

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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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 BIRTH of The LORD



*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son. John 5:11*

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 22ND, 2024

Luke 1:39 - 45



“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

Luke’s account of the birth and infancy of Jesus is built on the comparison and contrast of the two stories of John the Baptist and Jesus: the annunciation to the parents, the birth of each, the joy on earth and in heaven, the circumcision, the growth of the child. In each incident John is shown to be great, but Jesus greater still. Only in this incident do the two families meet, the two stories cross. The two mothers meet each other to marvel at the destiny of their children. The journey from Nazareth to even the nearest of the towns in the hill country of Judah (traditionally Elizabeth’s home is located at Ain Karim, now on the outskirts of Jerusalem) would have been arduous, a week’s walk for a fit young woman. This special exertion and generosity shows her love and care for her elderly relative, as well as the natural excitement of the two in sharing their motherhood. Luke has already told us that Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit. Now Elizabeth too is filled with the Holy Spirit as they share and exchange the praise of God for the gift of their child.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Oggi il vangelo ci rivela come si sono realizzati la venuta del Messia e il mistero della redenzione che essa contiene.

La persona di Maria, la sua fede, il suo “sì”, la sua maternità, sono le vie scelte da Dio per fare visita ai suoi e portare la salvezza a tutti gli uomini. Il centro dell’avvenimento evangelico di questo giorno si sviluppa, dunque, attorno a Maria: lei è la più profonda e più radicale via dell’Avvento. Si capisce la ragione della visita a sua cugina Elisabetta nel messaggio dell’angelo (Lc 1,36). Ella si dirige rapidamente verso il villaggio in Giudea, perché la grazia ricevuta da sua cugina Elisabetta, che diventerà mamma, la riempie di gioia. Il suo saluto ha un effetto meraviglioso su Elisabetta e sul bambino. Tutti e due si impregnano di Spirito Santo. Elisabetta sente il bambino sussultare dentro di sé, come fece tempo prima Davide davanti all’arca dell’Alleanza, durante il suo viaggio a Gerusalemme (2Sam 6,1-11). Maria è la nuova arca dell’Alleanza, davanti alla quale il bambino esprime la sua gioia. Dal bambino l’azione dello Spirito è trasmessa anche ad Elisabetta, cosa che la conduce a riconoscere la Madre del suo Signore. Sotto l’ispirazione dello Spirito, conosce il mistero del messaggio dell’angelo a sua cugina Maria, e la riconosce “felice” in ragione della fede con la quale ella l’ha ricevuto. La testimonianza di Elisabetta è la più antica testimonianza della venerazione della prima Chiesa per la Madre del Salvatore.



Vocation Reflection ~ "Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God’s great Love? Contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, AoT at 416-968-0997 . Email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

“The Mass is very long and tiresome unless one loves God.”

— G.K. Chesterton —



Eucharistic Adoration

Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm (Church)*

Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)*

*In Chapel, when there is a funeral.

Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!



Mass Intentions for the week



SATURDAY DECEMBER 21ST– SABATO

5:00 P.M. + Antonio e Carmela Scarano

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND– DOMENICA

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

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia

Agostino Battaglia e defunti famiglia B&E

Totonno e Rosaria Francella- Defunti F

Cacavella e Tamburro - Vito e Mike Cuoppolo

Vito e Francesca Barbieri- Annarosa e P V

Luigi e Maria D’Addario–Nancy Vicky Masellis

Vincenza Di Tacchio e F– Dolcino Giovanna A

Fileno Elisii - Mario Fortino

11:30 A.M. - Charles Abreu

1:00 P.M. - Pro Popolo

5:00 P.M. + Eldon Warner

MONDAY DECEMBER 23RD– LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

12:00 P.M. - Zack Noranho

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24TH– MARTEDI

CHRISTMAS EVE/MIDNIGHT

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

7:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

9:00 P.M. - Pro Popolo (Latin)

12:00 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

WEDNESDAY DEC 25TH– MERCOLEDI

CHRISTMAS DAY

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

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

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

1:00 P.M. - Pro Popolo (Latin)

5:00 P.M. - No Evening Mass

THURSDAY DECEMBER 26TH– GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Pro Popolo

8:30 A.M. + Aurellano & Estella Del Cruz

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20TH– VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

7:00 P.M. - Pro Popolo

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21ST– SABATO

8:30 A.M.+ Istvan Szakaczki

10:00 A.M. - Pro Popolo



OFFERTORY LAST WEEK

Regular: \$6,177.50



thank you

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 22ND, 2024



Dear Friends in Christ, there is a song written by Carey Landry titled, “Peace Is Flowing Like a River.” If neither the artist nor the title of the song rings a bell, perhaps the words of one of her stanzas might jolt your memory: *“Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out through you and me; Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.”* In reading Landry’s lyrics, it appears to me as if she views peace as being a force that has the power to cause change in people and in the world. If my interpretation of her music is correct, the Christian understanding of peace is deeper than that however!

