



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 Friday
9:00 am to 5:00pm

Fr. Efren Alvarez-Pelayo, 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:

Mass Intentions

Wednesday, September 16

9:00am Mass

✠ Silverito & Viviana Macarayan
(Tess Macarayan)

Friday, September 18

9:00am Mass

✠ Francesca Santiago Ramos
(Mila Benedicto)

Saturday, September 19

9:00am Mass

✠ **All deceased members of
Ambrosini Family**
(Incoronata Ambrosini)

◆ Wedding Anniversary of Cecil
& Wilma Maley (Wilma Maley)

◆ Elsa L. Poblete's Birthday
(Mila Benedicto)

Sunday, September 20

9:00am Mass

✠ Desmond Leahy (Leahy Family)

✠ Ludwin Damas
(Nenita Cabahug & Family)

11:00am Mass

✠ **Victor Lobo** (D'Souza Family)

Sanctuary Lamp

SEPTEMBER 8 TO 15

For the Protection of Holy Cross
Parish as we celebrate our
Parish's 98th Anniversary.

WAYS TO GIVE TO OUR CHURCH

We are grateful for your generosity and support of our parish. You may make your offertory contribution through: **Weekly offertory envelopes, Cash donations during Mass, Cheques payable to Holy Cross Church, Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)** Your support helps sustain our mission, ministries, outreach programs, and parish operations. For more information, please contact the parish office. Thank you for your continued generosity.



PREPARING FOR THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Peter's question — "*How often must I forgive?*" — opens one of the most challenging teachings in the Gospel. Jesus answers not with a number, but with a story that reveals the heart of God: mercy without measure. The servant who was forgiven much but refused to forgive little reminds us that the Cross is the measure of mercy — not our emotions, not our limits. As Holy Cross Parish gathers for the vigil of its feast, this Gospel becomes our preparation. The Cross we celebrate tomorrow is not only a sign of Christ's suffering; it is the living proof of His endless forgiveness. Every time we forgive, we lift the Cross high. Every time we let go of resentment, we proclaim its power. Our parish's name calls us to live this mystery daily. The Cross above our church is not decoration — it is invitation. It asks us to be a people who forgive as we have been forgiven, who reconcile as we have been reconciled, and who love as we have been loved. May this feast renew our hearts and our parish life, so that mercy becomes our shared language and the Cross our common strength.

BETTER LATE THAN UNOFFICIAL

After a slightly dramatic opening act involving surgery and substitute coverage back in June and July, it is finally time to make things official. Please join us on **Sunday, October 18, at 11:00 a.m.** for the official Installation Mass of Fr. Efren as our pastor—and consider this your final opportunity to object before we're stuck with each other for good. Following the Mass, we will host a parish potluck in the hall. Bring a dish to share if you can, but most importantly, bring your presence as we finally settle into this new chapter together.



"KNOW YOUR FAITH" – A WORD OF GRATITUDE



We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in our recently concluded "**Know Your Faith**" program. Your presence, enthusiasm, and active participation made the sessions more engaging, meaningful, and enriching for everyone. Inspired by your interest and eagerness to learn more about our faith, we are pleased to announce the upcoming "**Know Your Faith: Scripture Study**". COME AND JOIN US as we look at the Sunday readings through prayer and study after the **Saturday 9 a.m. Mass (9:40 – 10:45) on OCTOBER 3, 10, 24 & 31**. Facilitator: Therese De Manche. We look forward to continuing this journey of faith and discovering God's Word together.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

All children are invited to join Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass to hear and celebrate the readings at an age-appropriate level, helping them participate more fully in the Liturgy of the Word before returning to the congregation for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



FIRST FRIDAY SCHEDULE UPDATE



Starting in October, the 9am mass will be surrendered so that Canadian Martyrs can have a proper mass on First Friday followed by the traditional devotions. The evening **6:00 p.m. Holy Hour and Confession and 7:00 p.m. Mass will remain.** This will give us an opportunity to be one by attending the Mass that most suits our ability to participate. Come spend time with the Lord in prayer and quiet reflection at Holy Cross (6pm) or at Canadian Martyrs (9am). Confessions will be heard at both Churches. Everyone is welcome.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS



On **September 25**, the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, following **Mass at 7pm**, all are invited to stay for fellowship and light refreshments as we celebrate his spirit of compassion and generosity. Everyone is welcome. Also, we are having our **Bundle Up Weekend of Sept. 19/20**. The St. Vincent de Paul donation truck will be at the back of the church **Sept. 19/20**, from **9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Donations of clothing, footwear, bedding, drapery, towels, and new toys are welcome. Society members will be available to assist. Thank you for your generosity!

MUNICIPAL & TRUSTEE ELECTIONS:

PARISH GUIDELINES

Municipal and Catholic School Board Trustee elections are approaching, and we encourage all parishioners to take part with prayerful and informed discernment. As a registered charity, our parish must remain non-partisan. To protect the mission of Holy Cross and Canadian Martyrs, and to ensure fairness to all candidates:



- ❖ **Parish property cannot be used for campaign activity**—including speeches, presentations, or distribution of materials by municipal candidates.

- ❖ **We cannot endorse, oppose, or promote any candidate** in any election.
- ❖ **Campaign signs, literature, or advertising cannot be displayed or distributed** through the parish, including the bulletin, pulpit, or parish grounds.
- ❖ **Parish communications must remain neutral** and cannot be linked to the views of any candidate.

These guidelines help keep our parish a place of unity, prayer, and welcome for all. Thank you for your cooperation and for supporting the Church's mission with respect and charity.

VISITING MINISTRY

-Holy Communion for the Homebound-

If any parishioners are unable to attend Mass due to illness, limited mobility, or are homebound, our Visiting Ministry is here to support you. Trained ministers are available to bring **Holy Communion to your home**, offering prayer, comfort, and a connection to our parish community. If you or a loved one would like to receive a visit, please contact the parish office (see information on the cover page). We are honoured to accompany you in faith.



OCIA – BECOMING CATHOLIC

We are now welcoming inquiries for this fall's **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)**. Formerly called RCIA, the updated name reflects the Church's renewed focus on the *order* and *stages* of becoming Catholic. OCIA is for adults who are: **Unbaptized** and seeking the Sacraments of Initiation or **Baptized in another Christian tradition** and seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION/COMMUNION PROGRAM



Parents of children age 7 and older who are baptized Catholic and wish to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion are asked to **call the parish office** and leave their contact information. Children attending Catholic or public schools are welcome. Families will be contacted once the required Parent Orientation is finalized. Registration will follow the Orientation.

CONFIRMATION 2026-2027

Parents of young people in **Grade 7 and above, including high school**, who are interested in preparing for **Confirmation** are invited to **call the parish office and leave their contact information**. Students from **Catholic and public schools** are welcome. Children not yet baptized will need to discuss this with the Church first. Families will be contacted when the **Parent Orientation** is finalized.



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