

# *St. Lawrence Martyr Church*

2210 LAWRENCE AVE E. SCARBOROUGH , ONTARIO, M1P 2P9

Tel No. 416-759-9359 / Fax No. 416-759-6725

Email: [stlawrencemartyr@archtoronto.org](mailto:stlawrencemartyr@archtoronto.org)

Website: [stlawrencemartyr.archtoronto.org](http://stlawrencemartyr.archtoronto.org)

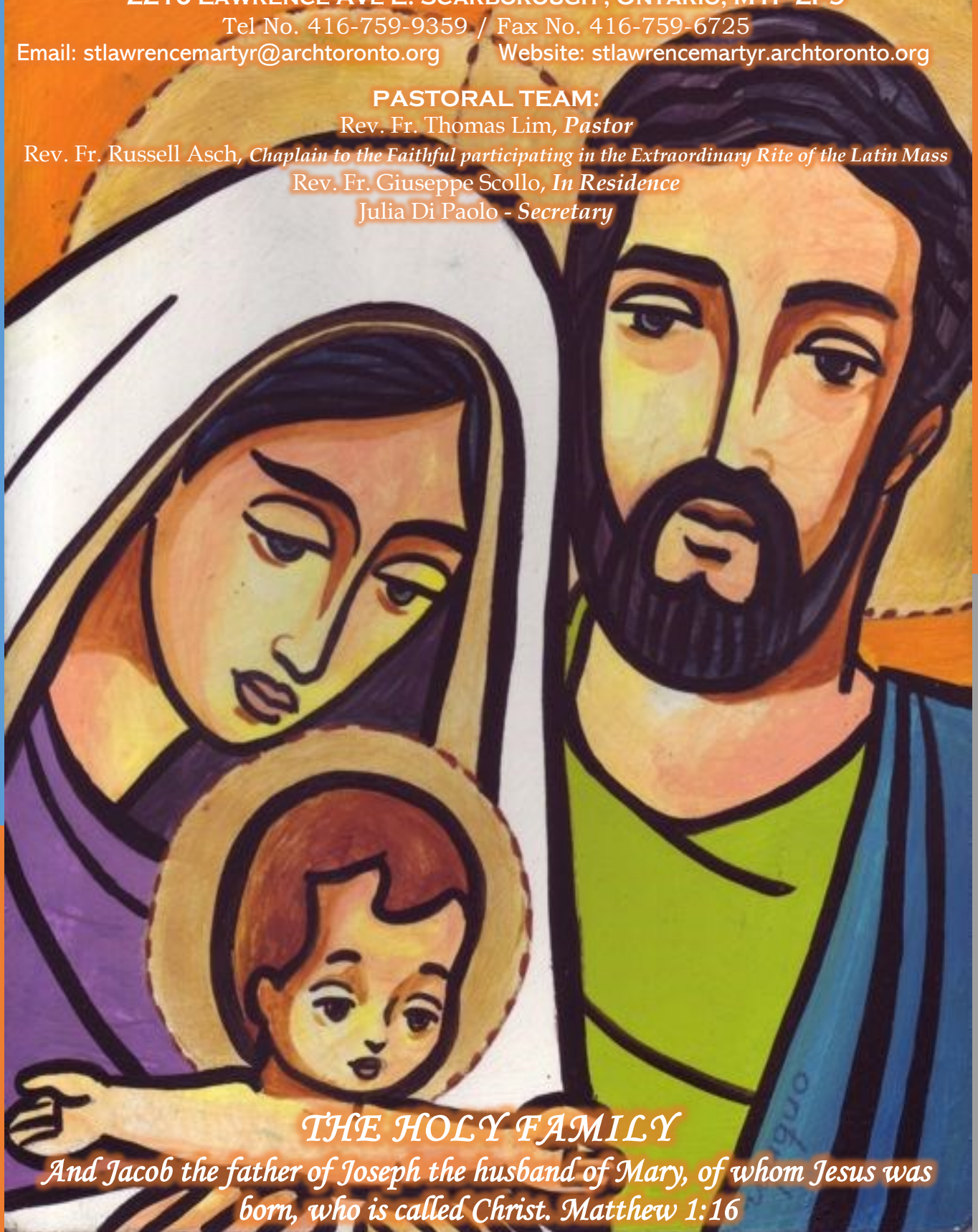
## **PASTORAL TEAM:**

Rev. Fr. Thomas Lim, *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch, *Chaplain to the Faithful participating in the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass*

Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Scollo, *In Residence*

Julia Di Paolo - *Secretary*



## *THE HOLY FAMILY*

*And Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. Matthew 1:16*

## THE HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2023

Luke 2:22-40



### “MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION”

The story of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple is dominated by Simeon's welcome, 'a light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel', and by his warning to Mary, 'a sword will pierce your heart'. Simeon reiterates the angel's promise that the child would fulfil the destiny of Israel and Israel's task to the nations. Much like any family life, the promised future included the delights of the growing, developing child, and the background fear that the great destiny of each child may include sorrow and even heart-break. How much did Mary and Joseph know about the precious child they were nurturing? As he grew to independence did he become more loving and supportive? How did his contemporaries find him? Was he a leader? Did he stand out from the pack? Each of us has a private picture of the child, the boy, the adolescent, the young man. All we know for sure is that 'the child grew to maturity', and that Mary 'pondered all these things in her heart', with Simeon's welcome and warning before her mind.

