace and abundant joy in your life. May you also find the divine strength necessary to navigate any challenges that may arise along your journey. Together, let's embrace the opportunities that the New Year will bring!

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'" - Martin Luther King Jr.