

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*

Merry Christmas



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ DECEMBER 28TH, 2025

Lectio Divina

A Prayerful Reading of Sacred Scripture

The Gospel for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."

"Go to Joseph," Pharaoh told his starving people, "and do whatever he tells you" (Gn 41:55). Here in the Gospel of Matthew, Saint Joseph strikingly fulfills the role of his Old Testament namesake. In Genesis, Joseph explains to his brothers, "It was really for the sake of saving lives that God sent me here" (Gn 45:5), whereas in the Gospel, it is Saint Joseph and the Holy Family being sent to Egypt for the sake of saving lives. Certainly, God could have protected the Holy Family by any number of means, but he chose to do so through Saint Joseph, whom he set in charge of his household (cf. Gn 41:40).

"Indeed, the whole world came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain" (Gn 41:57). The Old Testament Joseph preserved the grain in Egypt and saved lives. It is the same work that we see in the New Testament and even more. For Saint Joseph is in Egypt to save the life of his son—who is himself the grain of wheat that will bear fruit for the salvation of the whole world.

Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son.

"Whenever the divine favor chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task at hand" (Saint Bernadine of Siena). More than ever do we see this principle in the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph were called to be the parents of God. It is no wonder that the Church as the Body of Christ turns to these two for intercession.

In Genesis, Pharaoh tells Joseph that "without your approval no one shall lift hand or foot in all the land of Egypt" (Gn 41:44). While God is not a tyrant who demands that no one shall lift hand or foot without permission, he has given a similar authority to Mary and Joseph. In his earthly life, Jesus was obedient to his parents (Lk 2:51). This obedience is given "not only for the length of his life on earth, but also in heaven, because heavenly glory, far from destroying nature, perfects it" (Saint Louis de Montfort).

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

Prayer begins in the heart, finding its birth in silence which can break forth into words. This is perfectly shown forth by the Holy Family, especially in the silence of Saint Joseph and the Magnificat of Our Lady. Saint Faustina recounts a vision of the Holy Family and describes how "the light of God" awoke Saint Joseph while he "was also praying." The silence of Saint Joseph speaks loudly of his prayer and how he was able to rise in haste, not unlike Mary on her way to Elizabeth after the Annunciation.

The habit of prayer led to the Holy Family's quick action. In going to Egypt—and even in their return to Israel—they are entirely putting their faith in God, not unlike Abraham, who left behind his land, his relatives, and his father's house in response to God's call and promise.

He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee.

Why did the Holy Family not just stay in Egypt? There still seems to be danger, despite what the angel said. "Never will my providence fail you," God said to Saint Catherine of Siena. All things, even the smallest of things, fall under God's providence. While his ways are often mysterious to us, God is ever working for our good. These are hard truths, because they simply demand trust. Do we trust in God's love?

"God's love for us is fundamental for our lives, and it raises important questions about who God is and who we are" (Pope Benedict XVI). This points us back to the prophetic phrase "Out of Egypt I called my son" (Hos 11:1). This passage is about God's love: his superabundant love for his people, despite their transgressions, which leads God to resettle his people in their homes. All prophecy is about Christ. Even when seemingly evoking the Exodus from Egypt and the return from the Babylonian Exile, the Evangelist shows this prophecy of God's love fulfilled in Christ.

He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, He shall be called a Nazorean.

"Nazareth is a kind of school.... 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" (Saint Paul VI). Saint Jerome interprets Nazorean to mean "holy." Let us go then to Nazareth, to the school of Joseph and Mary, that we too may be holy. [Magnificat - November 2025 Edition](#)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ DECEMBER 28TH, 2025

Christmas Greetings

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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you and all your loved ones!

Pax Christi, Fr. Thomas

Take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.

MT 1: 18 - 24



The feast of the Holy Family inspires us to have confidence that God himself takes an interest in the generation of human life, and blesses the loving union of man and woman. "The family is the original cell of social life. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life...."

The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom" (CCC 2207). The grace of the Incarnate Word sanctifies and protects family life, making it a true path to holiness. "The family of Nazareth is holy because it was centered on Jesus" (Pope Francis).¹

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Contempliamo la Santa Famiglia e, nelle parole del vangelo di questa festività, consideriamo Gesù, Maria e Giuseppe.

Subito dopo l'adorazione dei Magi, Matteo narra nel suo Vangelo la fuga in Egitto, la strage degli innocenti e il ritorno dall'Egitto: tre episodi collegati alla storia della Santa Famiglia e presentati nel Vangelo come altrettanti compimenti di profezie dell'Antico Testamento.

L'angelo del Signore è apparso in sogno a Giuseppe e gli ha detto: "Alzati, prendi con te il bambino e sua madre e fuggi in Egitto, e resta là finché non ti avvertirò, perché Erode sta cercando il bambino per ucciderlo".

Dio, colui che è il Salvatore, agisce in diversi modi.

Un tempo aveva salvato un altro Giuseppe, sempre in Egitto, facendo sì che sfuggisse ai suoi fratelli, uscisse dalla prigione e avesse, infine, autorità e potere per aiutare i suoi fratelli e l'intera famiglia di Giacobbe, suo padre. Davvero Dio salva in diversi modi. Questa volta salva la Santa Famiglia grazie all'aiuto di un altro "giusto": san Giuseppe, spinto ad obbedire alle parole dell'angelo proprio dalla sua fiducia nel disegno divino e nel compimento della volontà celeste.

