

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, December 2
9:00am Mass
- ♦ Birthday Thanksgiving – Remy Simbulan

Friday, December 4
7:00pm Mass (no 9:00 am mass)
- ✠ For the Repose of All Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, December 5
9:00am Mass
- ✠ Paolo Detecio

Sunday, December 6
9:00am Mass
- ✠ Mike & Cesina Pulla

11:00am Mass
- ♦ Noela & Chris Milne
- ✠ Richard Anthony Godfrey

Sanctuary Lamp

DECEMBER 8 TO 15

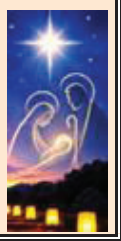
For the Repose of All the Souls in Purgatory

Prayers for the Sick

Aline and Ariana De Gourville
Angelee Davies, Kelly Davies

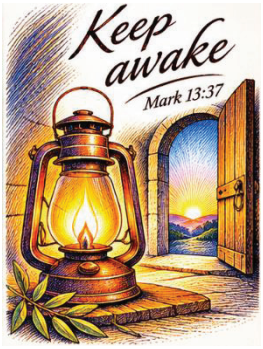
ADVENT-SIMBANG GABI NOVENA

The acting Liturgy Committee, composed of coordinators from the various liturgical ministries, has agreed to proceed with a Simbang Gabi celebration this Advent. The celebration will include thoughtful adaptations to encourage broad participation in the liturgy and in the fellowship that follows. Final details will be announced once Canadian Martyrs confirms its participation, allowing the celebration to reflect the shared life of both parish communities.



"THE ART OF STAYING AWAKE"

Isaiah 63:16b–17; 64:1, 3–8 · Psalm 80 · 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 · Mark 13:33–37



Advent begins not with the sweetness of the Christmas story, but with a wake-up call. Jesus asks us to remain watchful because we do not know when the master of the house will return. It is possible to go through life with our eyes wide open and yet be spiritually asleep. We become so accustomed to our routines, responsibilities, and concerns that we stop noticing the quiet ways in which God approaches us. Staying awake is not about living in fear of the future, but about living attentively in the present. It means noticing the person who needs our attention, recognizing an opportunity to forgive, or discovering something sacred in an otherwise ordinary day. Advent invites us to recover our capacity for wonder, to look beyond the familiar and recognize that God is still at work among us. Perhaps the greatest danger is not that Christ will fail to come, but that he will come and we will fail to notice.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



The **Confirmation Orientation Night** for families of candidates from Holy Cross and Canadian Martyrs will be held on **Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Holy Cross Parish Hall**.** This is the **only orientation session** and attendance by a parent or guardian is required. Completed registration forms and all required documents must be submitted by **December 17**, which is the final deadline for registration. **Forms are available on the parish website**, through the parish office, and at the schools. For more information, please contact **Maria Agovino, LPA**, at magovino@archtoronto.org.

INTRODUCING THE BAPTISM RITE OF WELCOME



Over the coming months, you may notice families with young children being called forward briefly at one of our Sunday Masses for a Rite of Welcome. Because baptisms at Holy Cross and Canadian Martyrs are ordinarily celebrated outside of Sunday Mass, this Rrite gives the parish community an opportunity to welcome families who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. The Rite of Welcome reminds us that Baptism is not a private family event but a celebration of the entire Church. Through it, a child is welcomed into the Christian community and entrusted to the care, support, and prayers of the faithful. Families preparing for Baptism will normally participate in this rite one or two weeks before the Baptism ceremony. We ask all parishioners to keep these children, their parents, and godparents in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate this important sacrament.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS



This Friday December 4, 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.

Christmas Toy Drive



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the program by taking a tag or making a monetary donation for gifts. Your generosity will help bring joy to children and families in our community this Christmas season. **Please remember to return your unwrapped gift, with the tag securely attached, by Sunday, November 29.** SSVP volunteers will be in the foyer after each Mass to receive your donations. We are also looking for volunteers to help wrap gifts on **Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Offertory Envelopes



The 2027 Offertory Envelopes will be available for pickup beginning this Sunday, November 29. Parishioners who use donation envelopes are encouraged to collect their box at their earliest convenience. Ushers will be available before and after Mass to assist with distribution and to help locate your assigned envelope box. If you are unable to find your envelopes or would like to begin using parish envelopes, please speak with an usher or contact the parish office for assistance. Thank you for your faithful stewardship and continued support of our parish community.

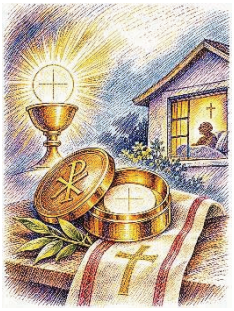
World Youth Day Seoul 2027

Young adults ages 18–39 are invited to join the Office of Catholic Youth and the Archdiocese of Toronto for a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea, from August 1–12, 2027. Encounter the universal Church, visit holy sites connected to the Korean martyrs, pray alongside thousands of young Catholics from around the world, and answer the Holy Father's call to be pilgrims of hope. For details and to apply, visit ocytoronto.org/wyd-seoul-2027. Spaces are limited and applications are being reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications close Monday, October 26, 2026, or earlier if all spots are filled.

All Souls In Purgatory

November is dedicated by the Church to prayer for **All Souls in Purgatory**. **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. Names submitted on the **All Souls Envelopes** will be included in our parish prayers for the **Souls in Purgatory**. Please place completed envelopes in the box provided near the **Book of Life.**

Communion to the Sick & Homebound



To ensure proper care of the Blessed Sacrament and the safety of those entrusted to our pastoral care, the parish is reviewing the ministry of bringing Holy Communion to the sick and homebound. Over time, it has become difficult to determine who is currently delegated and authorized to exercise this ministry. Effective immediately, **anyone bringing Holy Communion to the sick is asked to present their pyx in the sacristy before Mass.** The pyx will be placed on the altar during the Eucharistic celebration, and after Communion the priest will formally entrust the Blessed Sacrament to the extraordinary minister and send them forth to the home of sick and homebound. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will no longer place Hosts directly into pyxes during the Communion procession. Anyone presenting a pyx at Communion will be kindly invited to speak with the priest after Mass. All those currently bringing Holy Communion to the sick, whether commissioned in this parish or elsewhere, are asked to contact the office to confirm their status. This ministry is exercised in the name of the Church and under the responsibility of the local pastor, requiring proper delegation, formation, and accountability. The ministry exists for the service of the sick and homebound members of the parish community and is not simply a private arrangement for family members or friends. To effectively convey the importance of this ministry, we invite those currently involved to attend a short meeting next **Sunday, December 6, at 10:15 here in the church** and further explain the format of how the Eucharist will be placed in their hands during the mass.



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