

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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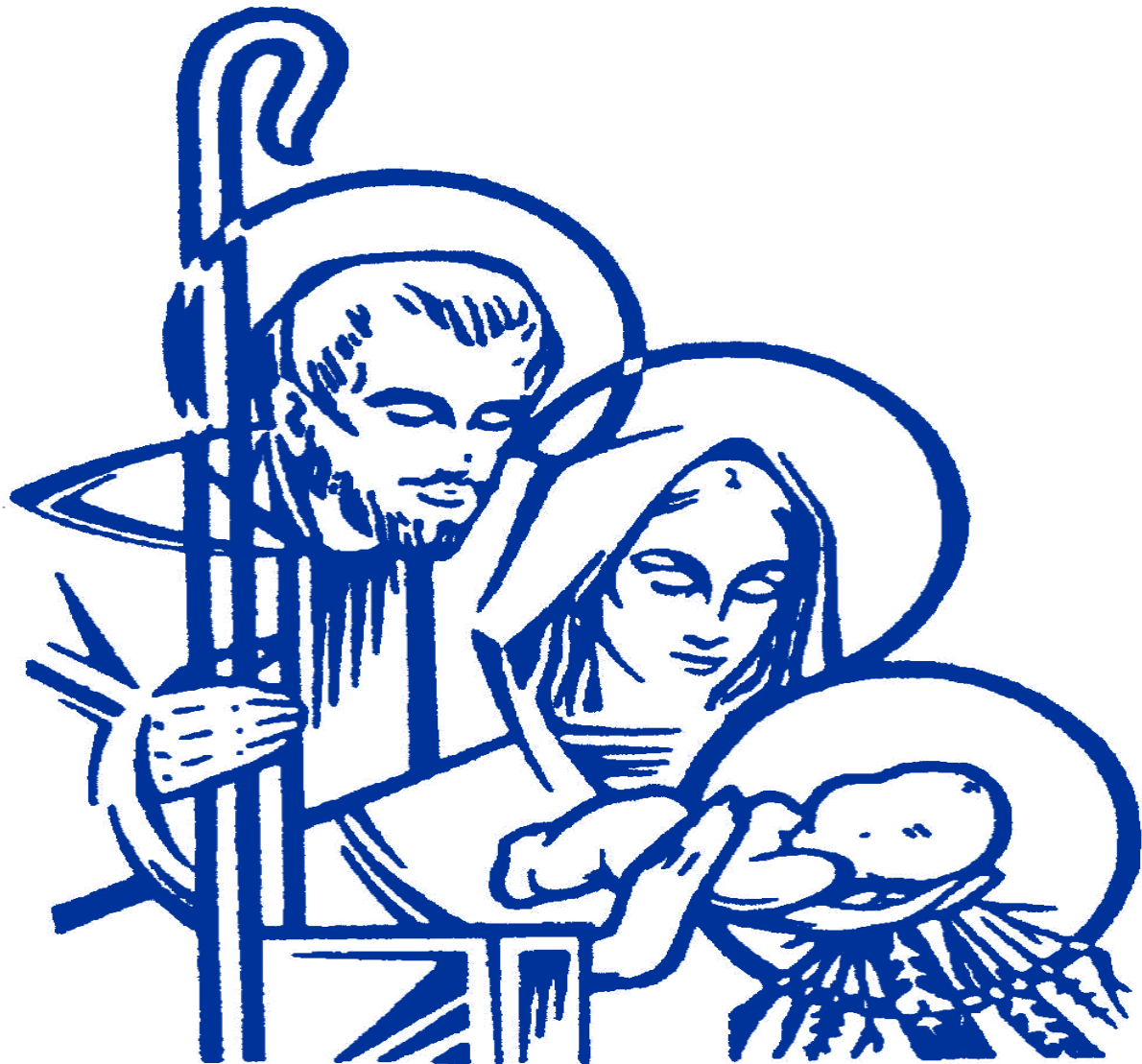
PASTORAL TEAM:

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 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 29TH, 2024

Luke 2:41-52



“ His parents found Jesus sitting in the midst of the teachers... ”