"Giuseppe, destatosi, prese con sé il bambino e sua madre nella notte e fuggì in Egitto", proprio mentre Betlemme e i dintorni stavano per risuonare di pianti e lamenti, provocati dalla strage degli innocenti. Dopo la morte di Erode, sempre obbedendo alle parole dell'angelo, Giuseppe ritorna dall'Egitto, portando con sé Gesù e Maria, per stabilirsi a Nazaret.

La fede in Dio e l'obbedienza alla sua parola possono cambiare il cammino della nostra vita. Così, è per la nostra salvezza che Dio ha salvato la Santa Famiglia.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Magnificat - November 2025 Edition | <sup>2</sup> <https://www.lachiesa.it/calendario/20251109.html>



Mass Intentions  
for the week



### **SATURDAY DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> - SABATO**

**5:00 P.M.** + Carmela & Antonio Scarano

### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> - DOMENICA**

**8:30 A.M.** For all our Parishioners

**10:00 A.M.** Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia

Vito e Mike Cuoppolo

Luigi e Lucia Cuoppolo

Anna Menna

Leonello Pecorari

Eleonora Ruberto

Pina Tedesco

Eugenio Marellò

Maria Criniti - Rocco Tedesco

Nicola Bilotta - Giuseppina Caponetta

Maria e Giuseppe Doria

Antonio e Romolo Doria

**11:30 A.M.** Emile Tumalian

**1:00 P.M.** Pro Popolo

**5:00 P.M.** Zoie Noranho

### **MONDAY DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> - LUNEDÌ**

**8:30 A.M.** Carmelita Ilag

**12:00 P.M.** Pro Popolo

### **TUESDAY DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> - MARTEDÌ**

**8:30 A.M.** + Celia Cruz

**12:00 P.M.** Maria Georgina Jose

### **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> - MERCOLEDÌ**

**8:30 A.M.** + Geraldine Senewiratne

+ Mary Agnes Dunn

**12:00 P.M.** Pro Popolo

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE - VIGILIA**

**5:00 P.M.** For all our Parishioners

### **THURSDAY JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> - GIOVEDÌ**

#### **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 Popolo

**5:00 P.M.** **NO EVENING MASS**

### **FRIDAY JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> - VENERDÌ**

**8:30 A.M.** + Vito & Grazia Tamburro

**7:00 P.M.** + Salcino, Lumina, Mark

& Luisa Saguing

### **SATURDAY JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> - SABATO**

**8:30 A.M.** Elvira Foronda

**10:00 A.M.** Pro Popolo

### **OFFERTORY LAST WEEK**

**Regular: \$ 6,321.00**

**Sacred Journey: \$ 14,606.76**

**Cardinal Collin's**

**Advent Retreat: \$ 2,405.20**



Thank  
you



## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2025



### FIRST RECONCILIATION CLASSES

Begins January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026 @ 9:50 - 11:00 AM

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Begins January 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 @ 12:50 - 2:00 PM

*Parents of children in the First Communion First Reconciliation and Confirmation programs are reminded to keep their Inbox up-to-date.*

*Emails will be sent on Monday's with updates and reminders.*

*If your email has changed prior to your child's registration please email us @ [slmsacraments@gmail.com](mailto:slmsacraments@gmail.com).*



### PILGRIMAGE TO ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & IRELAND

With Fr. Thomas Lim

**May 31 - June 14, 2026: 15 days**

Tour Coordinator: Theresia Sisca

Tel. 416-731-8252

[Learn more here](#)

### FAITH FORMATION SERIES

## IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS

### SPEAKERS & TOPICS

|                                                      |                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JAN 8, 2026</b><br><b>FR. MATT MCCARTHY</b>       | THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE GOSPELS                                                |
| <b>JAN 22, 2026</b><br><b>FR. THOMAS LIM</b>         | MARY, THE SAINTS, AND THE CALL TO HOLINESS                                      |
| <b>FEB 5, 2026</b><br><b>FR. THOMAS LIM</b>          | A REFLECTION ON MARRIAGE IN THE LIGHT OF JESUS' LOVE FOR HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH  |
| <b>SAVE THESE DATES</b><br><b>THURSDAYS @ 7:00PM</b> | <div>Feb 5 &amp; 19</div> <div>Mar 12 &amp; 26</div> <div>Apr 16 &amp; 30</div> |

### Vocation Reflection...

We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

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

[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)



### 2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES PICK-UP!

**Parishioners please pick up your 2026 Offertory Envelopes at the Entrance of the Church.**

**Is important that you discard all previous envelopes when the New Year commences.**

If you don't have offertory envelopes and would like a box, please complete the [registration form](#) found on the parish website or at the back of the Church and return in the Sunday Collection.



### Calling St. Lawrence Young Adults Are you 19 - 39 years?

The NEW St. Lawrence Martyr Young Adult Ministry Launches on **Saturday January**

**10<sup>th</sup> 2026.** This ministry is designed to support young adults in our parish through fellowship, faith formation and service. Our gathering will take place in **parish hall from 6:30— 8:00 PM** no registration required.

Young adults will be at the entrance of the church after all Sunday Masses for more information.



***Come and spend some quiet time in prayer***

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**MON - THUR 9AM - 12PM (CHURCH)\***

**EVERY FRIDAY 9AM - 7PM (CHURCH)\***

**\*IN CHAPEL, WHEN THERE IS A FUNERAL.**



### Kindergarten and Elementary Registration at St. Lawrence School

Begins Wednesday January 21<sup>ST</sup> 2026

[www.tcdsb.org/page/admissions](http://www.tcdsb.org/page/admissions). Applications entered before the above start time are considered for the current school year (2025-2026) and are invalid for September 2026. **Please visit the website for registration details.**

### 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 ~

