

OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE

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

PHONE: 416-757-2806 FAX: 416-757-2808

Email: olfatimasc@archtoronto.org Website: www.olfatimasc.archtoronto.org

PASTOR: Rev. Fr. Alan Glass

OFFICE STAFF:

Aurora Friginal - Secretary

Patrick Callahan - Property Manager Jack Tobin - Custodian

prepare the way...



ADVENT



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 21

4:30 pm (vigil) +Rev. John Govan S.J.
 9:00 am + Danny & Agnes Gomes
 10:30 am Reginald Adams (Thanksgiving)
 12:15 pm Deceased Parishioners & Benefactors
Novena 7 Mass TBA

Monday, December 22

7:00 pm Novena 8

Tuesday, December 23

8:00 am + Salvacion & Edwin Alconaba

7:00 pm Novena 9

Wednesday, December 24

No morning Mass

6:00 pm People of the Parish

9:00 pm Magdalena Lule \$ Family (Thanksgiving)

12:00 Midnight +Fe Alconaba

Thursday, December 25

9:00 am + Patrick Leo

10:30 am + Severina Mamaril

12:15 pm + Yun Chin & Chou Yun Chiu

Friday, December 26

8:00 am + Felix Pingol

Saturday, December 27

9:00 am + Anna Maria Doti

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GLASS:

Heart speaks to heart.

When I think about what I am going to say to you, the 'word' or message is already in my heart. I look for a way to speak this so that the word in my heart may also find place in yours. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine. — St. Augustine

As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, we should pause to reflect on those awesome words at the beginning of St. John's Gospel which we will hear at Mass on Christmas morning: "And the Word (*Logos*) became flesh and dwelt among us." John uses the Greek word *logos*, which is not 'word' in the grammatical sense, but the interior word of the heart.

When John Henry Newman (now Saint, and Doctor of the Church) was made a Cardinal he chose as his motto, '*Cor ad cor loquitur* — Heart speaks to heart.' He took this from Augustine's commentary on the Gospel of John. A word that proceeds from the lips stops at the ear, but a word that proceeds from the heart does not stop until it reaches another heart.

Jesus is the 'word' in the heart of the Father. All of the created universe came into existence through this Word: "*Fiat lux* — Let there be light!" It is also by means of a word that the Son of God enters the world. The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary: "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son." But this word is not accomplished without Mary's word, her *Fiat* — "Let it be to me according to your word." St. Bernard of Clairvaux, contemplating this moment, prays to Mary:

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the Angel of the Lord. Answer with a word, and receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, and conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, and embrace the eternal Word.

The Word, from the heart of the Holy Trinity, speaks to Mary's heart, and Mary responds with a word from her own heart. Mary is known by many titles, but in this Christmas season we honor her as *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, the loving Mother of our Redeemer. The Son of God chose to take his human nature from this young woman and from no other. He willed that her heart should forever be united with his.

Christmas is often described as a 'magical' time, but the proper word is 'mystical,' because heaven touches earth. The Word, who existed eternally before all ages, who for nine months has dwelt secretly in Mary's womb, now enters the world. A baby boy wrapped in swaddling clothes is cradled in his mother's arms. And there in the silence of the stable in Bethlehem, wordlessly, heart speaks to heart.

4th Sunday of Advent – 21 December, 2025

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416 968-0997. Email: vocations@archtoronto.org or www.vocationstoronto.ca or call Rev. A. Glass at 416-727-2806 or email at olfatimasc@archtoronto.org.



Next Week Readings – 28 December 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 Those who respect the Lord honour their parents
1st Reading: Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14

2nd Reading: Colossians 3.12-21 or 3.12-17

Gospel: Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23

Get up, take the child and his mother,
 and flee to Egypt

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



A SPECIAL

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in all Masses, on Christmas Eve
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Christmas Blessings



Our Lady of Fatima Parish and the Parish FINANCE COUNCIL extend wishes for God's peace, joy and every blessing on all our parishioners and friends or family visiting here this Christmas season and throughout the New Year. Thank you all for your help and support. We are so blessed to have you and very proud of all of you.

Christmas Day 2025 & New Year's 2026 Schedules

Wednesday, December 24

Family Mass at 6:00 pm Holy Mass

Christmas Eve at 9:00 pm Holy Mass

Midnight Mass at 12:00 am Holy Mass

Thursday, December 25

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

December 26 Regular Scheduled is followed

Thursday to Tuesday, December 30

Wed., December 31 New Year's Eve

Vigil Mass is at 7:00 pm Holy Mass

& Midnight Mass

Thurs, January 01 New Year's Day at

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

First Friday of the year January 02, 2026

Regular Scheduled is followed

The Parish Office is closed on all Statutory holidays!

December 26th & January 02nd.

DONATION ENVELOPES BOXES FOR 2026



The boxes with your donation envelopes for 2026 are prepared and ready for pick up!

Registered parishioners are encouraged to notify the Church office of any changes to their contact information. New parishioners are encouraged to register and request donations envelopes so that they can receive a tax receipt for their Sunday offering.

Kindly use envelopes beginning of January 2026.

Closing of the Year of Jubilee 2025



The faithful are invited to attend the Closing Mass for the Year of Jubilee on **Sunday, December 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available with numerous priests from **3:30–4:45 p.m.** We extend our gratitude to all who have supported the Jubilee Year and invite everyone to join in prayer as we mark its solemn conclusion.

SHARELIFE 2025

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NEW: Your gift will double in value! From November 3



until year end, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000. Right now, there's a mother wondering how she'll feed her child, a senior hoping someone will

remember them, a family praying for a way forward. Your support for ShareLife and the Food Security Grants is not only a source of hope but a tangible lifeline, ensuring that food finds its way to the tables of those who need it most. Your Christmas gift will go twice as far, providing twice the hope, twice the comfort, and twice the love to those who are counting on your support. If you donate online by December 31, you will receive a 2025 tax receipt. Please support the work of ShareLife agencies through sharelife.org/donate or by giving at our parish using a ShareLife envelope. Thank you for living the Gospel!



A Prayer for Christmas

A Prayer for Christmas Merciful God, who made that first Christmas night so beautiful and bright, we ask You to bless us once again with Your gentle yet powerful Presence. As we experience the cold nights and bitter winds of this world, remind us that You have not left us alone, but have promised to be our Emmanuel, God-with-us. You once slept in a stable in Bethlehem, while shepherds and Magi visited You. Now, You dwell in glory in the Holy Eucharist, waiting once again for us to adore You. Please fill us with Your gift of heavenly peace, and open our eyes to Your Presence in our midst. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen



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