

## The Gospel according to St. Mark

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, are always known as the synoptic gospels. *Synoptic* comes from two Greek words which mean *to see together*. In other words, they can be set down in parallel columns and their common matter looked at together.

The Gospel of Mark is the earliest of all and therefore the first life of Jesus that has come down to us. Mark is also the shortest gospel and more to the point.

Who then was this Mark who wrote the gospel?

Actually the New Testament tells us a good deal about him. He was the son of a well-to-do lady of Jerusalem whose name was Mary, and whose house was a meeting place of the early church (Acts 12:12). Mark was also the nephew of Barnabas, and when Paul and Barnabas set out on their first missionary journey, they took young Mark with them (Acts 12:25). When they were in Perga and Paul decided to move inland, for some reason, Mark left the expedition and went home (Acts 13:13).

On Paul's second missionary journey, Barnabas wants Mark to accompany them but Paul would hear none of it. So serious was the difference between them that Paul and Barnabas split company, and, so far as we know, never worked together again (Acts 15: 37-40).

Tradition has it that Mark later went down to Egypt where he founded the Church of Alexandria.

To our surprise, we discover that when Paul writes the letter to the Colossians from prison in Rome, Mark is with him. Also, when Paul writes to Timothy he says, "Take Mark and bring him with you; for he is a most useful servant to me" (2 Timothy 4:11).

The man Paul had dismissed as a quitter, we see that he was the one Paul wanted at the end near him.

Mark spent a lot of time with Peter and his gospel is based in all that he had heard of Peter. One could say that it is the closest we can get to an eyewitness account of the life of Jesus. Peter called him "Mark, my son" (! Peter 5:13).

The original gospel of Mark stops at Mark 16:8. By then, Mark could have suffered martyrdom or else. We will never know for sure. But the style of the Greek in the last verses (9-20) is so different that they could not have been written by the same person who wrote the rest of the gospel.

# St. Mary's Church

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)  
Rev. Fr. Andre de Lima (Associate Pastor)

Parish Council

Parish Finance Council

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
First Friday of Every Month at 5:00 p.m.

**English Choir**  
Susan Taylor 416-277-6291

**Portuguese Choir**  
Ana da Silva 905-891-5444

**Santo Cristo**  
Joey Teves 647-887-2804

**Santo Cristo Band (Hall)** 416-703-2231  
Paul Valerio (President) 647-998-5916

**Santo Cristo Association**  
Please contact the parish 416-703-2326

**Espirito Santo**  
Jose & Margarida Silva 905-873-1908

**Saint Vincent De Paul** 416-247-8868

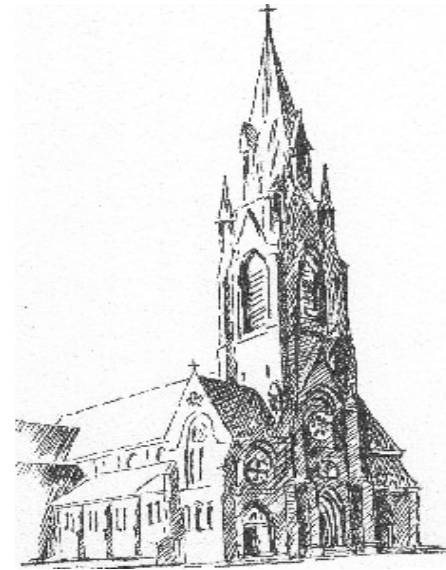
**Volunteer Co-ordinator**  
Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

**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



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### OFFICE HOURS

Mon.—Fri. 8:30—12:00 and 1:00—4:00

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#### 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



**December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading (Is 40:1-5,9-11)** The first reading is a message of hope and consolation addressed to the exiles in Babylon. The people are urged to prepare a way for the Lord who is coming to save them.

**Psalm**  
*Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.*

**Gospel (Mk 1:1-8)** Like a new Elijah, John appears in the desert and announces the coming of the redeemer Jesus, the Christ and Son of God.

**Christmas Concert**

Please join us the evening of Saturday, December 16th, for our Christmas concert at 6:30 p.m.

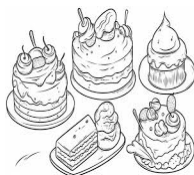


**Christmas Confessions**

Our Christmas Confessions will be on Thursday, December 14th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**Christmas Bake Sale**

We will have a Christmas bake sale with a variety of baked goods and holiday treats. December 16th from 3:00—7:00 pm. and December 17th 9:00 a.m.—2:30



**On Jordan's Bank**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward. Without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.



**Wait for the Lord**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!

**Like A Shepherd**

**Like a shepherd He feeds His flock  
 And gathers 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

**City of God**

O comfort My people; make gentle your words  
 Proclaim to My city the day of her birth.

Awake from your slumber!  
 Arise from your sleep!  
 A new day is dawning for all those who weep  
 The people in darkness have seen a great light  
 The Lord of our longing has conquered the night

**Let us build the city of God  
 May our tears be turned into dancing!  
 For the Lord, our light and our love**

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, December 9**

**5:00 pm.** Maria Brum—Guilherme do Couto—  
 Maria Bruno—Guilherme Barbosa de Melo—  
 António Ferreira—Evelina Kailas

**Sunday, December 10**

**8:30 am.** Olivia, João & Fernando Machado

**10:00 am.** Community—Thanksgiving & praise to Santo Cristo—Maria Teresa Maiato & family—José Farias, parents & siblings—Intention of Paulo Sousa & family—José Caldas

**11:30 am.** João Machado & Maria do Carmo—  
 Masarie Berdida & Vanessa Mamigo—Luis Alfonso Burgos

**1:00 pm.** Alice Mendes & Silvana Gomes—António Soares Estrela—Maria da Conceição Medeiros Rego & Guilherme Soares

**Monday, December 11**

**9:00 am.** Souls in purgatory—António Ferreira  
**6:00 pm.** Joe Gaspar, grandparents & uncles

**Tuesday, December 12**

**9:00 am.** Intention of Filomena & Jamie Melo  
**6:00 pm.** Deceased family of Maria Gomes

**Wednesday, December 13**

**9:00 am.** St. Lucy  
**6:00 pm.** Ildeberto Camara—St. Lucy

**Thursday, December 14**

**9:00 am.** Maria Rosa, José Couto, parents, in-laws, family & souls in purgatory  
**6:00 pm.** Souls in purgatory

**Friday, December 15**

**9:00 am.** Manuel de Amaral Morgado  
**6:00 pm.** Miguel Medeiros, parents, in-laws, siblings & family

**Saturday, December 16**

**5:00 pm.** José Manuel Oliveira Correia, intention of Lucia Correia — Irena, Lorenzo & Mariannina Mariconda—João Rodrigues—Intention of Adelaida Guerra