

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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Fr. Charles Forget, **Pastor**

Jayne Williams, **Office Administrator**



## Epiphany of the Lord

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### THANK YOU!

On behalf of all our parishioners I would like to acknowledge the tremendous help of those who over the past few weeks hauled out our Christmas decorations, set up and 'fluffed' the trees and assisted in setting up the church for the Christmas season. The church looked truly festive in celebration of Jesus, our Messiah, Saviour and Lord.

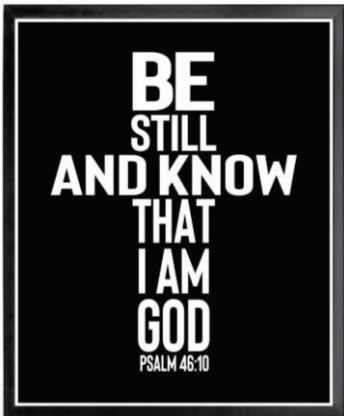
Thanks to: Barbara Dufton, Genevieve Carson, Chuck Bastyr, Greg Wilson, Nathan Godin. My brother, David Forget, who has assisted with church set-up and decoration for many years of Christmases in all of the parishes I have been in as pastor, was of great assistance once again. He is a worker and has a great attention to detail.

Each year the church sanctuary and manger scene look great and this year was no exception. Thank you to everyone's efforts and care for their parish.

Thank you also to all those who will assist in packing it all up again once the Christmas season is over.

Thank you to our ministry under the leadership of Brian Rae, our ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and the Lectors who proclaimed Christ among us through service and proclamation. (Fr. Charles)

As a new year unfolds before us, our greatest resolution is to renew or be renewed in our relationship with Christ, through prayer.



Prayer is water when I am thirsty and food when I am hungry. I sense it is missing from my living when I attempt to tackle, solve, accomplish or resolve some problem on my own steam. The awareness of this itself is a God-given gift when in silence He summons my heart to, as Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." The Rosary provides a beautiful rhythm to prayer for it leads us into

sweet communion with Him and His Blessed Mother. Our weekly Holy Hours (*each Friday morning from 7:30 – 8:30*) are mysterious silence comingled with the communion with God whom I can see in the Most Sacred Host within the monstrance right before my eyes.... if I choose to actually come, look and see.

Sometimes in life found silence robs us of this prayerful focus when we become so task-oriented that even our time for thoughts in prayer are robbed by the frenetic need to get things done, to plan, organize and thus allow our thoughts to be taken over by the self-imposed need to fill up even the gift of silence with 'stuff'. As the psalm tells us that even when our bodies and our thoughts are still, we will slowly enter into a knowledge that God is right here with us, with me and be led to wonder how we never knew this or discovered this before. That this tremendous God loves me, personally, and wants to speak to my heart as He listens to it. He knows it well for He made it and placed it within me so that I can love Him and all that He has created and given me. In prayer I can look at Him and He at me and converse with the language of love.

Our attempts at prayer, like the cause of dashed resolutions because they were too great, should be marked with little efforts rather than grand ones. Small efforts will always have the largest impact on our overall living and have the reputation for lasting.

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen spoke of the importance of little things in life that make such a difference and I think it speaks to the same being said of prayer. Little prayers said to the Lord throughout the day increase our sense of unity with Jesus and His walking with us.

"Faithfulness in great things is not uncommon; faithfulness in little things is rare but most indicative of character. Almost any husband would leap into the sea or rush into a burning building to rescue his perishing wife. But to anticipate the convenience or happiness of the wife in some small matter, the neglect of which would go unnoticed, is a more eloquent proof of tenderness.

Our lives for the most part are made up of little things, and by these our character is to be tested. There are very few who have to take a prominent place in the great conflicts of our age; the vast majority must dwell in humbler scenes and be content to do a more humble work. The conflicts which we have to endure either against evil in our own soul or in the moral circle where our influence would seem to be trivial are in reality the struggle of the battle for life and decency; and true heroism is shown here as well as in those grander scales in which others win the leader's fame or the martyr's crown. Little duties carefully discharged; little temptations earnestly resisted with the strength which God supplies; little sins crucified - these all together help to form that character which is to be described not as popular or glamorous, but as moral and noble."

