

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

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Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Carlos Sierra Tobon

Associate Pastor: Fr. Jomon George, M.Ss.Cc.

Deacon: Mr. Raymond Frendo

In Residence: Monsignor Fady Boktor

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Rhoda Marcoccia



*Oh Come
Let us Adore Him*

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Christmas is about much deeper things than Santa, and the birth of Jesus is not just some delightful fairy tale meant to warm the heart. We measure time by this event. Christmas is about God being born physically and historically into this world and, among many other things, we have some stunning lessons to learn from the manner in which this happened.

As virtually all of our iconography around Christmas makes clear, God is born, not as some superstar whose earthly power, beauty, and muscle dwarf us. No. God is born as helpless, vulnerable, thoroughly under-whelming baby who looks out at us quietly even as we look back at him and he judges us in that way that vulnerability judges false strength, forever, transparency judges lies, generosity judges selfishness, innocence judges over-sophistication, and a baby, gently and helplessly and disarmingly, calls forth what's best in us.

Christmas is meant to bring us back to the crib so that our hearts can feel that freshness that wants to make us start living over again. (Ron Rolheiser)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great joy and with a deep sense of gratitude that I write to you. Christmas is here for us to rejoice and celebrate, also in the closeness of a new year, we must all say "thanks be to God forever".

Each one of us has a heart full of memories good and bad, but in the end we can say, we made it, that is what counts the most.

On behalf of Fr. Jomon, Msgr. Fady, and the parish office staff, I would like to wish that God may continue to bless you and may Jesus (the reason for the season), dwell always in your hearts, homes and places of work.

Finally, I continue appealing to you, please come and help us to do what is needed to have the church all of you deserve.

Fr. Carlos Sierra Tobon

MARRIAGE SUNDAY

Bishop Vincent Nguyen will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, especially those celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+) in 2023. **The Mass will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 12th** at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). The All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their vows and milestone anniversary celebrants will be honoured with a special blessing.

The Mass is open to all, but due to space restrictions those wishing to attend are asked to register online. Milestone anniversary celebrants will be assured of reserved seating. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join via livestream at <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>
The broadcast will begin at 2:15 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4:30 pm: Confession
5:30 pm: Children's Christmas Mass (English)
11:30 pm: Christmas Carols w/ Cecilia and Choir
12 Midnight: Bilingual Mass

Sunday, December 25th The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

7:45 am (English), 9:00 am (Italian), 10:30 am (English),
12 Noon (English) Kindly note there is no Mass at 7 pm.

CHAPEL CLOSING

Our chapel closed at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and will re-open on December 27th at 10 am

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed December 26th & 27th and will re-open on December 28th

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 31st New Year's Eve

4:30 pm: Confession
5:30 pm: English Mass
12 Midnight: Bilingual Mass

Sunday, January 1st Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

7:45 am (English), 9:00 am (Italian), 10:30 am (English),
12 Noon (English)) Kindly note there is no Mass at 7 pm.

CHAPEL CLOSING

Our chapel will close at 4:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve, December 31st and will re-open on January 2nd at 10 am

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closing at 12 Noon on December 30th and will re-open on Monday, January 2nd

PARISH ENVELOPES 2023

Envelopes for the year 2023 are available in the parish hall and are in numerical order. If you don't know your envelope number, please refer to the binder with names listed in alphabetical order.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL 2023 Membership Drive is currently ongoing. Membership Fees are \$35.00. Cheques can be made payable to Transfiguration Catholic Women's League & left in the parish office. Please include your name, address, phone number & email address.

THE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Most urgently needed are individually packaged snacks, e.g. chips/cookies/granola bars, juices & bottled water, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, men's new underwear, socks, jeans warm gloves, winter hats & scarves, towels. Items can be placed in the blue bin located at the reception area of the parish office.

CHAPEL

Our parish is honoured with an opportunity to have an adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours/day, 7 days/week exposed in our chapel for the last 20 years. If you would like to commit one hour a week or be a "backup" to fill in for the hour that adorers on a regular basis cannot do, please leave your name and contact number in the parish office. All are welcome to come and pray.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving plan (PAG) to help you support the parish's work through your regular offertory gift. To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-Authorized Giving allows you to donate to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly into the parish's account.

There are various benefits of participating in pre-authorized giving, both for you and for your parish.

