

CHRISTMAS

What’s the real date of Christmas?

To answer this question, we have to start with the fact that we do not know exactly when Jesus was born. St. Luke reminds us that the first Christmas, the day of Jesus’ birth, wasn’t a holiday, but a working day. The truth is, no one knows the real birthday of Jesus. Most likely Jesus was born in the Spring and not in the Winter.

The early Christians certainly had different opinions about when it should be celebrated. The Romans celebrated the “Dies Natalis Solis Invicti” meaning the birthday of the unconquered sun on December 25. It was a festival in which they worshipped the sun for winning over the darkness of winter (and that’s where Sunday comes from).

By the 4th century, the Christians in Rome were so many, and many were slaves it made sense to choose a day that was already a holiday and people did not have to work. By taking over this pagan festival (Saturnalia) the Christians gave it a new meaning: Jesus is the Son of God and He is the Light of the World.

What is the other date for Christmas?

The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336, during the time of Emperor Constantine. After that, Pope Julius I, decided that everybody should celebrate Christmas on December 25th. But not everybody agreed. St. John Chrysostom, urged the Christians in the east to celebrate Christmas on December 25th. They chose not to go along and to this day, like the Armenian Apostolic Church, they celebrate Christmas on January 6th which is for the Christians in the west, the feast of the Epiphany. And because many Orthodox and Coptic Churches still use the Julian calendar they celebrate Christmas on January 7th.

Who started the First Nativity Representation?

In the catacomb of St. Sebastian in Rome, there is a fresco from the 4th century which depicts Mary, Joseph and Jesus, an ox and a donkey. (The first Christmas card). Later in 1223, St. Francis of Assisi, re-enacted the whole story with live animals, people, and a Mass that lasted just about the whole night. (The first Nativity representation).

Christmas Eve Schedule

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

On Christmas Day Masses will be at 10:00 a.m. Portuguese, 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 pm. In English.

Sunday School

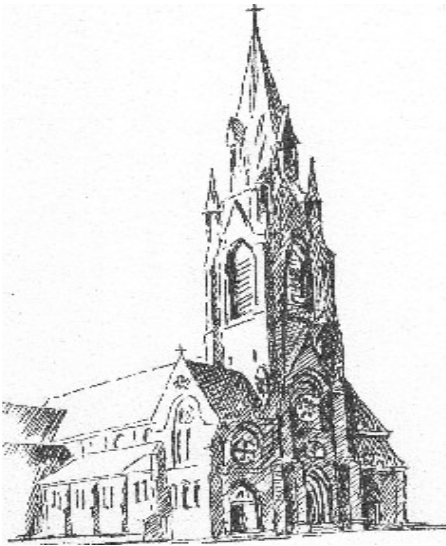
We will not have Sunday School on the next two Sundays. Classes will resume on **Sunday, January 8th.**

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for all donations made towards and poor and flowers.

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

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

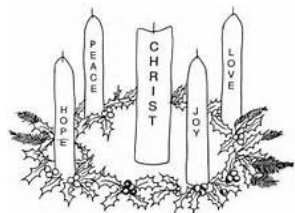
Please contact the priest 12 months in advance

Confessions

Every day before Mass, except on Sunday

Schools

St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205
Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462



December 18, 2022

First Reading (Is 7:10-14) This reading foretells the birth of a very special child—a child who will be called Emmanuel, that is God-with-us.

Psalms: *May the Lord come in; he is kind of glory.*

Second Reading (Rom 1:1-7) These opening lines from Paul's letter to the Romans draw attention to the human and divine 'roots' of Jesus.

Gospel (Mt 1:18-25) Matthew shows that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus, and in a far greater way that the prophet could ever have imagined. The New Testament reveals the true identity of this special Child.

The Second Reading and the Gospel make it clear that Jesus was the Son of David. This was so because Joseph, his legal father, was descended from the line of David. But he is more than that. He is also the Son of God.

Church Offerings

We ask that all your donations for this year, be made by December 31st. Donations made after this date will not reflect on your income tax receipt for 2022. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Gather Your People

**Gather your people, O Lord.
Gather your people, O Lord.
One bread, one body, one spirit of love.
Gather your people, O Lord.**

Draw us forth to the table of life:
brothers and sisters,
each of us called to walk in your light.

We are parts of the body of Christ,
needing each other,
each of the gifts the Spirit provides.

No more harm on the mountain of God:
swords into plowshares.
Free us, O Lord, from hardness of heart.



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 Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine Advent here.
Dispel the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Christ Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see.

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us Your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gift, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come.

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 crying there, we are going to see the King.
No more crying there, we are going to see the King,
Alleluia, alleluia, we're going to see the King!

Mass Intentions for this Week

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—Humberto & Maria do Rosário Correia, João Cabral & Maria de Jesus Vidinha

Sunday, December 18th

8:30 am. Raimundo Soares, parents, in-laws & family

10:00 am. Community—Santo Cristo Association—Maria de Fátima Melo — Jaime de Sousa—Maria Esperança Amaral & family—Liberal Paul Silva—Manuel Cordeiro Cabral—Irene Loureiro, Alice & Aristides Medeiros—António Pimentel—Victor Ferreira

11:30 am. Ana Carvalho—Maria do Carmo Machado—Thanksgiving Mass for Daniel Mammarella

1:00 pm. Intention of Maggie Medeiros

Monday, December 19th

9:00 am. Souls in purgatory

6:00 pm. Manuel & Maria Couto & family

Tuesday, December 20th

9:00 am. Intention of Gino Paradiso

6:00 pm. Nancy Cabral

Wednesday, December 21st

9:00 am. Manuel Amorim

6:00 pm. Intention of Connie, Larry & Joshua Medeiros

Thursday, December 22nd

9:00 pm. Intention of Angela Furlin

6:00 pm. Luciano & Rosa Borges, parents, siblings & souls in purgatory

Friday, December 23rd

9:00 am. Mary Celmira Delgado & Alida Rita Delgado

6:00 pm. Nelson de Melo

Saturday, December 24th

9:00 pm. Portuguese

11:00 pm. English