

JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION?

Many people mistakenly believe that the term “Immaculate Conception” refers to Mary’s sinless conception of Jesus, but it actually honours Mary’s unique position of being conceived without original sin. This means that unlike the rest of us, Mary was born with an absolute openness to God and God’s will in her life (Luke 1:38): **“Let it be with me according to your word”**.

According to the Catholic faith, God wanted someone sinless to be the mother of His Son. Catholics look at Luke 1:28 where the Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary in Nazareth and says: **“Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.”** This greeting tells us Mary was in special grace with God.

But Mary still had free will, could be tempted, and she still said yes to God. This is one more reason to love Mary and try to model our lives after her. Mary is the perfect servant of God whom we should all strive to be more like her.

The Immaculate Conception of Mary was only defined as a dogma in 1854 by Pope Pius IX and is celebrated on December eight. In some countries, this celebration is also a public holiday. As Catholics, we pray in thanksgiving for the way Mary accepted God’s will. We also ask her to pray for us. Knowing that it will lead to her Son, Jesus.

Tens of thousands of churches around the world today bear her name. And some of the most beautiful cathedrals (just two outstanding examples being Chartres and Notre Dame de Paris) were dedicated to Mary. In Canada, we have the beautiful Notre Dame in Montreal and in the USA, there is the shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

As a curiosity, at the beginning, our church was known as the Church of the Immaculate Conception and our church bell has this inscription: Presented by Vicar General McCann, Blessed by Archbishop O’Connor, Jubilee Year of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, AD 1904.

Christmas Concert

Next Saturday, December 10th, we will have our Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. All are welcomed.

Confirmation Information

We will have a meeting on Thursday, December 8th, at 7:00 p.m. regarding Confirmation. All candidates and their parents must attend this meeting.



Christmas Mass Schedule

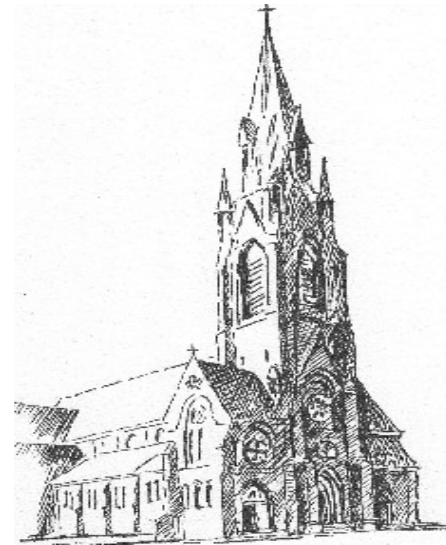
Our Christmas Eve Masses will be 9:00 p.m. in Portuguese and 11:00 p.m. in English.

Our Christmas Day Masses will be 10:00 a.m. in Portuguese, 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 pm in English.

St. Mary's Church

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)

Rev. Fr. João Ferreira (Associate Pastor)



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OFFICE HOURS

Mon.– Fri. 8:30—12:00 and 1:00—4:00

Sunday Masses

8:30 am Portuguese

10:00 am Portuguese

11:30 am English

1:00 pm English

Weekday Masses

Monday—Friday 9:00 am Portuguese

6:00 pm English

Saturday 5:00 pm English

6:30 pm Portuguese

Parish Council

Parish Finance Council

Legion of Mary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of Every Month at 5:00 p.m.

English Choir

Portuguese Choir

Ana da Silva 905-891-5444

Santo Cristo

Joey Teves 647-887-2804

Santo Cristo Band (Hall)

Marco Lima (President) 416-703-2231

416-818-5462

Santo Cristo Association

Please contact the parish 416-703-2326

Espirito Santo

Afonso & Filomena Vieira 905-848-8571

Saint Vincent De Paul

416-247-8868

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

Baptism—Sundays

Baptisms will be booked by appointment only

Marriages

Please contact the priest 12 months in advance

Confessions

Every day before Mass, except on Sunday

Schools

St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205

Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462



December 4, 2022

First Reading (Is 11;1-10) We hear about the coming of the Messiah, and the kind of justice and peace he would bring.

Psalm: *In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound forever.*

Isaiah foretells that even though the family tree of Jesse (David’s father) has been reduced to a mere stump, nevertheless from that stump a new shoot will spring—a true king filled with the Spirit and endowed with all the virtues of his ancestors. The new king (the Messiah) will be a champion of the poor and will restore paradisaal peace.

Gospel (Mt 3:1-12) We hear once again the voice of John the Baptist, saying to us what he said to his contemporaries: ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand’.

Christmas Confessions

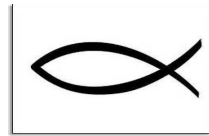
Our Christmas Confessions will be held on Friday, December 16th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

On Jordan's Bank

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh:
awake and listen for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Let every heart be cleansed from sin,
make straight the way for God within,
and so prepare to be the home
where such a mighty guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,
To thee shall come Emmanuel.**

O come thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.

Turn to Me

**Turn to me, O man and be saved,
Says the Lord for I am God;
There is no other, none beside me.
I call your name.**

I am He that comforts you;
Who are you to be afraid of man who dies,
is made like the grass of the fields,
soon to wither.

Listen to me, my people;
Give ear to me my nation:
a law will go forth from me,
and my justice for a light to the people.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth down below.
The heavens will vanish like smoke,
and the earth will wear out like a garment.

Soon and Very Soon

Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King,
Alleluia, alleluia,
we're going to see the King!
No more crying there,
we are going to see the King...
No more dying there,
we are going to see the King...

Mass Intentions for this Week

Saturday, December 3rd

5:00 pm. Intention of Connie, Larry & Joshua Medeiros—
Intention of Victoria Guerra—Michael, Frank & Bernice
Jenkowski, Henrique Raposo & Maria José Barbosa

6:30 pm. Maria da Conceição Senra

Sunday, December 4th

8:30 am. Nelissa da Mota

10:00 am. Community—José Luis & Maria Teresa Branco—José &
Jesuina Camara—José Farias, brother & family—Judy da Silva—
Laurentino Silva & family, Carlos Pereira & family

11:30 am. Arlindo, Ilda & Richard John HughesVicente

1:00 pm. John Corso

Monday, December 5th

9:00 am. Intentions of Martinho & Luisa Rodrigues, children & in-
laws

6:00 pm. José Manuel Oliveira Correia, intention of Lucia Correia

Tuesday, December 6th

9:00 am. Intentions of Sousa family

6:00 pm. Evaristo Raposo

Wednesday, December 7th

9:00 am. Belmira & Raul Moura

6:00 pm. Ermelinda Arruda

Thursday, December 8th

9:00 pm. Immaculate Conception

6:00 pm. Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 9th

9:00 am. Souls in purgatory

6:00 pm. Luis Augusto Ribeiro Raposo

Saturday, December 10th

5:00 pm. Souls in purgatory

6:30 pm. Guilherme do Couto & family—João Manuel Pereira
de Estrela—Parents & in-laws of José Manuel Resendes—Rosa
Gonçalves Dantas & Augusto da Silva Dantas—Maria Fausta
Cunha—Carlos Joaquim