

The Sign of Peace Before Communion

The Sign of Peace was an ancient tradition that gradually fell into disuse, when the priest became “the celebrant” of the Eucharist and the congregation mainly observers. Then it was reintroduced into the Mass when the Liturgy was reformed after the Second Vatican Council.

Some mistakenly may think that this is a greeting. In reality it stands as a sign of the unity and the reconciliation necessary for the community to become the Body of Christ. In the Sign of Peace we recall Jesus’ words on the need to reconcile with our brothers and sisters before we approach the altar: “If you are offering your gift at the altar, and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there at the altar and go; first be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23-24)

The common practice for the Sign of Peace is a handshake with the words “peace be with you” while making eye contact with that person. On time of flue a simple put out the hand with a smile will do.

The Sign of Peace by a hand shake is filled with meaning, graciousness, and Christian inspiration. In the early Church, it was a way of affirming those who had just joined the Church, or who had sinned but had been readmitted to the community. In some countries the local Conference of Catholic Bishops also permit a hug and a kiss.

The giving of the Sign of Peace should always be implemented with full consideration for the fact that some people do not like to be touched. For example it could be very traumatic to a person who has a history of being sexually molested. In such a case, a kiss or a hug, could be sufficient reason to destroy a person’s faith and discourage her from attending Mass again, or simply sit away from the others.

In some cases, a nice warm smile will do it.  
Simply remember that the Eucharist is a community celebration, not a private event.

**Envelopes for 2023**

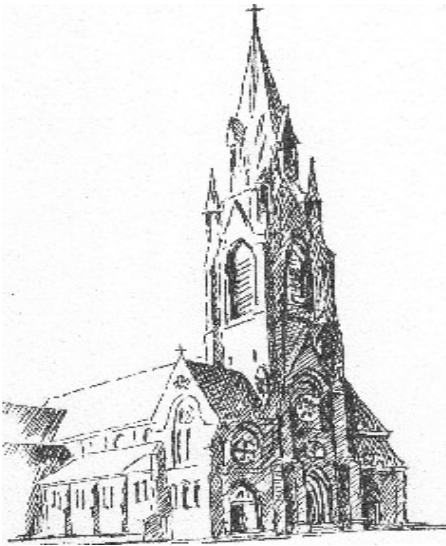
The boxes of envelopes for the Sunday collections are still available. If you are new to the church and wish to start using them, please take a box that is not assigned to anyone, fill out the registration form and place it in the envelope. Thank you.

**Calendars for 2023**

Parish calendars for 2023 are still available at the entrance of the church.

# St. Mary's Church

**Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)**  
**Rev. Fr. João Ferreira (Associate Pastor)**



**588 Adelaide St. W.**  
**Toronto, On. M6J 3P8**  
**Tel: 416-703-2326 Fax: 416-703-4196**  
**Email: stmaryschurch2@rogers.com**  
**Website: stmarysbathurst.archtoronto.org**

**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



## Mary, Mother of God

January 1, 2023

**First Reading** (*Numbers 6.22-27*)

**Psalm**—May God be gracious to us and bless us.

**Second Reading** (Galatians 4.4-7)

**Gospel** (Luke 2.16-21)

Christmas occurred just one week ago. Today we celebrate the Octave Day of Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary as the Mother of God, New Year’s Day and the World Day of Prayer for Peace. We pray for peace in our hearts, peace in our homes and peace in the world. Our hearts desire not only for a peace that ends all wars but also for a peace that reflects God’s blessings for all.

We start a new year with confidence.

“A Saviour has been born, who is Christ the Lord”. His mother is from our human family, which makes us related to God.

That’s a beautiful mystery, which we certainly would want to treasure and reflect in our hearts.

**O Come All Ye Faithful**  
Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

**Oh, come, let us adore him;**  
**Oh, come, let us adore him;**  
**Oh, come, let us adore him,**  
**Christ, the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!  
Glory to God, in the highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

### Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly,  
Virgin mother undefiled,  
Sing of God’s own Son most holy,  
Who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother,  
God the Lord who came to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother,  
Takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,  
In the home at Nazareth.  
Toil and labour cannot weary  
Love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love he gave her,  
Though he went forth from her side,  
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,  
Till on Calvary he died.

Glory be to God the Father;  
Glory be to God the Son;  
Glory be to God the Spirit;  
Glory to the Three in One.  
From the heart of blessed Mary,  
From all saints the song ascends,  
And the Church the strain reechoes  
Unto earth’s remotest ends.

### Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death. Amen.

**Gentle woman, quiet light,**  
**morning star, so strong and bright,**  
**gentle Mother, peaceful dove,**  
**teach us wisdom; teach us love.**

You were chosen by the Father;  
you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women  
and for woman, shining one.

Blessed are you among women,  
blest in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.  
Blessed they with gentle hearts.

### Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king!

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king!

### Mass Intentions for this Week

**Saturday, December 31st**

**5:00 pm. Adoration**

**6:00 pm. Mass English/Portuguese**

**Sunday, January 1st**

**10:00 am. Portuguese**

**11:30 am. English**

**1:00 pm. English**

**Monday, January 2nd**

**9:00 am.**

**6:00 pm. No Mass**

**Tuesday, January 3rd**

**9:00 am.** Souls in purgatory

**6:00 pm.** Thanksgiving to baby Roman Vaz

**Wednesday, January 4th**

**9:00 am.** Mario Gomes Ferreira, family intentions, world peace

**6:00 pm.** Souls in purgatory

**Thursday, January 5th**

**9:00 pm.** Manuel de Amorim

**6:00 pm.**

**Friday, January 6th**

**9:00 am.** All souls in purgatory

**6:00 pm.** Odete Fernandes, parents, siblings & souls in purgatory

**Saturday, January 7th**

**5:00 pm.** Maria Almeida

***To all our parishioners  
and their Families  
we wish a Happy New Year!***