"Little things make up the universe. The clouds gather up the rain and moisture and part with them in drops; time is so precious that it is given out second by second; stars do not leap about in their orbits but keep a measured pace. In like manner, humans will find little to do if they save their energy for great occasions. In every direction the great is reached through the little. The turning of a tiny needle steadily toward a fixed point is a little common thing, but it guides navies along the uncharted seas. The most significant trifle becomes a great thing if the alternative of obedience or rebellion is involved in it. To live by the day and to watch each step is the true pilgrimage method, for there is nothing little if God requires it." (Fulton J. Sheen from *Way to Inner Peace*, 1949)

A new year marks a time-given opportunity for new and fresh hope that we can draw closer in the small things in life to the Greatest that can be known – union with God. I feel and know that the draw within me to move inward and outward to God in the privilege of prayer will assist me in recognizing that which is most necessary for this life. To see God winking at me in the spiritual dialogue that has no words gives an ineffable joy to my thirsty soul and makes me long for and yearn for more. Faithfulness in the little things like allotting myself specific times of prayer when I am not tired or weary will bear the fruit of prayer: inner peace, perspective and a hatred of those things that, if left unchecked within me, will slowly pull me away from the Source of peace I so desperately need in my life. God, who never changes, changes me when I approach His wisdom, truth, guidance and most of all, His tremendous and unflinching love. O the sweet gift of prayer with the Divine! (FrC)



Tuesday Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> 7:00pm	+Mary Jobst Requested by the Cudney Family
Wednesday Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> 8:30am	Intentions of Susan & Fred Holmes & Family & Friends
Thursday Jan 11 <sup>th</sup> 8:30am	Unannounced Mass
Friday Jan 12 <sup>th</sup> 7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	+Jean Van Benthem Requested by Jocelyn LeBlanc
Saturday Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> 3:30pm	Confessions
4:30pm	+Kathleen Peterson Requested by Mary & John Scanlon
Sunday Jan 14 <sup>th</sup> 9:00am	For the People
11:00am	+George Stewart Requested by Jean Stewart

*Please Pray for the Sick*

Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb, Mary Little, Elizabeth Pavilsa.

*Please Pray for the Recently Deceased*

Josie Nosan, Father James Kelsey McConica, Sesilia Sunami, Reverend Monsignor John Staskevicius

**Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns**

For the Parishioners of St. Mary's  
From Jan 7<sup>th</sup> to Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 2024



Regular Collection Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 4,813.00 (Inc PAG)
Christmas Collection	\$10,032.00
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	\$4, 787.00 (Inc PAG)
New Year's Day	\$2, 195.00
ShareLife	\$36,675.50



**CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING**

Liturgical Publications will setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in December 2023 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1 800 268 2637.

Hoping that sisters in the League and all our Parishioners had a very Merry Christmas, and wishing you all a very Happy New Year, to you and your families.

President Carol Johns will begin her new role in January. We wish her well, and thank her for stepping up to serve. As the outgoing President, I would like to thank all the members and parishioners who have supported our Executive and our council through the years. I will remain with the CWL as Past President.

Thank you all Jean Stewart

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

Please don't forget to pick up your 2024 Offertory Envelopes. They will be out on the shelf in-between the church and the hall. **Anyone who would like to start using envelopes, please call the office and I will get a box ready.**

**PAG – PREAUTHORIZED GIVING**

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG) to assist you in your support of the work of the Parish through your regular parish offerings. To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, the parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-authorized giving allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly to the parish account. There are various benefits of participating in pre-authorized giving, both for you and for your parish. Advantages for you:

- The convenience of having your offering automatically contributed to the parish.
- Knowing you continue to support the parish even when you are away
- Regular, dependable contributions to the parish.
- Reduction of cash on hand.
- Reduction of paperwork. For information on how to enroll, please contact your parish office.

**Pastoral Letter from the Most Rev. Francis Leo – “Seeking The Kingdom of God Above and Beyond All Other Things”**

Archbishop Francis Leo has released a Pastoral Letter to the Church of God in the Archdiocese of Toronto, entitled, “Seeking The Kingdom of God Above and Beyond All Other Things”. This significant reflection from our spiritual shepherd is intended to offer a theological, spiritual, and pastoral meditation as we embark upon a New Year and our collective efforts to build and strengthen the Kingdom of God throughout our archdiocese.

The Pastoral Letter can be accessed by visiting the archdiocesan website at: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org).

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