HOLY CROSS
PARISH

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: holycrossto@archtoronto.org Website: holycrossto.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, Nov 4
9:00am Mass
✠ All deceased members of the Macarayan Family

1st Friday, November 6
6:00pm Holy Hour
7:00pm Mass
♦ Exudio Macarayan

Saturday, November 7
9:00am Mass
✠ Cecille Boyer

Sunday, November 8
9:00am Mass
♦ 2nd Birthday Thanksgiving – Rian Doumouras
♦ Birthday Thanksgiving – Fr. Godofredo Claudio
11:00am Mass
♦ Rosario Tan

Sanctuary Lamp

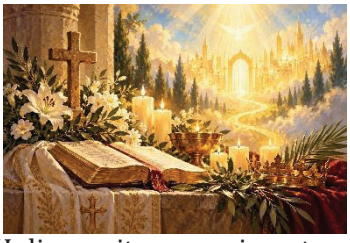
NOVEMBER 3 TO 10
(+) Andrea Dubois-Shaw
(+) Lorna Isaac

All Souls

November is dedicated by the Church to prayer for **All Souls in Purgatory**. Beginning this weekend, the **Book of Life** will be placed in the near the sanctuary. During this month, the faithful are invited to remember and pray for their departed loved ones. **All Souls Envelopes** will be available near the Book of Life before and after all Masses throughout November. You may write the names of your deceased loved ones on these envelopes. They will be included in our parish's general prayers for **All Souls in Purgatory**. Completed envelopes may be placed in the box provided near the Book of Life.

"The Shape of Holiness"

Revelation 7:2–4, 9–14 • Psalm 24 • 1 John 3:1–3 • Matthew 5:1–12a



When we think of saints, we often imagine extraordinary people whose holiness seems beyond our reach. Yet today's Gospel tells a different story. Jesus calls blessed the merciful, the peacemakers, the gentle, those who hunger for justice, and those who carry sorrow with faith. Holiness, it seems, is not reserved for a spiritual elite. It begins in the ordinary circumstances of life. In the Book of Revelation, John sees an immense multitude from every nation, people, and language standing before God. What a beautiful image of the Church! Different faces, different histories, different journeys — yet all belonging to one family. Over these past weeks, Holy Cross has reminded me of that vision. Our celebrations, our ministries, and the generous tables we have shared reveal a community rich in gifts and traditions. But the Gospel invites us to go further. A welcoming parish is not simply one that opens its doors; it is one where everyone discovers that they truly belong. The saints were not perfect people who never struggled. They were people who allowed God's grace to transform their struggles into compassion, their weaknesses into trust, and their faith into love. Perhaps there are saints among us already: someone quietly caring for a sick spouse, a volunteer serving without recognition, a parishioner choosing forgiveness when resentment would be easier. Today, let us remember that holiness is not about becoming extraordinary in the eyes of the world. It is about allowing God's love to become visible through our ordinary lives. And that is a calling open to every one of us.

Considering a Joint Simbang Gabi Celebration

Many parishioners from both Holy Cross and Canadian Martyrs have expressed a desire to celebrate Simbang Gabi in their parish. To make this cherished tradition possible while recognizing the many demands of the Advent season, Father is exploring the possibility of a joint Simbang Gabi celebration shared by both parish communities. Rather than duplicating efforts, this approach would allow us to share both the joy and the responsibility of preparing and hosting this Cultural Advent tradition. Ministry leaders and parishioners interested in participating in a planning meeting are asked to contact the Holy Cross Parish Office. Parishioners from Canadian Martyrs will also be invited to take part. Joan, our secretary, will coordinate the scheduling of the meeting, which will be held at Holy Cross Parish.

Shepherds' Trust Collection

A second collection will be taken on **November 15** in support of The Shepherds' Trust. This fund helps provide financial assistance, healthcare, and dignified retirement support for elderly and disabled priests after many years of faithful ministry. Your generosity helps ensure that retired priests can maintain an active and independent lifestyle and receive the care they need. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

All Souls Day Masses

This year, on November 2, the **Conmemoration of The Faitfhul Departed**, we will have **TWO MASSES,** one at **Canadian Martyrs at 9am, and one at Holy Cross at 7pm.** The collection of "All Souls" offerings will be taken and they will be the collective intention of this day when we remember All those who have gone before us.

Parish Finance Council Invitation

Our parish is seeking **two additional members** to join the **Parish Finance Council**. Former members are also warmly encouraged to return, as continuity is a great benefit to the parish. The PFC assists the pastor in overseeing parish finances, budgeting, and stewardship. Members are appointed by the pastor through nominations or self-applications. If you feel called to serve, please email **Fr. Efren** at **ealvarezpelayo@archtoronto.org**. An interview will follow to help determine suitability for this role.

Catholic Cemeteries Masses

The Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services invite families to the All-Souls' Day Mass on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 2 p.m. Masses will be celebrated at Catholic cemeteries throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Confirmation Program

Our Confirmation preparation program for students in Grade 7 and above, including those in high school, will begin in the new year. Families interested in **participating are invited to call the parish office and leave their contact information.**

Christmas Outreach

With the Advent and Christmas seasons approaching, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is here to support individuals and families in need. If you or someone you know could use assistance this Christmas, please call 416-421-5225, ext. 3 and leave a message with your name and phone number. A volunteer will be in touch with you. Registration deadline: November 22, 2026.

First Friday — November 6

The **9:00 a.m. Mass** will be celebrated at Canadian Martyrs Church, followed by the customary First Friday devotions. At Holy Cross Church, Holy Hour and **Confessions will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by Mass at 7:00 p.m**. Confessions will be available at both churches.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, formerly RCIA) will begin in December. To register by November 16, please contact Maria Agovino, at magovino@archtoronto.org.

Altar Server Ceremony

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our three nominees, Ja Seng Lanem, Seng Dan Lanem, and Rosa Suting, who will be recognized at the Altar Server Ceremony on November 7. We thank them for their faithful service and dedication to our parish community. May God continue to bless and guide them in their faith and ministry.

Friars Student Writing Contest 2027

Catholic high school students (ages 13–19) are invited to enter the Friars Student Writing Contest 2027. Essays based on Luke 12:32 are due January 11, 2027. For details and submission information, visit www.catholicregister.org/writingaward.

Red Wednesday – November 18

Join Catholics around the world in observing **Red Wednesday**, a day of prayer and solidarity with persecuted Christians. **Bishop Vincent Nguyen** will celebrate Mass at **5:30 p.m.** at **St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica**, which will be illuminated in red for the occasion. All are encouraged to attend, wear red, and keep persecuted Christians in their prayers.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe 2027

A Journey of Grace for Every Heart

February 22 – 27, 2027

Under the spiritual guidance of
Fr. Efren Alvarez-Pelayo, Pastor of
Holy Cross & Canadian Martyrs

Price: CA $3,650 per person (double **occupancy)**

Includes: Round-trip airfare + taxes • Deluxe coach • 7 nights' accommodation with breakfast, lunch & dinner

All city taxes & entrance fees • Dedicated tour escort & English-speaking guides • Daily Mass

For information and registration: Call

877-701-7729 ext. 342

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