

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE

3170 ST. CLAIR AVE. EAST, SCARBOROUGH, ON M1L 1V6

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Email: [olfatimasc@archtoronto.org](mailto:olfatimasc@archtoronto.org) Website: [www.olfatimasc.archtoronto.org](http://www.olfatimasc.archtoronto.org)

## PASTOR:

Rev. Fr. Glass

## OFFICE STAFF:

Aurora Friginal - Secretary

Patrick Callahan - Property Manager

Jack Tobin - Custodian



## SCHOOLS:

### *Our Lady of Fatima School*

3176 St. Clair Avenue East 416-393-5252

### *St. Joachim's School*

3395 St. Clair Avenue East 416-393-5292

## PARISH GROUPS:

*St. Vincent de Paul Society (Helpline)* 416-757-9561

### *Discalced Carmelite Secular Order - O.C.D.S.*

*Lucia dos Santos Community - every 3rd Tues. @ 7:00 p.m.*

Contact: Teresa Casino, [maritess8@hotmail.com](mailto:maritess8@hotmail.com)

### *Knights of Columbus - Second Thursday @ 7:15 p.m.*

Frank Grech (GK) 416-424-2111

Paul St. Pierre (DGK) 416-906-8141

### *Catholic Women's League - every 1st Sat. @ 2:00 p.m.*

[cwl.olof@gmail.com](mailto:cwl.olof@gmail.com)

### *Legion of Mary - Praesidium - every Sat. @ 10:00 a.m.*

Auxiliary Circle - every 2nd Sun. @ 1:30 p.m.

### *The Lord's Flock Prayer Group*

Every Sunday: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Jun & Cynthia 416-916-1577

### *Missionaries Family of Christ - every 3rd Sat. @ 6:00 pm*

Ed & Beth Zapanta, [Elizabeth.x.zapanta@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.x.zapanta@gmail.com)

## BAPTISMS:

*Application Form from the Parish office.*

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/CONFIRMATION

*Contact the Parish Office in September.*

## MARRIAGES:

Couples must personally contact the parish office at least **one full year in advance**. No date may be set before meeting with the priest. **A Marriage Preparation Course is required.**

## ANointing OF THE SICK:

Please contact the nurse station at the hospital for priest on duty. For home visits, call the parish office.

**FUNERALS:** Families requesting a Catholic funeral service for their deceased loved ones should contact a Catholic Funeral Director, preferably from the parish. For help call the parish office.

For information about **CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**, please visit the site: [www.catholic-cemeteries.com](http://www.catholic-cemeteries.com)

## MASS SCHEDULES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m.

## WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday: NO MASS, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (except First Friday) 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday - Adoration, Devotions & Mass 6:00 pm

Holidays & Saturdays 9:00 a.m.

First Friday (1 Mass) Devotions & Mass 6:00 pm

## RECONCILIATION:

All First Friday at 5:30 pm, All Wednesday at 5:30-6:50 p.m. and All Saturday at 3:30-4:20 p.m. for emergency please call the office.

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. -12:00 Noon & 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00 pm

**The Office is closed on Saturday, Sunday & Holidays**

We welcome you to **OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH** and encourage you to register with us either online or at the Parish office. Kindly support us using the offertory envelopes on a regular basis.

*When making your Will, please remember to include the "FATIMA SHRINE RENOVATION FUND."!*



Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK 

**Sunday, December 17**

- 9:00 a.m. +People of the Parish
- 10:30 a.m. Josephine Linds
- 12:15 p.m. Peace in the World & All Families & Novena 3

**Monday, December 18**

- 8:00 a.m. No Morning Mass
- 7:00 p.m. Novena Mass 4

**Tuesday, December 19**

- 8:00 a.m. Kumar & Rajinie Thevakumar (I)
- 7:00 p.m. Novena Mass 5

**Wednesday, December 20**

- 7:00 p.m. +Alicia Estelong & Novena 06

**Thursday, December 21**

- 8:00 a.m. +Benjamin & Tomasa Balallo
- 7:00 p.m. Novena Mass 7

**Friday, December 22**

- 8:00 a.m. San Juan Family (I) Thanksgiving
- 7:00 pm Novena Mass 8

**Saturday, December 23**

- 9:00 a.m. Ray & Mila Villamil (I) Thanksgiving
- 4:30 p.m. Salvacio, Domingo, & Edwin Alconaba & Final Novena 9

**3rd Sunday of Advent - December 17, 2023**



There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in

our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call **Rev. Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997**; email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) or call **Rev. Alan Glass** at 416-757-2806 or at [olfatimasc@archtoronto.org](mailto:olfatimasc@archtoronto.org) for more information.

