



H O L Y C R O S S P A R I S H

291 Cosburn Avenue, Toronto, ON M4J 2M4

Tel: 416-421-5225 - press 0 (office); press 3 (St. Vincent's De Paul) Fax: 416-421-4656

Email: holycrosssto@archtoronto.org Website: holycrosssto.archtoronto.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday
9:00 am to 4:00pm

Fr. Godofredo R. Claudio, Pastor

Maria Agovino, LPA Holy Cross Parish & Canadian Martyrs Parish

Joan Bolanos, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Enrique De Leon - Custodian

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 9:00 am
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Morning Prayer:

Wednesday & Friday 8:30 am

Weekday Masses:

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 9:30 am to 10:00 am
First Friday 6:15 pm to 6:45 pm
For any other day by appointment only

First Fridays: *except July and August*

Holy Hour: 6:00 pm
Mass 7:00 pm

Baptism:

By appointment and after an interview with the parents.

Marriage:

Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor one year in advance.

Care of the Sick:

Please call the parish to request visitation of the sick or elderly for prayers, Holy Communion, Sacrament of the Sick.

New Parishioners:

Registration Form is available in the vestibule of the Church, in the parish office or on the website.

Holy Cross School

Phone: 416-393-5242

299A Donlands Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M4J 3R7

Principal: Arlene Martin

... <i>Mass Intentions</i>		
DEC	MASS FOR	REQUESTED BY
15 Mon, 9am 7pm	No Mass Simbang Gabi	
16 Tue, 9am 7pm	Thanksgiving Draya & Dennison Ducusin Elena Valdez+ Thanksgiving – Anna Marie Agustin	Nelson & Nelia Ducusin Ducusin Family Anna Marie Agustin
17 Wed, 9am 7pm	Domingo Enriquez+	Enriquez Family
18 Thurs, 9am 7pm	(Canadian Martyrs Parish) Thanksgiving – Jereen Michael Alog	Alog Family
19 Fri, 9am 7pm	Thanksgiving – Andrew Geekie	Julia Geekie
20 Sat, 9am Sat, 9am 5pm 7pm	All Parishioners Maria & Emmanuel Lopez Sr. + (Canadian Martyrs Parish) Oscar Casipit + Birthday Thanksgiving – Herminia Ramos Jennifer Trelle The Yabarola Family Myrna Ramos
21 Sun 9am 11 am 7pm	Bill Doumouras + Monica D'Souza +	Karin Doumouras D'Souza Family

Meditate on God's Word



Sunday Gospel Reflection

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11 - Jesus Praises John the Baptist

Rejoicing amidst the Darkness

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." These are the words proclaimed in the entrance antiphon of Mass for Gaudete Sunday this week. It urges us to constantly rejoice in the Lord, and as good stewards of Christ, we should always strive to live lives inundated with the joy that flows from the Lord.

In order to do this, we must understand the difference between joy and happiness, for the Lord never promised us happiness. Instead He says, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11). Happiness is a result of our good circumstances, because we feel good, or we had something positive happen to us, etc. Joy on the other hand goes much deeper. Henri Nouwen describes it as "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing -- sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death -- can take that love away."

So joy is the ability to remain happy due to our awareness of being beloved sons and daughters of God even amidst the trials of our life. Henri Nouwen further describes joy as a choice we must make every day. How often in our difficult lives do we take solace and rejoice in our identities of being beloved children of God? This Gaudete Sunday let us strive to be more intentionally joyful, and to pray to Christ for strength, for He says, "Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete" (John 16:24).

Summary

Gaudete Sunday urges us to constantly rejoice in the Lord. Henri Nouwen describes joy as the ability to remain happy due to our awareness of being beloved children of God even amidst the trials of our life. So let us strive to be more intentionally joyful, and to pray to Christ for strength, for He says, "Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete" (John 16:24).

