

What do we know about Santa Claus

St. Nicholas was born in Patara, around 280 A.D., in southwest modern-day Turkey, was much admired for his piety and kindness and became the bishop of Myra. During the Diocletian persecution he was imprisoned, but was later released unharmed. He is believed to have died on December 6, 343.

Nicholas was a rich man because his parents died when he was young leaving him a lot of money. This allowed him to help the poor, giving secret gifts to the needy.

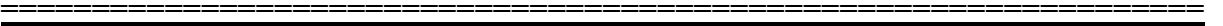
One legend, that gives rise to the tradition of giving presents at Christmas, involves three girls, to each he is believed to have given a bag of gold as dowries to prevent them from being sold into the slavery of prostitution. Little by little his popularity grew and he became known as the protector of children and sailors.

The emperor Constantine built a basilica dedicated to Nicholas in Constantinople. At some point, the importance of Nicholas’s cult in northern Europe appears to have become intertwined with Nordic myths reinforcing his association with the spirit of winter with snow and holly. During the Renaissance he became the most popular saint in Europe.

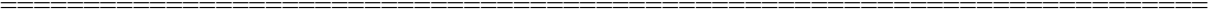
Wishing to build a reputation as a pilgrimage center, in 1087 the city of Bari in southern Italy endorsed a raid on Myra, and Nicholas bones were looted from there. To this day, every December 6, the sailors of Bari, carry his statue from the cathedral out to sea, so that he can bless the waters and to give them safe voyages throughout the year.

As one can see, the real St. Nicholas has little resemblance with the commercialized Santa Claus of the North Pole. As children grow up, sooner or later, they discover that there is no Santa Claus. And in some countries around the world the Christmas gifts are attributed to Baby Jesus.

There is no harm in singing that Santa Claus is coming to town... having a Santa Claus Parade, etc. But, ultimately Christmas is about Jesus. Jesus is the reason for the season!



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



Christmas Mass Schedule

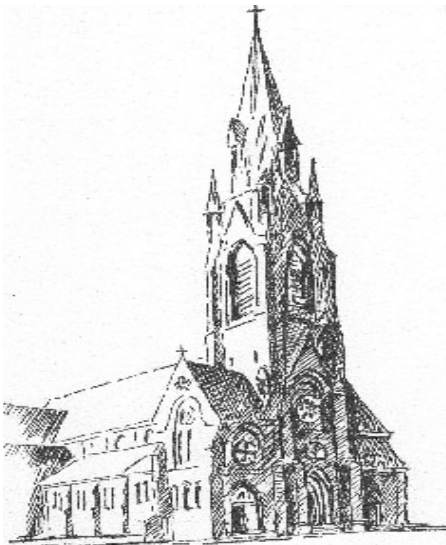
Our Christmas Eve Masses will be 9:00 p.m. in Portuguese and 11:00 p.m. in English.

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) 416-703-2231
Marco Lima (President) 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

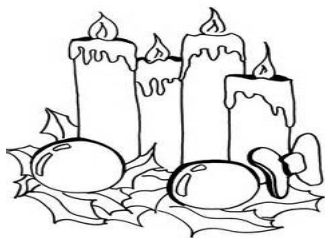
Volunteer Co-ordinator
Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

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 11, 2022

First Reading (Is 35:1-6.10) God is the hope of his people who are crushed by misfortune. Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people, crushed by misfortune.

Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading (Jam 5:7-10) St. James urges us to be patient with one another, and patient regarding the Lord's final coming.

Gospel (Mt 11:2-11) In today's Gospel we see Jesus at work: enabling the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk. It is a marvelous display of compassion for suffering humanity. In this Eucharist we encounter the same compassionate Jesus. Let us not be afraid to let him see our wounds and handicaps.

Remember the Poor

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, let us all remember those families who are far less fortunate. Please submit all monetary offerings in a personal envelopes labeled **“For the Poor”** . Thank you!

O Come Divine Messiah

O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

**Sweet Savior haste;
Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.**

O Thou, whom nations sigh for,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
will break the captive fetters;
Redeem the long-lost fold.

Shall come in peace and meekness,
And lowly will thy cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness
Shall we your Godhead see.

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.

Like A Shepherd

**Like a shepherd He feeds His flock
And carries the lambs in His arms.
Holding them carefully close to His heart,
Leading them home.**

Say to the cities of Judah,
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Go to the mountain top, lift your voice,
Jerusalem, here is your God.

I myself will shepherd them
For others have led them astray.
The lost I will rescue and heal their wounds,
And pasture them, giving them rest.

Come unto me, if you are heavily burdened
And take my yoke upon your shoulders,
I will give you rest.



People Look East

People look east, the time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth, and set the table.
People look east and sing today,
Love, the Guest is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen,
He for fledging time has chosen.
People look east and sing today,
Love the Bird is on the way.

Mass Intentions for this Week

Saturday, December 10th

5:00 pm. Souls in purgatory—Joaquim & Maria Antunes

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—Maria da Conceição Rego & spouse

Sunday, December 11th

8:30 am. Olivia, João e Fernando Machado

10:00 am. Community—Maria Teresa Maiato & family—Joe Gaspar, grandparents & uncles

11:30 am. António Fernandes & family

1:00 pm. Alice Mendes & Silvana Gomes

Monday, December 12th

9:00 am. Maria José Ledo, parents & in-laws

6:00 pm. Maria Brum

Tuesday, December 13th

9:00 am. Vittorio & Attilia Bettio

6:00 pm. Ildeberto Camara

Wednesday, December 14th

9:00 am. Maria Rosa & José Couto, parents, in-laws, family & souls in purgatory

6:00 pm. Souls in purgatory

Thursday, December 15th

9:00 pm. St. Therese of Jesus, St. John of the Cross & St. Therese of the Child Jesus

6:00 pm. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, December 16th

9:00 am. Manuel de Amaral Morgado

6:00 pm. Miguel Medeiros, parents, in-laws & family

Saturday, December 17th

5:00 pm. António & Manuel Faria—Leonel Moniz Cabral, parents, in-laws & family—Artur, Maria & Luisa Cabral—Intention of Adelaida Guerra—Abel da Rocha, Maria & Vasco Afonso—Mariano Machado, parents, in-laws & family, Lurdes Teixeira & Edna Grace Avery—Ricardo Perada

6:30 pm. Manuela Amaral—Fernando & Agrinoalda Camara—João Rodrigues—Fernando Pinguelo