

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE

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

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**PASTOR:** Rev. Fr. Glass

**OFFICE STAFF:**

Aurora Fraginal - Secretary

Patrick Callahan - Property Manager Jack Tobin - Custodian





26 - 4

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 31

- 9:00 a.m. Guilermo Bautista & Family (I)
10:30 a.m. +Alfonso Tan
12:15 p.m. People of the Parish

Monday, January 01

- 9:00 a.m. Sister Lorie Nunez (I) Thanksgiving
10:30 a.m. Ramsay Family (I) Thanksgiving

Tuesday, January 02

- 8:00 a.m. Lauretta Shelford

Wednesday, January 03

- 7:00 p.m. Rani Julie Ramos (I) Thanksgiving

Thursday, January 04

- 8:00 a.m. +Vincenzo & Carmela Martino

Friday, January 05

- 7:00 pm +Modesto Iorio

Saturday, January 06

- 9:00 a.m. +Vincent Patrick
4:30 p.m. +Sheldon Walker

The Holy Family Sunday - December 31, 2023



By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If God is calling you, contact contact Rev. Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto

at 416-968-0997; email vocations@archtoronto.org or call Rev. Alan Glass at 416-757-2806 or at olfatimasc@archtoronto.org for more information.

Next Week Readings

The Epiphany of the Lord
Becoming a Star

1st Reading: Isaiah 60-1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6

Gospel: Matthew 3.1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

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

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GLASS:

Peace on earth, good-will to men.

I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play, and mild and sweet the words repeat: "Of peace on earth, good-will to men!" — Longfellow

These are the first words of a familiar carol, taken from a poem written during the American Civil War. The tragedy of that war is reflected in the later verses:

Then from each black, accursed mouth, the cannon thundered in the South, and with the sound the carols drowned: "Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said; "for hate is strong, and mocks the song: Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

As I write this, the world is once again caught up in the calamity of war. The conflict in Ukraine is now approaching its third year, and there is no end yet in sight for Israel's war against Hamas. And that is not taking account of the many wars that are not covered by the main stream media. Indeed, 'there is no peace on earth, for hate is strong.'

The coming of the Messiah, two thousand years ago, was expected to usher in a new age of peace and prosperity. The people of Judah at that time were looking for liberation from Roman rule and the establishment of an independent nation state as it once existed under King David.

The Messiah did come, but the religious authorities handed him over to be killed. Three decades later the Israelites revolted, the Romans besieged Jerusalem, and the Temple was destroyed. The Jewish historian Josephus was a witness to these events: "No destruction ever wrought by God or man approached the wholesale carnage of this war."

When Jesus was entering Jerusalem for the Passover "he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

This is a matter of somber reflection as we enter into a new year, which ought to be a time of renewed hope. The Messiah did come with the message of 'peace on earth and good-will to men.' That is the message of the Gospel, the 'good news' of Jesus Christ. The tragedy is that this message has so often been rejected. As St. John says, "The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil."

In the final verse of his poem, Longfellow expresses the hope for a return to peace after the storm of war:

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail, with peace on earth, good-will to men."



The PASTORAL TEAM at Fatima Parish, and the FINANCE COUNCIL wish to extend to parishioners, their families and visitors heartfelt wishes for a blessed, peaceful and prosperous 2024. Thank you all for your help and support. We are really proud and privileged to be with you in the service of the Lord.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy meetings & First Holy Communion classes will on January 14 during the 10:30 am Mass in the church hall. All children - from 6 to 10 years old - are welcome to attend and participate. Communicant will have their First Confession Scheduled on Thursday, January 18 at 6:00 pm in the church. Parents should continue teaching their children the basic prayers in preparation for the First Confession.



CONFIRMATION 2023-2024

Applicants in the Confirmation class have an their 1st class on Saturday, January 13 at 1:00 pm in our church hall. On Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 pm all candidates are to participate for the Sacrament of Confession in the church. Attendance is mandatory for all meetings and the Sunday Eucharist. See the notes and schedule given to you. Thank you.



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.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

New Year's Day Schedule 2024

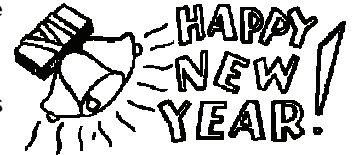
Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve at 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm Holy Mass

Monday, January 01 New Year's Day at 9:00 am & 10:30 Holy Mass

Tuesday, January 02, 2024 Regular Scheduled is followed.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

at all Masses on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Your Gift to the Parish on the Octave Day of Christmas Thank you!



THE FUEL OFFERING

There is a second collection on weekend of January 20/21 - during all Masses. This is a once yearly collection [in the heart of winter] when heating is imperative!



Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Update



On December 12, 2023 the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families. Recipients include Aboriginal Legal Services located in Toronto, Ontario, that will receive \$538,000 to help fund their Indigenous family dispute resolution program called Giiwedini Anang. Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2024



- The Gift Of Diversity In The Church Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.



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