

The Significance of Sunday for Christians

Most of the first Christians were Jews and at first Christianity was seen as a Jewish sect. The first Christians referred to themselves as followers of “the Way”.

Jesus was a Jew and most of his followers, but not all, were Messianic Jews and, as such, they continued to observe Jewish customs like going to the synagogue on the Jewish Sabbath, which lasted from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset.

St. Paul on his missionary journeys always tried to preach in the synagogue first in the places he visited. Increasingly, however, Christians found that they were rejected by Jewish communities and had to meet alone, in private homes.

This period was known as the time of the “domestic church” (1Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15).

On the first day of the week, the day of the Resurrection, Sunday, Christians came together for the “breaking of the bread” (Acts 20:7).

As more and more Gentiles flocked to join Christianity, the links with Judaism weakened. Eventually the fact that a person worshipped on a Sunday rather than a Saturday became a means of identifying Christians, at the time when Christianity was illegal in the Roman Empire.

When Constantine became a Christian, in 321, persecution stopped and he encouraged people to worship freely in churches and decreed that all work should cease on Sunday except some necessary farm work.

Sabbath means resting and is enshrined in the Ten Commandments as a day of worship and rest. *“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day” (Exodus 20:8-11).*

Since the Resurrection happened on a Sunday, the Christians have always kept the first day of the week as their day of rest.

ShareLife

Lent is a time to repent and be generous. Let us pray for all those in need during this Lent season, let us think ShareLife. Our first ShareLife collection for this year, will take place next weekend, March 17/18th.



Day of Confession

This coming Thursday, March 14th, from 10:30 to 12:00 noon and 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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

Artur Rocha 647-624-7113

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

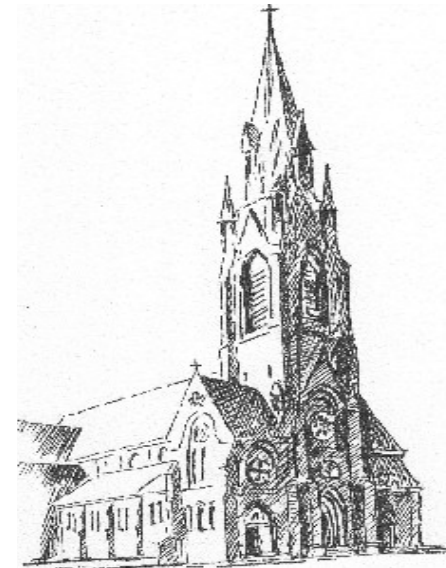
Confessions

Every day before Mass, except on Sunday

Schools

St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205

Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462



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Toronto, On. M6J 3P8

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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



IV Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2024

First Reading (2 Chron 36:14-16.19-23) The First Reading shows how God remained faithful to his people in spite of their infidelities. God's promises were not nullified by the sins of his people. It was because of their sins that God allowed his people to be exiled to Babylon. But his mercy is seen in their home-coming.

Psalm—Let my tongue cling to my mouth if I do not remember you!

Second Reading (Eph 2:4-10) The reading from Ephesians stresses the enormity of the love God has shown us in Christ. It makes it clear that we owe our salvation, not to our own efforts, but to the goodness of God.

Gospel (Jn 3:14-21) This leads into the Gospel. God's love and mercy are seen in the fact that he sends his Son to save us. Jesus came into the world as a light. Sadly, some preferred darkness to the light, thus sealing their own condemnation. Judgement is not passed by God; people judge themselves by their response to light.

Good Friday— Stations of the Cross

On Good Friday, the stations of the cross will be at 7:00 p.m. followed by the burial of our Lord.

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.

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

Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life:
waters of mercy,
waters of hope that flow from your side.

Hosea

Come back to me with all your heart
Don't let fear keep us apart
Trees do bend though straight and tall
So must we to others call

**Long have I waited for
Your coming home to me
And living deeply our new life**

The wilderness will lead you
To the place where I will speak
Integrity and justice
With tenderness
You shall know.

Lead Me, Guide Me

**Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Blest Be The Lord

**Blest be the Lord; blest be the Lord,
The God of mercy, the God who saves.
I shall not fear the dark of night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day.**

He will release me from the nets of all my foes.
He will protect me from their wicked hands.
Beneath the shadow of his wings I will rejoice
To find a dwelling place secure.

I need not shrink before the terrors of the night,
Nor stand alone before the light of day.
No harm shall come to me,
no arrow strike me down,
No evil settle in my soul.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 9

5:00 pm. Souls in purgatory—Alda Jacob

Sunday, March 10

8:30 am. Souls in purgatory, parents & in-laws of José & Margarida Silva

10:00 am. Community—José Arruda—Carolina Moreira Novo Casais—Immaculate Heart of Mary

11:30 am. Claudia Boaventura Cunha—Luisa Lobo—Maria Edemeia da Silva

1:00 pm. Manuel Inácio & Maria Amaral, children & grandson—Intention of Yue Ming—Yvette Bland

Monday, March 11

9:00 am. Vittorio & Attilia Bettio

6:00 pm. Intention of Marcus Rafael Guerra

Tuesday, March 12

9:00 am. José Medeiros & parents

6:00 pm. Manuel, Maria Couto & family

Wednesday, March 13

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

6:00 pm. Ildeberto Camara

Thursday, March 14

9:00 am. Uncles of Rosa Mota

6:00 pm. Nelson de Melo

Friday, March 15

9:00 am. Intention of José Carlos Arruda & Joshua Medeiros

6:00 pm. José Manuel Oliveira Correia & intention of Lucia Correia

Saturday, March 16

5:00 pm. Mariano Machado