

St. Pius X Parish

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PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Massillamani Zacharias (Fr. Mani), **Pastor**

Michelle Somers, **Parish Secretary**



Feast of the Holy Family



Saturday, December 28

5 pm + Gregorio & Teresa Yrastorza

Sunday, December 29

9 am Parishioners

11 am + Amelia & José Udasco

Tuesday, December 31

8:30 am Parishioners

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9 am Parishioners

11 am Parishioners

Friday, January 3

8:30 am Parishioners

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1.20-22, 24-28

Psalm: Ps 84.1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 10

Second Reading: 1 John 3.1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2.41-52

Sponsoring the Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp signifies the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It burns for the greater glory of God. Parishioners are invited to become monthly sponsors of the Sanctuary Lamp. Please contact the parish office if you wish to donate. Doing so becomes an opportunity for friends and families to pray at the Tabernacle knowing the Lamp burns for their intentions.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in January for the intentions of:

Marilyn Tremblay



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel with the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. This offers what seems to be a realistic view of family life. Though part of Luke's Infancy Story, it presents Jesus no longer as a passive infant but as a young adolescent beginning to grasp, at this age, his adult identity.

Luke tells the story in a way that brings out strongly the element of misunderstanding between the boy and his parents. Jesus' response to his mother's complaint reflects adolescent impatience: "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?". On Mary's lips, "father" refers to her husband, Joseph. But Jesus is speaking of his Father in heaven. Into their tranquil family life bursts a sharp reminder of his true status as the unique Son of God and of the destiny to which they will have to surrender him. This surrender, beginning here and now and culminating at the cross, is the "sword" that will pierce Mary's heart, as the aged Simeon prophesied at the Presentation.

Although he is young, Jesus does not seem to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God. No image of God or of the relationship God wishes to have with us is ever adequate. But we do have to picture God in human terms and the "family" image is the one that Jesus gave us. And so we say, "Our Father".

The Gospel brings out the uniqueness of Jesus as well as his identification with the ordinary human condition. His Father's house, which will ultimately involve a painful destiny, is his mission to draw the entire human race back into a "family" relationship with God that it had lost through sin. (Excerpts from: *Loyola Press; Brendan Byrne, SJ.*)

PARISH NEWS

New Year's Day Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God & New Year's Day: 9 am & 11 am

Please Note: There will be no Mass on January 2. The office will close at noon on December 31 and will be closed on January 2.

Annual Pastor Vacation

Fr. Mani will be away on vacation from January 4 to February 4, 2025. In his absence, Fr. Jubin Lawrence will be available to celebrate Masses and minister to your pastoral needs.

Donation Envelope Box

Anyone who has not yet picked up their donation envelope box may ask the Usher for it before or after Mass.

ShareLife

Our Bishop informs us that the 2024 ShareLife fund-raising campaign is a million dollars short of its target. Every contribution made until December 31st will be matched up to \$500,000 by a generous anonymous donor. Please give what you can.

Furniture Donation Request

If anyone has small side tables they are no longer keeping, we would be grateful to receive them for use in the rectory. A kind parishioner has delivered two beautiful ones, so we now need only two tables.

Friars Student Writing Contest 2025

Theme: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26).

Deadline: January 13, 2025

High school students aged 13 to 19 from the Catholic School Boards in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event, which honours the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity taking place from January 18 to 25. To learn more and to submit your entry, go to <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

Email ecumenical@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 ext. 527 for more information.

"Journey Through Advent"

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is presenting an online weekly video series. This year, the reflections will be led by Archbishop Leo and will offer meaningful reflections on the Gospel readings during each of the four Sundays of Advent. Visit <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>.

Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025

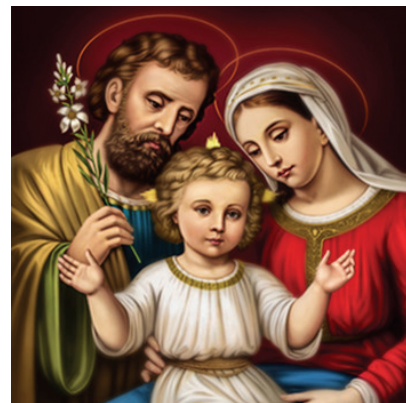
The theme for this 2025 Jubilee Year is "Pilgrims of Hope". The solemn opening of the Year will take place with a Eucharistic Celebration at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on Sunday, December 29, 2024, at 5:00 pm. All are welcome to join in this special Mass. Please see the letter from His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo here: <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/archdiocesan/invitation-from-archbishop-leo-to-launch-the-ordinary-year-of-jubilee--december-29-2024/>.

Our Cardinal's Christmas Message

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/archdiocesan/christmas-message-from-his-emminence-frank-cardinal-leo/>.

Vocations

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, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997, or email vocations@archtoronto.org. For information, go to www.vocationstoronto.ca.



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