<https://www.archtoronto.org/stewardship>

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



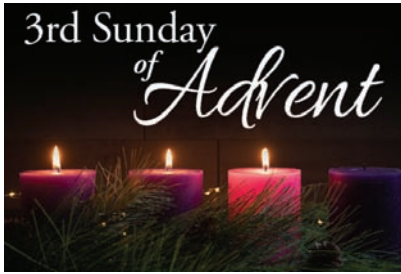
We would like to inform everyone that the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every **Wednesday and Friday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass from 9:30am until 10:00 a.m.** in the Church **except on holidays**.

Let us pray for the sick



We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the "forgotten members" in our community.

If you have a loved one you would like on our Sick list, please call or email us. We will keep their names on our list for 4 weeks. *Thank you.*



We rejoice in Your promise of salvation and the light that shines in our darkness. As we light the third candle of Advent, fill our hearts with joy and peace. Help us to

share Your love with those around us and prepare a place for Christ in our lives.



On behalf of our parish community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous gifts of **\$21,606.81** and **\$1,000 to ShareLife**. Your kindness is an enormous help in allowing us to keep up with our many expenses and continue serving those who rely on us. Though we may not know your name, please know that your generosity is deeply felt and appreciated. You are making a real difference in sustaining our mission and supporting the good work we strive to do each day. "May God bless you abundantly, a thousand-fold, for your generosity and kindness."

With sincere thanks and blessings,
Fr. Godofredo Claudio



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Our electric stove in the kitchen has seen better days. With a portion of the Food Bazaar & Vintage Hunting proceeds, we were able to purchase a new electric stove (\$1,237.37) that our

parish can now use for gatherings and fundraising events. We are truly grateful for this improvement, which will help us continue serving our community with warmth, hospitality, and care.



Here's a group photo from the last day of our Scripture Learning class, facilitated by Therese De Manche. Thank you so much for

attending and being part of the session!



AGTA Home Health Care Team,

Holy Cross & Canadian Martyrs Parish community, would like extend our sincere gratitude for your generous sponsorship of this year's sacramental preparation. Your support provided essential materials—including books, CDs, a projector, giveaway crosses, and pocket prayer books—that will greatly enrich the faith journey of our candidates.

Rectory Boiler Fundraising & Expense Report

Fundraising update: Project: Rectory Boiler Replacement	
Feb 6, 2025 Anonymous Donor	\$45000.00
Feb 22, 2025 Niagara Bus Trip	\$1001.00
Apr 26, 2025 Niagara Bus Trip	\$1421.65
Jun 29, 2025 Food Bazaar	\$2005.15
July 14, 2025 Anonymous Donor	\$7000.00
Total:	\$56,427.80
Expenses	
Item Description	Amount
(Rectory) Supply & Install Camus Dynamax Boiler	\$43,947.96
(Church) Removal of existing Sump Pump & installation of new 115(V) submersible Sump Pump	\$1556.01
Total:	\$45,503.97

Funds Remaining: \$10,923.83

Allocation: Remaining funds will be transferred to the parish operating accounts. With careful stewardship, we not only met our immediate needs but also retained surplus funds to support ongoing parish operations.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Dec 15 to 23	7pm Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) The traditional nine-day novena of Masses in preparation for Christmas begins.
Dec 24 Wednesday	9am Mass 9:30pm Christmas Eve Mass
Dec 25 Thursday Christmas Day	9am Fr. Egbert Dumali 11am Presided by Bishop Robert Kasun, con-celebrant Fr. Egbert Dumali
Dec 31 Wednesday	9am Mass 7pm New Year's Eve Mass
Jan 1 Thursday	9am & 11am New Year's Day Mass



Society of
Saint Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Special Christmas Collection will be held the weekend of **Dec 21**. This

special collection funds the work of our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Tree program. Please use the St Vincent de Paul Special Christmas Collection envelopes left in the pews for this purpose. **Tax receipts for donations greater than \$ 20 will be issued.** On behalf of our neighbors in need, the Society thanks you for your generosity and kindness during this special season.

Special Devotion Candles Dec 9 to 16



In Loving Memory of Raffaele Ruscillo

Requested by: Vincenza Ruscillo & Family
"Today we remember Raffaele, a soul full of grace and compassion."



For all Intentions

This Sanctuary Lamp Devotion Candle is being offered for all intentions of Holy Cross Parish Community, living, sick and deceased.

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