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Incredibile! Gesù, la sorgente di vita, il Redentore, la luce dei non credenti, l'onore di Israele, è destinato ad essere un segno di contraddizione; egli che è chiamato a portare la redenzione dovrà, nello stesso tempo, essere la spina che provocherà la perdita di molti uomini. E colei che ha dato alla luce il Redentore, che ha unito in sé l'amore di Dio e quello dell'uomo, è destinata a sopportare il dolore della spada che trapassa il cuore!

Tutto ciò sembra strano, eppure è stato proprio così: l'incredibile è successo.

La profezia di Simeone si compie nella sua totalità nei secoli. Il cuore di Maria ha conosciuto il dolore di sette spade che lo trapassavano quando lei tremava per la vita del Bambino durante la fuga in Egitto; quando lo vedeva sfinito, non compreso, umiliato nel suo apostolato; quando venne arrestato, processato, torturato, e quando lo accompagnò nella via della croce, vedendolo soffrire e morire sulla croce. Ancora oggi Maria continua a soffrire con noi quando pone il suo sguardo sulle nostre pene e sulle nostre sofferenze, continua a soffrire con noi che rischiamo, coi nostri peccati, di perderci.

È raro vedere un ritratto o una statua della Madonna sorridente, mentre quasi in ogni chiesa vediamo rappresentata Maria addolorata.

Gesù è venuto dai suoi, ma i suoi non l'hanno accolto (Gv 1,6); ha portato la luce, ma il mondo è rimasto nelle tenebre. Gesù cercava la redenzione di tutti, ma molti l'hanno respinto, hanno lottato contro di lui. Per costoro è divenuto un segno di condanna. Per questo è segno di divisione: ognuno di noi porta in cuore delle contraddizioni e si scontra con degli ostacoli per seguire Gesù. Dobbiamo imparare ad accogliere il suo amore.

Noi tutti abbiamo nostalgia dell'amore. Ma la nostalgia non basta. Occorre che i raggi dell'amore ci raggiungano e si infiammino per divenire un grande fuoco che ci scaldi e che ci dia il coraggio di vivere e di sacrificarci in nome di Cristo, affinché la Madre di Dio possa guardarci non più con le lacrime agli occhi, ma col sorriso.



### Eucharistic Adoration

Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm (Church)\*  
Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)\*

\*In the Chapel, when there is a funeral.

Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!

### Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO

5:00 P.M. - Lydia & Rod Murphy & Family

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. + Norbert John Loesing

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

Intenzioni di Vito e Elisabetta Barbieri

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia

Tony Lamanna - Antonio Savella

Leonello Pecorari - Salvatore Porzio

Vito e Francesca Barbieri

Marino D'Attolico e famiglia

Vito e Mike Cuoppolo

Luigi e Lucia Cuoppolo

Angelo Infantino - Vincenza Di Tacchio

Antonio DiStefano

11:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> – NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

#### MONDAY JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> – NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

10:00 A.M. - Per Tutti I Nostri Parrocchiani

11:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

\*\*\*\*\*NO 5PM MASS\*\*\*\*\*

#### TUESDAY JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

12:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. - Elvira Foronda

12:00 P.M. - Jean-Paul Patenaue

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. + Lai Tai Mui

8:30 A.M. + Sylvia Helou

#### FRIDAY JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Alberto Albanese

7:00 P.M. + Carmen Poblete Jose

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO

8:30 A.M. - Zoie Noranho

10:00 A.M. - Cedric de Souza & Family



Offertory - Last Weekend:

Regular Collection: \$7,174.65

Christmas: \$11,724.40

thank you

## THE HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ, last Thursday evening (December 21<sup>st</sup>) I had the wonderful opportunity to have dinner in a local restaurant with six of my seven siblings (my oldest brother, Vince, was away due to an illness). The reason for our gathering was to celebrate the anniversary of our arrival to Canada - 50 years to the day, my entire family, that is, my late parents and all 8 siblings, arrived in Vancouver from Indonesia. Given such a milestone, I celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at the church, which was followed later by our dinner that evening.

As I looked across the dinner table and surveyed the faces of my youngest brother, John, and my five sisters (Wendy, Theresa, Maria, Rosa and Agatha), I couldn't help but feel a sense of gratitude for the blessings of my siblings. I know that in many families, siblings often fight and can develop great division among themselves. That was certainly true in my own family, since we didn't always see eye to eye on many issues over the years. There were many occasions when we inflicted various degrees of pain and suffering upon each other; when we were not able to truly appreciate the other's points of view. Truthfully, I wasn't always happy with my siblings, nor did I enjoy living in such a large family. Yet, over these past few years, especially in light of the deaths of our parents many years ago, I must admit that we have grown closer in our relationship as brothers and sisters, with growth in mutual respect, increasing support and greater love for one another.

So what has caused such a change in my outlook and within my family? I suppose one simple reason is that we have matured with the passage of time. Over the years, we have begun to be able to see each other for who we truly are, with our good and bad traits, our strengths and weaknesses, and our gifts and limitations. But that cannot be the sole reason, however.

More importantly, the second reason has to do with the Lord! Over the years, I have noticed that each of us has made a concerted effort in developing a deeper, personal relationship with the Lord. In the process of spending greater amount of time in communion with the Lord - through prayers, devotions, and the Holy Mass - we have allowed ourselves to slowly become interiorly transformed by the unconditional love of God! The consequence of such transformation is the natural desire to manifest that love towards others in turn. The love and support that we have shown each other over these last few years ultimately find their origin from the endless abyss of Love itself!

This weekend the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Jesus, Mary and Joseph were different persons with different temperaments and personalities. In spite of their diversity, there was family unity for they lived together, prayed together, worked together, and stayed together. The Holy Family provides us a model for the modern world. They were united by a genuine charity for one another, and that unity had a common purpose - to work together for the salvation of the human family.