The word “peace” is a biblical term that has numerous meanings associated with it. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for peace is *shalôm*, which literally means *“to be complete or whole”*. The Jewish people used *shalôm* to mean general prosperity or well-being, safety or success, harmony among friends and family, harmony among nations. The Greeks used the word *eirene* for peace, a word that often implied an inner harmony that a person experiences, that is, an inner peace without internal conflict or hostile feelings (cf. Msgr Swetland, “A Primer for Peace”).

From our Catholic perspective true peace comes from God (cf. Phil. 4:17) and it is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22). When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, for example, the angels promised *“peace to men of good will.”* Throughout his Galilean ministry, Jesus often told forgiven sinners and those he healed to *“go in peace.”* At the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me”* and *“Peace I give to you, my peace I give to you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid”* (Jn. 14:27). If Jesus’ last words before his death involved peace, it should come as no surprise that when Jesus encountered his disciples on the evening of His resurrection, he would greet them with the words, *“Peace be with you”*, not once but twice! Jesus regularly dispensed the gift of peace to those he interacted with.

It should be noted that there are two kinds of peace: an external and an internal kind. The external peace is that which is found outside of us and it usually deals with the harmonious relationship that exists between people. External peace is present when nations do not wage war with each other, or when diverse groups of people (e.g., classes, religions, languages, cultures, etc.) work and live in harmony with one another without being in conflict. External peace occurs at the familial level when husband and wife, parents and children, relative and neighbour, etc., live in harmony by showing mutual respect for one another. Unfortunately, external peace is sorely lacking in many of these situations today throughout our world!

Internal peace, however, is peace that is found within us. This is the kind of peace we have when there is no conflict in us, or when we experience a great sense of tranquility within us. We can have peace with God when our conscience is clean and we are in a state of grace, that is, not in a state of mortal sin. We have interior peace with others when we remove all grudges, ill feeling or enmity, or animosity towards them. We have interior peace when our disordered passion, which often tries to enslave us, is governed by our reason and self-control.

If we are to make the world a more peaceful place, then it requires that we first must have internal peace within ourselves. There can be no harmony among people, when we do not experience peace within ourselves. There can be no resolutions of conflicts among people unless the conflicts within our hearts are tended to. The difficult task of trying to be at peace with others can only be effectively accomplished when we find peace within our own heart. It is the internal peace that is established within individuals that becomes the source of external peace among nations, families, communities, including within the church.

In a few days, we will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. On the night when our Lord was born in Bethlehem, a multitude of angels praised God by saying, *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”* (Lk 2: 14). I invite you to go to the Child Jesus, who humbly lies in the manger for the love of you and me, and ask him to bless you with his peace, a peace unlike anything the world can offer you!

On behalf of Fr. Russell, Fr. Giuseppe, and Julia, I wish to extend a warm Christmas blessing to you and all your loved ones. Please be assured that all your intentions will be remembered in each Holy Mass celebrated during the Christmas Season. May the Infant Child, Jesus, bless you! Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*



SACRED JOURNEY
RESTORING THE HOUSE OF GOD

THANK YOU!!!

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$120,484.00

To donate SCAN the QR CODE or

<https://tinyurl.com/SLMDonationForm>



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 22ND, 2024

4th Sunday
of Advent
Year C



Four forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Christmas and New Year Schedule

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 24th ~ Tuesday (Christmas Eve)

4:30 pm Carols / 5:00 pm Children's Mass
6:30 pm Carols / 7:00 pm (English)
8:45 pm Carols / 9:00 pm (Latin)
11:30 pm Carols / 12 Midnight (English)

December 25th ~ Wednesday (Christmas Day)

8:30 am (English) / 10:00 am (Italian)
11:30 am (English) / 1:00 pm (Latin)
~ No 5pm Mass ~

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

December 31st ~ Tuesday (New Year's Eve)

5:00 pm (English)

January 1st ~ Wednesday (New Year's Day)

8:30 am (English) / 10:00 am (Italian)
11:30 am (English) / 1:00 pm (Latin)
~ No 5pm Mass ~

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM
DECEMBER 24TH TO JANUARY 1ST**

Dear Padre

December 22, 2024

Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



2025 JUBILEE YEAR
ITALY PILGRIMAGE

With our Pastor
Father Thomas Lim
September 27 to
October 10, 2025

[Click for Details](#)



**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

Kindergarten Registration



Kindergarten Registration at St. Lawrence

Begins Wednesday January 22nd 2024 via soar.tcdsb.org. If your child was born in 2021 and is turning 4 next year and has been baptized Roman Catholic or has a Roman Catholic parent living in Toronto, please register with the above link. Please note that the following documents are needed to register:

1-Original Birth Certificate 2-Original Baptismal Certificate (Roman Catholic or Parent baptized Roman Catholic) 3-Proof of residing within the boundaries of St. Lawrence (rental agreement, telephone bill of bank statement in parents' name) 4-If newly arrived in Canada, PR or parents' work permit or study permit as well as Immigration documents. 5-Please note that if you have an older child you would like to register, please do so under the same link and with the above documents. *Please contact the school in case of any queries at 416 393 5264.*

PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

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

*"Make sickness itself a
Prayer"*

~ St. Francis de Sales ~