Advantages for You:

- The convenience of having your offering automatically contributed to the parish.
- Knowing you continue to support the parish even when you are away.
- Continual support of ministries and programs funded through the parish.

Advantages for the Parish:

- Regular, dependable contributions to the parish.
- Reduction of cash on hand. • Reduction of paperwork.

For information on how to enrol, please contact your parish office or email development@archtoronto.org

...Ed è Natale!

Il Signore Gesù volle essere uomo per noi. Non si pensi che sia stata poca la misericordia: la Sapienza stessa giace in terra! "In principio era il Verbo e il Verbo era presso Dio e il Verbo era Dio" (Gv1,1).

Colui che era adagiato nella mangiatoia è divenuto debole ma non ha perduto la sua potenza: assunse ciò che non era ma rimase ciò che era. Ecco, abbiamo davanti il Cristo bambino: cresciamo insieme con lui.

Quali lodi potremo dunque cantare all'amore di Dio, quali grazie potremo rendere? Ci ha amato tanto che per noi è nato nel tempo lui, per mezzo del quale è stato creato il tempo; nel mondo fu più piccolo di età di molti suoi servi, lui che è eternamente anteriore al mondo stesso; è diventato uomo, lui che ha fatto l'uomo; è stato formato da una madre che lui ha creato; è stato sorretto da mani che lui ha formato; ha succhiato da un seno che lui ha riempito; il Verbo senza il quale è muta l'umana eloquenza ha vagito nella mangiatoia, come bambino che non sa ancora parlare. Osserva, uomo, che cosa è diventato per te Dio: sappi accogliere l'insegnamento di tanta umiltà, anche in un maestro che ancora non parla. (Sant' Agostino (354 - 430) http://www.augustinus.it/varie/natale/natale_natale.htm)

**MASS INTENTIONS
INTENZIONI DELLE MESSE**

Sunday December 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

- 7:45 am Pro Populo
- 9:00 am
- 10:30 am
- 12:00 pm

Monday December 26 Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

- 9:30 am † For the Soul of Dominic, † Lorenz Stachelscheid, † Liberata Manco

Tuesday December 27 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

- 9:30 am † Henry & Therese Li Paktong, † Robert & Amelie Lee Chong, † Nicola Marino, † Antonietta Paonesca

Wednesday December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

- 9:30 am † Dominic Bertucci and Deceased Family Members, † Antonio Greco, † All Souls in Purgatory

Thursday December 29 Fifth Day within the Octave of Nativity of the Lord

- 9:30 am † Adelina, Quiteria, † Aurora Oliveira,

Friday December 30 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 9:30 am † Domenico Cosentino

Saturday December 31 Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

- 9:30 am
- 3:30 pm Mass at Parkland Seniors' Residence
- 4:30 pm Confession
- 5:30 pm In Honour of the Holy Family, † Zuzanna & Stanislaw Guzik, † Helena Giermanska, † Maria Szajna
- 12 Midnight Bilingual Mass

Sunday January 1 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

- 7:45 am Pro Populo
- 9:00 am † Giovanni Vena
- 10:30 am † Matthew Dishart, † Nicola Biancofiore
- 12:00 pm † Pierino Marinucci, † Michael D'Cunha
- 1:30 pm IGBO Mass



FEAST OF SANTO NIÑO

Please join us for a special celebration of the Feast of Santo Niño to be held on Saturday, January 14th (Rosary at 11 am and Mass at 11:30 am). A pot-luck lunch will be held in the parish hall after Mass and procession. Everyone is invited.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

- Theresa Burns, Sonja Schryer, Noemy Pereira, Clint Viegas, Samuel Cordeiro, Arthur Ruston, Raphael Colaco, Dana McGrath, Roman Joe Zakrajse, Enzo, Domenica, Teresa Pirrello, Margaret Speciale, Joe Simardone, Margaret Ramjattan, Rosa Natale, Christina Vitale, Walter Ryan

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*Based on 'All Agents Totals Combined For Sold Properties' total listed and sold units, in Etobicoke from 2013 to October 2020, as reported by independent research company R E Stats Inc. **Etobicoke is the area bounded by Steeles Ave. W. on the North, Humber River on the East, Lake Ontario on the South and Highway 427 on the West. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract with a brokerage.

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