



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

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Email: [holycrosssto@archtoronto.org](mailto:holycrosssto@archtoronto.org) Website: [holycrosssto.archtoronto.org](http://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
22 Mon, 9am 7pm	No Mass Thanksgiving – Kim Geekie	
23 Tue 9am 7pm	<b>Canadian Martyrs</b>	
24 Wed, 9:30pm	Paulo Estrela + Christmas Eve Mass	Hortencia Estela
25 Thurs, 9am	Christmas Day Carolina & Sofronio Bautista +	Vienna Bautista
11am	Domingo Enriquez+	Enriquez Family
26 Fri 9am	Birthday Thanksgiving – Karin Doumouras	Karin Doumouras
27 Sat, 9am	All Parishioners Birthday Thanksgiving – Mila Benedicto	..... Toni Tabaniag
5pm	<b>(Canadian Martyrs Parish)</b> Suresh Alfred +	Angela Alfred
28 Sun, 9am	Bill Doumouras +	Karin Doumouras
11 am	Ronald Skura +	Joan Skura

# Meditate on God's Word



**Sunday Gospel Reflection**  
4th Sunday of Advent  
Gospel: Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24 - The Birth of Jesus  
the Messiah

### Making Room for Jesus

As Christmas fast approaches and Advent is drawing to a close, let us remind ourselves of the importance of this liturgical season. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas as well as His final coming at the end of time. However, the great saints of the church also speak of an intermediary coming, the coming of Christ to our present lives. Let us take a moment to ask ourselves, if the Lord showed up in our life today, would there be room for Him?

As stewards, we often face the temptation to let our works of charity become a life of volunteering instead of a spirituality of service. Our many works may begin to take precedence over our relationship with Christ which should always remain as the source of our stewardship. This Advent, as we are waiting for Christ, Christ is also waiting for us. Jesus says in the Book of Revelation, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you" (Revelation 3:20). He is waiting for us to open the door and let him in.

We can let him into our lives as stewards by realizing it is not ourselves ministering to our neighbour, but the love and presence of Christ within us. St. Teresa of Calcutta says it best when she proclaims that, "it is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand." St. Teresa of Calcutta fully embodies the spirit of stewardship that makes room for Christ to love others through her. Let us strive to let Jesus into our lives as we approach Christmas.

### Summary

The great saints of the church speak of an intermediary coming of Christ, the coming of Christ to our present lives. Jesus says in the Book of Revelation, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you" (Revelation 3:20). We can let him into our lives as stewards by realizing it is not ourselves ministering to our neighbour, but the love and presence of Christ within us.

<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.*



As we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love, we remember Your great gift to the world — Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. In the midst of

darkness, You sent Your Son as the Light to guide our steps and to bring salvation. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Your Son, help us to carry hope, peace, joy, and love into the world. May we be true pilgrims of hope, restoring a climate of trust and faith wherever we go.

**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 <b>Presided by Bishop Robert Kasun, con-celebrant Fr. Egbert Dumali</b>
Dec 31 Wednesday	9am Mass 7pm New Year's Eve Mass
Jan 1 Thursday	9am & 11am New Year's Day Mass

**Special Devotion Candles Dec 16 to 23**



**In Loving Memory of Bill Doumouras**

Requested by Karin Doumouras

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. (Philippians 1:3)"



**In Loving Memory of Maria & Gerry Boudreau**

Requested by Karin Doumouras

"Your love is our guide, your memory our treasure"



**2026 Sunday Donation Envelopes**

The **2026 Sunday envelopes** are now available for pick-up at the back of the church with the assistance of our ushers. Please

note that some individual envelope numbers have been reassigned, and new members have been given their envelope numbers.



**Ways to Give – Sunday Donations**

**In-Person:** Place your envelope in the collection basket during Mass.

**Online Giving:** Visit our parish website to donate securely anytime.

**Pre-authorized Debit:** Set up automatic monthly contributions for convenience.

**Mail-In:** Send your donation directly to the parish office.

If you donate occasionally and are registered with another parish, please provide your contact information so we can ensure you receive a tax receipt.



In 2024, Pope Francis opened the Jubilee of Hope, with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." The late Pope Francis wanted us to lead to a journey of hope to "restore a climate of hope and trust" so that every believer (or even those who do not truly believe) may gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and a far-sighted vision." This message of hope is what so many of us need.



The Prophet Isaiah said: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." In a very dark world we are living in, we do not lose hope because the Star of Bethlehem will light our

way and guide us in our journey.

The circumstances of the First Christmas were very much similar to what is happening to us today. During those days, there were longings for freedom and redemption from evil. That first Christmas was dark, it was night, but in the midst of darkness, the LIGHT was born, and HOPE was born. And God, who is EMMANUEL came close to us. He lives in our midst. His living with us gives us HOPE, and PEACE, and JOY that will lead to a deeper FAITH in Him our God and Redeemer.

As we conclude the Holy Year of Hope, may the child Jesus make us agents of Hope and heralds of Joy in our families and communities. May we always feel His presence in our life, not only this Christmas, but all the days of our life.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!**

**Holiday Office Hours**

Wed, Dec 24 Close at noon  
Thurs, Dec 25 Office is closed  
Fri, Dec 26 Office is closed  
Wed, Dec 31 Close at noon  
Thurs, Jan 1 Office is Closed

*Have a happy and safe holiday season*

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