*"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace." Pope Francis*

**FROM THE DESK OF FR. GLASS:**

*The Virgin Birth of Christ.*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way: When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. — Matthew 1:18

Among a stack of old books in the rectory I found one titled "The Virgin Birth of Christ" by J. Gresham Machen, a distinguished Presbyterian Biblical scholar from the early 1900's. In the Introduction he states:

According to a universal belief of the historic Christian Church, Jesus of Nazareth was born without a human father, being conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary. How is the belief of the Church in the virgin birth to be explained?

Out of curiosity and respect for Machen, I attempted to read this book, but a dissection of the theories of "Hillmann, Hilgenfeld, Spitta, Gunkel, and others" defeated me. The book is colossally boring but it is not Machen's fault. The same is true of much of St. Irenaeus' "Against the Heresies" which goes into mind-numbing detail regarding the various gnostic heresies of his day. Heresies, whether arising in the 2nd or the 20th century, are simply not interesting.

Machen, however, like Irenaeus, undertook this labor with the admirable motive of defending the fundamentals of Christian doctrine which were being called into question. For example, in 1922, the liberal Protestant preacher Harry Emerson Fosdick asked in a famous sermon, "Shall the Fundamentalists win?":

We may begin with the question of the virgin birth of our Lord. I know people who hold quite different points of view about a matter. One point of view is that it actually happened. But there are many people whose opinion about our Lord's coming is as follows: The first disciples adored Jesus and they were sure that he came specially from God, but they phrased it in terms of a biological miracle *that our modern minds cannot use*. So far from thinking that they have given up anything vital in the New Testament's attitude toward Jesus, these Christians remember that the two men who contributed most to the church's thought of the divine meaning of the Christ were Paul and John, who never even distantly allude to the virgin birth.

St. Paul does say of Jesus that "though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." And St. John states: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Not a man 'specially from God' but 'the Word was God'! This is 'the New Testament attitude towards Jesus': not 'the *divine meaning* of the Christ' but 'Christ's *divinity*'!



**Next Week Readings**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readily Saying Yes to Stewardship

**1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 14a, 16**

**2nd Reading: Romans 16.25-27**

**Gospel: Luke 1.26-38**

The Annunciation

Latin Songs: can be found on Catholic Book of Worship (Pages 299 A, D, E, F, & G).

**DONATION ENVELOPES BOXES FOR 2024**



The boxes with your donation envelopes for 2024 are already prepared for pick up. They will be sorted in alphabetical order in trays at the back of the church, according to the family's last name. All registered parishioners are kindly asked to inform the office of any changes to their personal data.

*New parishioners are encourage to fill out a registration form and indicate if you require a box of envelopes.*

*Thank you for your support throughout the year.*



THANKS from the **Knights of Columbus** - for your support in their sale of **RAFFLE TICKETS** for their Christmas fund-raiser.

**A SPECIAL REMINDER**

**\*CHRISTMAS COLLECTION\***

in all Masses, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day ... *your Christmas Gift to the Parish!* Thank you!



**ShareLife: Make a matching gift to support mental health**



**NEW:** Your year-end gift will double in value! From now until December 31, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched up to \$500,000. Your support of ShareLife is

making a difference in the lives of those in need. Last year, ShareLife supporters like you enabled 21,000 people to receive affordable mental health care through family service agencies across the Archdiocese of Toronto. Double the impact of your kindness by giving at the parish with a ShareLife envelope or anytime at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

**Christmas Day 2023 & New Year's 2024 Schedules**

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am & 10:30 am, 12:15 No Mass

Family Mass at 6:00 pm Holy Mass

Christmas Eve at 9:00 pm Holy Mass

Midnight Mass at 12:00 am Holy Mass

Monday, December 25 at

9:00 am, 10:30 am & 12:15 pm Holy Mass

December 26 Regular Scheduled is followed

Tuesday to Saturday, December 30

Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve at

9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm Holy Mass

Monday, January 01 New Year's Day at

9:00 am & 10:30 Holy Mass

Tuesday, January 02, 2024

Regular Scheduled is followed

The Parish Office is closed on all

Statutory holidays!

December 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & January 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day falling on Sunday's.



**A Prayer for the Christmas season.**

*Child of Mary's womb, apple of Joseph's eye, welcome us when we come to you:*

*to visit, to pray, simply to draw near.*

*Set our gaze on only that star whose*

*light leads us along the path of your truth.*

*Teach us to make of our hearts the finest gift we have to offer to you and to others.*

*When we wonder if we have found you—*

*or lost you—deepen our faith*

*in your faithful pursuit of us,*

*our lives, and our love.*

*Appear, shine, and reveal*

*the beauty of your face to us,*

*that we might never fail to see you*

*in all we meet and know.*

*Guide us, Lord Jesus,*

*by your perfect light. Amen.*

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