There is no doubt that the family unit today is facing many types of challenges. Some of these come from within such as various forms of abuse, addiction, communication issues, divorce, pornography, parenting challenges, etc. Others, however, come from without with the culture openly attacking the family by promoting overt anti-Gospel doctrines. In the midst of these attacks, one can be tempted to experience feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, anxiousness and despair. Yet, the answer to our family problems remains the same. We need to individually strive to make Jesus Christ the centre of our life, for in doing so, Christ inevitably will become the centre of our family life. Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*



### Vocation Reflection

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 Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997 .  
[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)  
Email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)



### Stewardship Reflection

It is through meditating on the Holy Family that we begin to learn how we are called to live in our own homes. The Holy Family had to work, cook meals, clean the house, and wash their clothes and every other regular activity that we too perform, yet they did all these ordinary things with extraordinary love. We too should look to be stewards in our own homes by using our time and gifts to serve our family members with great love and sacrifice.

*God the Father gathered all the waters together and called them the seas. He gathered all His grace together and called it Mary.*  
~St. Louis de Montfort~

# THE HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2023



Lovely Lady dressed in blue, teach me how to pray  
 God was just your Little Boy tell me what to say.  
 Did you lift Him up sometimes, gently on your knee?  
 Did you sing to Him the way mother does to me?  
 Did you hold His Hand at night, and did you ever try  
 telling Him stories of the world... oh, and did He cry?  
 Do you really think He cares if I tell Him things?  
 Little things that happen and do the angels wings make noise?  
 Can He hear me if I speak low? Does He understand me now?  
 Tell me for you know.  
 Lovely Lady dressed in blue teach me how to pray  
 God was just your Little Boy and you know The Way.

## Sacrament of Confirmation Reminder to Parents:

Please note that the 2024 Confirmation Program will start this Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. All the sacramental preparation classes will take place in the basement of the church hall from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

**Please ensure that your child brings the blessed bible that was given to him/her during the Rite of Enrolment Ceremony.**

If your child has not yet handed in their Letter of Intent, he/she may drop it off at the parish office. **He/she must do so before the start of the sacramental classes.**



## Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

(Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 325)



**ShareLife: Last chance to make a matching gift in 2023**

*If you've been one of our parish's generous heroes in 2023, thank you. Because of you, a neighbour is healing from trauma, or is thriving as a young mother, or isn't going hungry – among the many lives your kindness has transformed.*

There's still time to join our incredible chorus of heroes. If you give at [sharelife.org/donate](https://sharelife.org/donate) by December 31, you will receive a 2023 tax receipt. Thank you for living the Gospel!

# Dear Padre

December 31, 2023

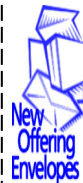
**How much should we support our adult children? We have a niece and a daughter who are both healthy, capable, and in their twenties. We have set boundaries and continue to give to them but they just can't seem to get their act together. Would it be unchristian to cut them off?**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes in detail the duties of family members toward each other (CCC 2214–33). Parents are responsible to ensure that their children grow up in faith and to meet their basic needs. Children should show respect toward their parents and, as they grow older, assist them as needed. As children become adults, they should take on responsibility for themselves and parents are not to pressure them into choices of a profession or a spouse, while at the same time, "giving their children judicious advice...." (CCC 2230). At some point, children need to become responsible adults, which brings us to your point.

You seem to have done what is required as parents. At the same time, you would not want to abandon young adults if physical, mental, or emotional factors prevent them from assuming the responsibility of adulthood. If they are healthy, capable young people they should be able to progress in life without your financial assistance. To help them toward this goal, you may want to set very specific limits, perhaps with the help of a counselor, and then consistently follow those limits. ●

Fr. John K. Schmidt, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## 2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP!



New Offertory Envelopes

Parishioners are asked to pick up their 2024 Offertory Envelopes at the back of the Church.

*Thank you for your support!*

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.



**FATHER YOU CALLED**

**SAINT LAWRENCE TO SERVE YOU BY LOVE AND CROWNED HIS LIFE WITH GLORIOUS MARTYRDOM.**

HELP US TO BE LIKE HIM IN LOVING YOU AND DOING YOUR WORK.

**AMEN**