

## New Year

Around the world, different people began their secular calendar on different days. A January 1 was set for the Roman Empire in 45 B.C.E. by Julius Caesar with the creation of the Julian calendar. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII sponsored a reform of the Julian calendar and reinstated January 1 as New Year's Day.

Speaking from his window overlooking St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said: "We are all children of one heavenly father, we belong to the same human family and we share a common destiny. This brings a responsibility for each to work so that the world becomes a community of brothers who respect each other, accept each other in one's diversity and takes care of one another".

On New Years day all Catholics pray for peace in the world. A peace that is rooted in our own hearts. A peace that starts with us. A peace that is not defined as absence of war, but a peace that speaks of good relations based on respect for each other and respect for basic human rights. A peace that reflects God's blessings for all.

We should not to be indifferent to the violence and injustices present in so many parts of the world. There are things that should make us angry. As there are times to speak up and be counted. We should remember the words of Jesus: "Blessed are the peace makers, theirs is the kingdom of God."

Pope Francis has frequently blasted the weapons industry as "merchants of death" and has said that wars today are being used to try new weapons or use up old stock piles, and how can we even speak of peace, when arms production, sales and trade are on the rise?

The blessing in today's First Reading, perhaps one of the best known sections of the entire Torah, is a priestly blessing upon the people, derived from Moses's brother Aaron and his priestly descendants. The blessing is threefold, and is so beautiful that it's an integral part, not only of Jewish services, but of many Christian ones as well. It reads:

*"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"*

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### 2024 Envelopes

Your numbered box of envelopes for the Sunday collections are still available. If you need any assistance, please contact the office at 416-703-2326.

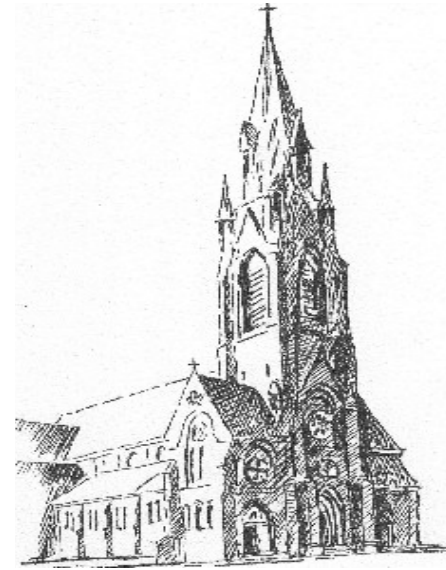
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*To all our parishioners and  
their Families we wish  
a Happy New Year!*

# St. Mary's Church

**Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)**

**Rev. Fr. Andre de Lima (Associate Pastor)**



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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

### 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)

Paul Valerio (President) 416-703-2231  
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



### Holy Family of Nazareth

December 31, 2023

The prophet Zephaniah, writing in the seventh century BC, bids Jerusalem to rejoice because salvation is near. God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies.

God is portrayed, not only as a king and warrior, but also as a loving bridegroom, who steadfastly loves his unworthy and unfaithful bride.

The theme of joy is even more emphatic in the Second Reading. Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice because the Lord is near. (Paul was thinking about the Second Coming, which he believed was near.)

The theme of the nearness of the Lord is also at the heart of the Gospel. John the Baptist tells the people what they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgment. At the same time he makes it clear that he is subordinate to Jesus.

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plain,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strain.

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say, what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heav'nly song.

Come to Bethlehem, and see,  
Him, whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
Christ, our Lord, the newborn King.

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### What Child is This

What child is this, who laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping.

**This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.**

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here,  
The silent Word is pleading.

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinner reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
With th'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 God-head see,  
Hail, th'incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as one with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King.

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### Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord has come:  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world the Saviour reigns:  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, December 30**

**5:00 pm.** Maria Raulino

**Sunday, December 31**

**8:30 am.** Clemente Couto

**10:00 am.** Community

**11:30 am.** Ana Carvalho—Luis Alfonso Burgos

**1:00 pm.**

**5:00 pm.** Adoracion

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

**Monday, January 1**

**10:00 am.** Portuguese

**11:30 pm.** English

**1:00 pm.** English

**Tuesday, January 2**

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

**6:00 pm.** In honour of God the Almighty Father

**Wednesday, January 3**

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

**6:00 pm.**

**Thursday, January 4**

**9:00 am.** Mario Gomes Ferreira, family intentions,  
for the sick

**6:00 pm.**

**Friday, January 5**

**9:00 am.** Ermelinda Arruda

**6:00 pm.** Thanksgiving Mass, blessings for the new  
year

**Saturday, January 6**

**5:00 pm.** Odete Fernandes, Manuel Medeiros  
parents, in-laws, souls in purgatory