

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Founded 1892



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PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Fr. Peter Turrone

pturrone@archtoronto.org

PARISH STAFF

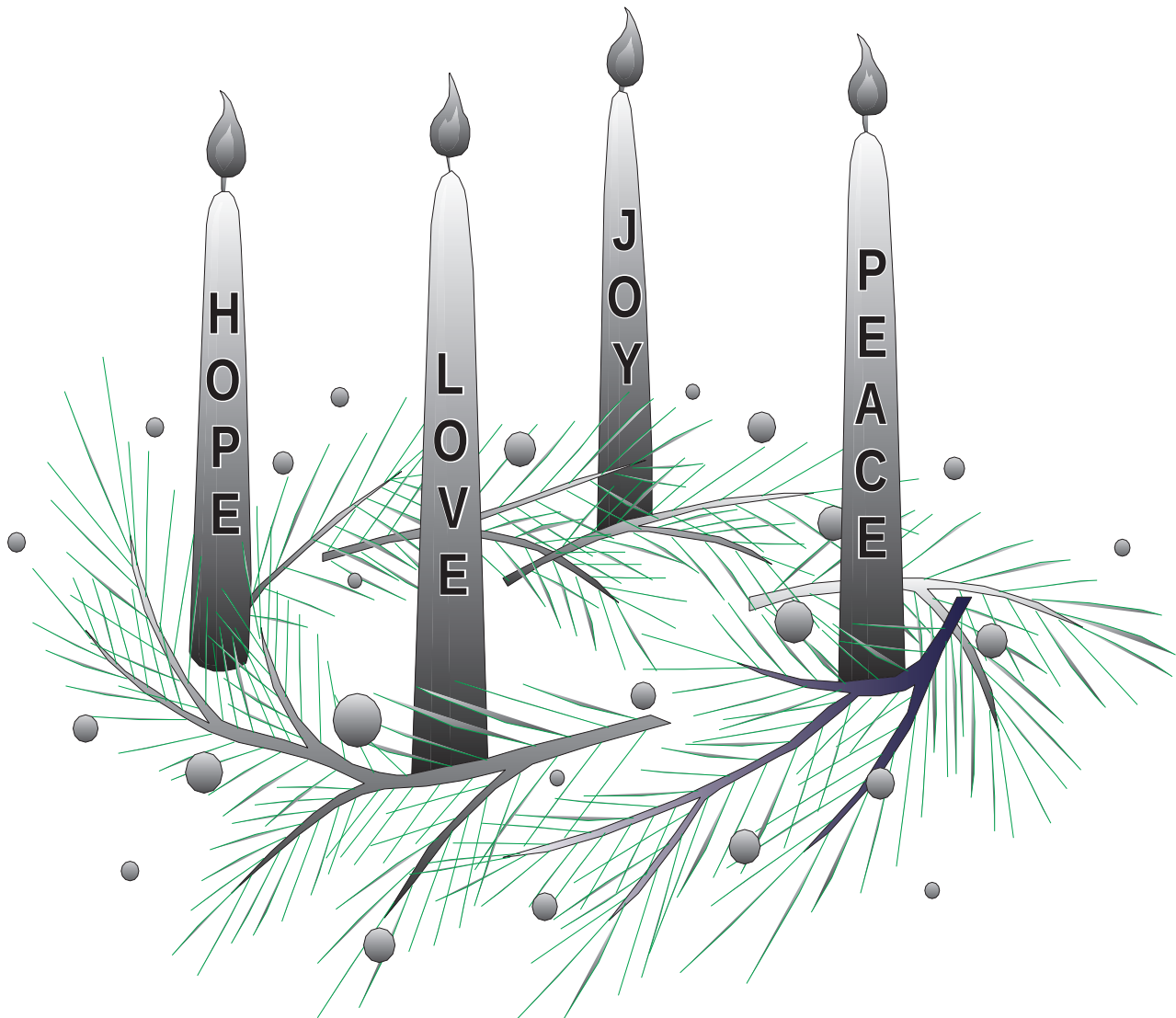
Full-time Parish Secretary Debbie Carnovale office@holyrosary.ca

Part-time Parish Secretary Jennifer Ramos

Parish Office:

office@holyrosary.ca

Hospitality Coordinator: Jadwiga Borkowski hospitality@holyrosary.ca



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour."
(Cf. Isaiah 45.8)



The Pastor's Reflection

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk 1:42)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We are just two days away from Christmas! God willing, the Advent season was a time for prayerful reflection and spiritual discernment.

In today's Gospel, Mary finally arrives at her cousin Elizabeth's house. She had been contemplating everything the Archangel Gabriel had told her at the Annunciation. When Elizabeth hears the Virgin's voice, she cries out with great joy. Luke tells us that Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and says, "blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk 1:42). Elizabeth continues, "how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Lk 1:43). Did you grasp what Elizabeth just said under the guidance of the Third Person of the Trinity? She called Mary the mother of her Lord: the baby in her womb was God himself.

Every Jewish woman hoped that she would be the mother of the Messiah. But to be the Mother of God? One should fall to the ground in awe before such a great mystery! St. Augustine goes on to say that the Virgin Mary's greatness lies in the fact that she is the Theotokos (God-bearer), and, because she is Christ's preeminent disciple. The Virgin Mary shows us the royal way to follow her Son.

If you pray the rosary, and I hope you do daily, you will notice that we use the same words of St. Elizabeth when we pray the Hail Mary. This prayer is biblical in origin. We begin with the words of St Gabriel when he greets her by saying "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you." (Lk 1:26-8). Moreover, the name of Jesus, the only name that saves (Acts 4:12), is at the center of this divinely inspired prayer.