This little incident, the only one told of Jesus' youth, has two attractive lessons for us. Firstly, it is a joy to see Jesus behaving just like any other twelve-year-old. He was a real child, and a child of that age goes off exploring, adventuring, frog-hunting, sure that the all-powerful, all-knowing parents will know where he or she has gone. Parents meanwhile worry themselves sick at the unexplained disappearance. Mary, the young mother, knows her son and the ways of the twelve-year-old. She does not scold or expostulate, but just accepts him with love and relief. Secondly, Jesus' reply gives us a glimpse of his relationship to the Father. Whether the correct translation is 'in my Father's house' or 'on my Father's business' matters little. Just as his questions to the teachers showed his wisdom, no doubt as yet unsharpened, so his reply to Mary shows his total absorption with his Father, inarticulate also. Jesus' human mind needed to develop and become fully articulate. Even he needed to go on learning and clarifying to himself who and what he was. We learn only gradually who and what we are. A child's development – even a divine child's development – is not to be rushed.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

L'inquietudine e l'incomprensione di Maria e di Giuseppe, nonostante la loro vicinanza a Gesù, nonostante che siano stati preparati da Dio al compito di accompagnare i primi passi della vita di Gesù, ci riportano a quello che è il nostro atteggiamento di fronte all'opera di Dio in noi e intorno a noi. Ogni essere è un mistero per quelli che lo circondano. La sofferenza che nasce da questa solitudine collettiva non trova pace se non nella fede.

Noi siamo vicini gli uni agli altri perché siamo tutti amati di un amore divino. L'amore che ci unisce, lungi dall'abolire il nostro essere diversi gli uni dagli altri, rafforza, anima e sviluppa quanto c'è di originale in noi. Ma solo una carità che venga da Dio può mettere nei nostri cuori una tale disposizione.

Maria e Giuseppe non hanno capito a fondo ciò che Gesù diceva o faceva. Ma hanno accettato, nella fede e per amore, di vederlo compiere la sua vita e adempiere alla sua missione, partecipandovi nell'oscurità della loro fede. Che lezione per noi! Quando non capiamo l'azione del nostro prossimo, perché supera le nostre capacità, dobbiamo saper amare senza capire: solo con un tale atteggiamento tutto diventa possibile.

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 to be a priest, religious or deacon contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, DoV, AoT at 416-968-0997 .
Email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

Pray for Vocations

“... what you think is right isn't the same as knowing what is right.”
~ E.A. Bucchianeri, *Brushstrokes of a Gadfly* ~

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 28TH– SABATO
5:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH– DOMENICA
8:30 A.M. + Celia Cruz
10:00 A.M. (Italian)

Intenzioni di Vito Barbieri
Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia - Elisabetta Barbieri
Leonello Pecorari - Marino D'Attolico
Luigi e Lucia Cuoppolo - Vito e Mike Cuoppolo
Vittorio Mastromartino - Vincenza Di Tacchio
Renato Errico - Enrico e Calogera Scirocco
Nicola e Giovanna Sidoti - Eleonora Ruberto
Pina Tedesco - Maria Criniti - Rocco Tedesco
Nicola Bilotta - Giuseppina Caponetto
Antonietta Zambri

11:30 A.M. - Caroline Aguilar

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. - Florence Abuan

MONDAY DECEMBER 30TH– LUNEDI
8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne
12:00 P.M. - The Canite Family

TUESDAY DECEMBER 31ST– MARTEDI
8:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners
12:00 P.M. - Pro Populo (Latin)
5:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1ST– MERCOLEDI
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 Populo (Latin)
5:00 P.M. - No Evening Mass

THURSDAY JANUARY 2ND– GIOVEDI
7:00 A.M. - Pro Populo
8:30 A.M. - Philomena O'Brien

FRIDAY JANUARY 3RD– VENERDI
8:30 A.M. - Mary Tisseverasinghe
7:00 P.M. - Angela & Michael

SATURDAY JANUARY 4TH– SABATO
8:30 A.M. + Rose & Anthony Galekovic
10:00 A.M. - Michael de Souza

OFFERTORY LAST WEEK
Regular: \$6,171.85
Christmas: \$11,477.30
Bell Tower Envelopes: \$16,450.00
Christmas Market: \$7,752.75

thank you

THE HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 29TH, 2024

**Pastor's
Corner**

Dear Friends in Christ, as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family this Sunday, permit me to offer you the words taken from a speech that Saint Pope Paul VI gave titled, “Nazareth, a Model.”

“Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ’s life was like and even to understand his Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God’s Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually we may even learn to imitate him.

Here we can learn to realize who Christ really is. And here we can sense and take account of the conditions and circumstances that surrounded and affected his life on earth: the places, the tenor of the times, the culture, the language, religious customs, in brief, everything which Jesus used to make himself known to the world. Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning. Here we can learn the importance of spiritual discipline for all who wish to follow Christ and to live by the teachings of his Gospel.

How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God’s truths. But here we are only on pilgrimage. Time presses and I must set aside my desire to stay and carry on my education in the Gospel, for that education is never finished. But I cannot leave without recalling, briefly and in passing; some thoughts I take with me from Nazareth.

First, we learn from its silence. If only we could once again appreciate its great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, beset as we are by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God’s inner wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

Second, we learn about family life. May Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family’s holy and enduring character and exemplify its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings, in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children—and for this there is no substitute.

Finally, in Nazareth, the home of a craftsman’s son, we learn about work and the discipline it entails. I would especially like to recognize its value—demanding yet redeeming—and to give it proper respect. I would remind everyone that work has its own dignity. On the other hand, it is not an end in itself. Its value and free character, however, derive not only from its place in the economic system, as they say, but rather from the purpose it serves.

In closing, may I express my deep regard for people everywhere who work for a living. To them I would point out their great model, Christ their brother, our Lord and God, who is their prophet in every cause that promotes their well-being” (in Nazareth on January 5, 1964).

May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you and all your loved ones!
Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*



*Our Lady of
Guadalupe to
St. Juan Diego
Am I not here.
I, who am your
Mother?
Are you not
under my shadow
and protection?
Am I not the
source of your
joy?
Are you not in
the hollow of my
mantle, in the
crossing of my
arms?
Do you need
anything more?
Let nothing else
worry you or
disturb you.*



SACRED JOURNEY
RESTORING THE HOUSE OF GOD

THANK YOU!!!

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$155,0440.00

To donate SCAN the QR CODE or

<https://tinyurl.com/SLMDonationForm>



THE HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 29TH, 2024



Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service 2025 Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, 4 p.m. EST

Venue: North City Church (Toronto District Christian High School, Highway 7/
Kipling Ave.) 377 Woodbridge Ave., Woodbridge, L4L 2V7

Theme: “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26) Join Bishop John A. Boissonneau (Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto) and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for His Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches and celebrates the 1,700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicea.



New Year Schedule

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**

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 contact the school in case of any queries at 416 393 5264.*



ShareLife is grateful for your generous hearts this 2024!

Your gift will double in value! From November 1 until year end, your contribution to our parish's SL campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000.

There's still time to touch more lives. If you donate online by December 31, you will receive a 2024 tax receipt.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.



2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP

at the back of the Church.

Please discard all previous envelopes.

Thank you for your support.

Dear Padre

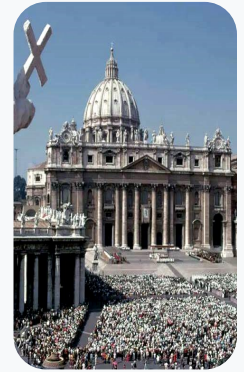
December 29, 2024

If Jesus was a Jew, why are we Catholic and not Jewish?

Jesus was a first-century Jew, as were his first disciples. They continued their Jewish practices after Jesus' resurrection, but they believed and proclaimed that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of Judaism. Such claims inevitably led to clashes with Jewish authorities, as when St. Stephen, the first martyr, was charged with blasphemy and stoned to death in Jerusalem in the year 36 (Acts 6—7).

Nevertheless, Jesus' followers initially saw themselves as reformers of Judaism—not founders of a new religion. The Acts of the Apostles traces the first thirty years of this community of believers, from Jesus' ascension in Jerusalem to Paul's imprisonment in Rome. It details the beginnings of their separation from Judaism, as when the Jewish disciples wanted to impose certain practices of Mosaic Law on the Gentile disciples—circumcision, for example (Acts 15:11). Acts and the epistles also chronicle the expansion outside of Jerusalem to the Mediterranean region, where, for example, in Antioch, the disciples of Jesus were called Christians for the first time (Acts 11:26). The first written reference to “Catholic Church” is from St. Ignatius of Antioch around the year 107. Catholic means “universal.” “The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith.... She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 868). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / 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

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 ~

