

## Valentine, Martyr: died 269

There is some confusion about the life of Valentine. There may have been two Valentines, one a priest and physician in Rome, the second the bishop of Interamna, a town about sixty miles from Rome. Many scholars believe that these were one and the same person.

Valentine, the priest, cared for Christians who were being persecuted under Claudius II. Arrested for this, he was sent by the emperor to the prefect of Rome who tried to persuade Valentine to renounce his faith. The prefect failed in his efforts, and he ordered Valentine to be beheaded. The execution took place on February 14, 269. He was buried on the Flaminian Way in Rome where a church was erected in his honor and a gate, the Porta Valentini (now known as Porta del Popolo) was named for him.

Valentine, the bishop, was also beheaded and buried on the Flaminian way though he is said to have been executed in Interamna where a great devotion to the saint built up immediately. Tradition has it that he also was killed on February 14, however the year of his death is put as 273. It is entirely possible that Valentine, the bishop, was brought to Rome where he was put to death, thus, it is likely that Valentine, the priest, and Valentine, the bishop, are the same person.

The custom for young men and women to choose each other as Valentines on this day is based on the popular medieval belief, recorded in literature as early as Chaucer, that birds began to pair on this day. Early references to the custom were contained in a letter written in 1477 by Elizabeth Drews to a prospective bridegroom concerning her marriageable daughter, Margery, and Margery's letter which refers to him as "my right well beloved Valentine."

**Valentine's message today:** Since we know that God is love, it seems appropriate that we should associate one of God's saints with love. We should remember, however, that God does not want us just to love those who are dear to us. Jesus told us that we must love our enemies as well.

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### Ash Wednesday

February 14th, is Ash Wednesday, Lent begins. We will have three Masses 9:00 a.m. in Portuguese, 12:00 (noon) and 6:00 p.m. in English.

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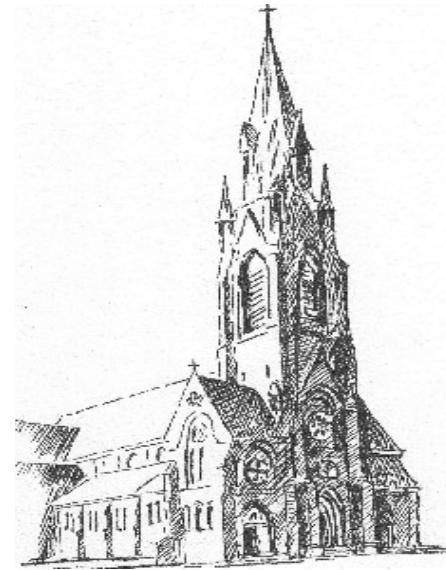
### 2024 Donation Envelopes

Your numbered box of envelopes is still available. If you did not pick up your box, please do so.

Envelope boxes will be available by the church entrance until the end of February, if you do not collect your boxes by the end of the month, we will recycle the numbers and make them available to other parishioners.

# 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



**V Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 4, 2024**

**Psalm—Sing praises to the Lord who heals the brokenhearted.**

The Book of Job confronts the problem of suffering. The common explanation was that suffering was a punishment for sin. But, though Job is a good man, he suffers greatly. His suffering causes him to take a gloomy view of life (First Reading).

This sets the scene for the Gospel. However, what we see in the Gospel is not Jesus' answer to the question 'why suffering?', but his response to actual suffering. He heals the sick and proclaims the good news of salvation.

The Gospel also shows the urgency with which he dedicated himself to preaching the Gospel, something we see exemplified also in Paul (Second Reading).

In the midst of his activity Jesus found time to pray in quiet places. It was during these hours of solitude that he maintained and fostered the most important thing in his life—his relationship with the Father.

Here lay the secret of his successful ministry. The Eucharist Celebration provides us with a great opportunity to take time out to be with the Lord.

**Sing A New Song**

**Sing a new song unto the Lord  
let your song be sung from mountains high.  
Sing a new song unto the Lord,  
singing alleluia.**

Yahweh's people dance for joy.  
O come before the Lord.  
And play for him on glad tambourines,  
and let your trumpet sound.

Rise, O children, from your sleep  
your Savior now has come.  
He has turned your sorrow to joy,  
and filled your soul with song.

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**Into Your Hands**

**Into Your hands we commend  
our spirit O Lord,  
Into Your hands we commend our hearts.  
For we must die to ourselves in loving You,  
Into Your hands we commend our love.**

O God, my God, why have You gone from me,  
Far from my prayers, far from my cry?  
To You I call and you never answer me,  
You send no comfort and I don't know why!

You've been my guide since I was very young  
You showed the way  
when I needed someone's hand  
But now I am lonely, nobody's by my side  
Stay near me Lord, and be my friend.

**You Are Mine**

I will come to you in the silence  
I will lift you from all your fear  
You will hear My voice I claim you as My choice  
Be still, and know I am here.

I am hope for all who are hopeless  
I am eyes for all who long to see  
In the shadows of the night,  
I will be your light come and rest in Me.

**Do not be afraid, I am with you  
I have called you each by name  
Come and follow Me I will bring you home  
I love you and you are mine.**

I am strength for all the despairing  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free  
And all will know My name.

I am the Word that leads all to freedom  
I am the peace the world cannot give  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain  
Stand up, now, walk, and live.

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**Blest Are They**

Blest are they, the poor in spirit  
Theirs is the kingdom of God  
Blest are they, full of sorrow  
They shall be consoled.

**Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you; holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the Kingdom of God.**

Blest are they, the lowly ones  
They shall inherit the earth  
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst  
They shall have their fill.

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, February 3**

**5:00 pm.** Diana Martinez—Nuno Pereira—Silvério Angeja—Isaac Medeiros

**Sunday, February 4**

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

**10:00 am.** Community—Henrique Sebastião—José Luis e Maria Teresa Branco—José Carlos Silva, Manuel Pereira—José de Amaral & Maria Bolarinho—Abel Ferreira, parents, in-laws & family—João Maia

**11:30 am.**

**1:00 pm.** Manuel Inácio, Maria Amaral, children & grandson—Alfredo Castro & Edgar Marin

**Monday, February 5**

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

**6:00 pm.** Intention of Janet Saunders

**Tuesday, February 6**

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

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

**Wednesday, February 7**

**9:00 am.** Intentions of Maria, Andy, Elaina & Fátima Medeiros

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

**Thursday, February 8**

**9:00 am.** Ermelinda Arruda

**6:00 pm.** Luis Augusto Ribeiro Raposo

**Friday, February 9**

**9:00 am.** Miguel Medeiros, parents, in-laws & family

**6:00 pm.** Maria & Tomas Oliveira

**Saturday, February 10**

**5:00 pm.** Souls in purgatory—Teófilo Ponte—Carlos Arruda—Odília Amaral Correia