There are some well-meaning but misguided people who criticize the Church and Catholics for our devotion to the Mother of God. They are wrong, plain and simple. Mary's role as intercessor goes beyond Christmas and continues until Christ's Second Coming. Turn to her often, she loves us and wants us to experience both the love of God and her own maternal care. Keep in mind what the Virgin Mary said when she appeared in Guadalupe over 500 years ago on Dec 12th, "Let not your heart be disturbed...Am I not here, your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."

Announcements

1. Christmas Mass & Parish Office Hours Schedule:

- **Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24th**
5 PM & 8 PM Masses
(Parish office is open from 9 AM - 12 PM)
- **Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25th**
8 AM, 10 AM*, & 12 PM Masses
(Parish office is CLOSED)
- **Boxing Day - Thursday, December 26th**
9 AM Mass
(Parish office is CLOSED)
- **Friday, December 27th**
9 AM Mass
(Parish office is open from 9 AM - 5 PM)
- **Saturday, December 28th**
9 AM & 5 PM Masses
(Parish office is open from 10 AM - 5 PM)
- **Sunday, December 29th**
8 AM, 10 AM, & 12 PM
(Parish office is open from 9 AM - 2 PM)
- **Monday, December 30th**
12:10 PM Mass
(Parish office is open from 9 AM - 5 PM)
- **Feast of the Holy Family/New Year's Eve - Tuesday, December 31st**
5 PM Mass
(Parish office is open from 9 AM - 12 PM)
- **Feast of Mary, Mother of God - New Year's Day - January 1st**
8 AM, 10 AM, & 12 PM Masses
(Parish office is CLOSED)
- **Thursday, January 2nd**
9 AM Mass
(Parish office is open from 9 AM - 5 PM)
- **Friday, January 3rd**
9 AM Mass
(Parish office is open from 9 AM - 5 PM)
- **Saturday, January 4th**
9 AM & 5 PM Masses
(Parish office is open from 10 AM - 5 PM)
- **Epiphany of Our Lord - Sunday, January 5th**
8 AM, 10 AM, & 12 PM Masses

*Masses will be livestreamed on December 25th at 10 AM & Sundays at 10 AM

DECEMBER 22nd, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 23, 2024

12:10 pm. Diego Fernandes (+)
Requested By: Fernandes Family

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

12:10 pm. Helen Charlier (+) & Deceased
Family Members

5:00 pm. Holy Rosary Parishioners

8:00 pm. Holy Rosary Parishioners

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day

8:00 am. Holy Rosary Parishioners

10:00 am. Holy Rosary Parishioners

12:00 pm. Holy Rosary Parishioners

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Saint Stephen

9:00 am. Giuseppe Massimo Lavorato (+)
Requested By: The Labora & Seminerid Family

Friday, December 27, 2024

Saint John

9:00 am. Bernadina Fernandes (+)
Requested By: The Fernandes Family

Multiple Intentions:
Roberto Calderon (+),
Lucia, Karala & Mauricio (for healing)

Saturday, December 28, 2024

9:00 am. Intentions of the Blessed Virgin
Mary and in reparation for all sins
committed against her Immaculate
Heart

5:00 pm. Hollis (+), Frances (+), Jose Terra
(+), Marlene Terra, Ariel, Marlene
Lu, & Fabian

Requested By: Jan

Sunday, December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 am. Holy Rosary Parishioners

10:00 am. Domenica Castaldo (+), Pasquale
Castaldo (+), & (Mike) Michele
Genua (+)

Requested By: Ricardo Federico & Family

12:00 pm. Virgilio (+) & Maria Correia (+),
Soo Young Bar (+), Juan Pablo
Medina (Special Intentions)

Requested By: The Family, and Hermy & Isabel
Villasenor



Please remember in your prayers those who are sick, especially: Fr. Daniel Callam, Peter Verwoerd, Paul Morisset, Mark Colbreath, Betty Dempsey, Anthony Verombeek, Mario, Edward Haggarty, M.M. Mackenzie, and Jamie

Please remember those who have recently died, especially:
Danielle Fuochi-Switzer (+)

Please note, that there will be no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from Saturday, January 11th to Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025 inclusive. This includes Sunday, January 12, and Sunday, January 19th. The Church will be open beginning at 7 AM on those two Sundays. Our regular schedule resumes on Thursday, January 23rd.

Important Tax Information: Any donations received in the Parish Office by Dec. 31st by 12 PM will be credited towards your 2024 income tax receipt. Donations received after 12 PM on Dec. 31st will be considered 2025 donations. In accordance with CRA regulations, donations submitted by Canada Post must be postmarked by Dec. 31st, 2024 to be eligible for a 2024 income tax receipt.

Protect Christians in Canada Petition: Many Christians in Canada are concerned about government and corporate overreach in their communities, workplaces or schools. Anti-Christian bigotry and discrimination also affects Christian citizens and organizations in our country. Protect Christians in Canada has launched an online petition urging all levels of government to take action to protect Christians in Canada. This petition will be presented by Member of Parliament Jamil Jivani in the nation's capital in February 2025 and calls on governments to:

- Defend the rights of parents to play a leading role in their children's education and important decisions involving their children.
- Safeguard conscience rights and the freedom of religion for unionized and non-unionized workers, including health care professionals.
- Strengthen penalties and increase law enforcement in response to crime targeting churches and places of worship.
- Protect the legal status and freedom of expression of Christian charities.

Take a stand in support of Christians in Canada. Please visit www.protectchristianscanada.com to learn more and sign the petition.

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