

St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was born in Patara, around 280 A.D., in southwest modern-day Turkey. He was much admired for his piety and kindness and became the bishop of Myra. During the Diocletian persecution he was imprisoned but was later released unharmed. He is believed to have died on December 6, 343.

Nicolas was a rich man because his parents died when he was young leaving him a lot of money. This allowed him to help the poor giving secret gifts to the needy.

One legend that gives rise to the tradition of giving presents at Christmas, involves three girls, to each he is believed to have given a bag of gold as dowries to prevent them from being sold into the slavery of prostitution. Little by little his popularity grew and he became known as the protector of children and sailors.

The emperor Constantine built a basilica dedicated to Nicholas in Constantinople. At some point, the importance of Nicholas's cult in northern Europe appears to have become intertwined with Nordic myths reinforcing his association with the spirit of winter with snow and holly. During the Renaissance he became the most popular saint in Europe especially in Holland where he was known as Sinter Klass.

Wishing to build a reputation as a pilgrimage center in 1087, the city of Bari in southern Italy endorsed a raid on Myra and Nicholas bones were looted from there. To this day, every December 6, the sailors of Bari carry his statue from the cathedral out to sea so that he can bless the waters and so give them safe voyages throughout the year.

As one can see, the real St. Nicholas has little resemblance with the commercialized Santa Claus of the North Pole. As children grow up, sooner or later, they discover that there is no Santa Claus. And in many countries around the world, the Christmas gifts are attributed to Baby Jesus.

It is fun to watch a Santa Claus Parade or sing Santa Claus is coming to town. And many will send and receive cards wishing "happy holidays", but ultimately, **Christmas is about Jesus and his birth. Yes, Jesus is the reason for the season.**

Christmas Confessions

Our Christmas Confessions will be this Thursday, December 19th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. **There will be no Confessions on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.**

2025 Envelopes

Your numbered box of envelopes is still available. You can pick it up at the back of the church. If you are unable to find your numbered box, please contact our office.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for all donations made towards the poor and flowers.

St. Mary's Church

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)

Rev. Fr. Benny Joseph (Associate Pastor)

Parish Council

Parish Finance Council

English Choir

Susan Taylor 416-531-0503

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

Contact the Parish 416-703-2326

Espirito Santo

João & Lilia Tavares 647-308-7556

St. Vincent de Paul

416-247-8868

Volunteer Co-Ordinator

Delia Medeiros (Please contact parish)

Baptism—Sundays

Baptisms will be booked by appointment only

Marriages

Please contact the priest **12 months** in advance

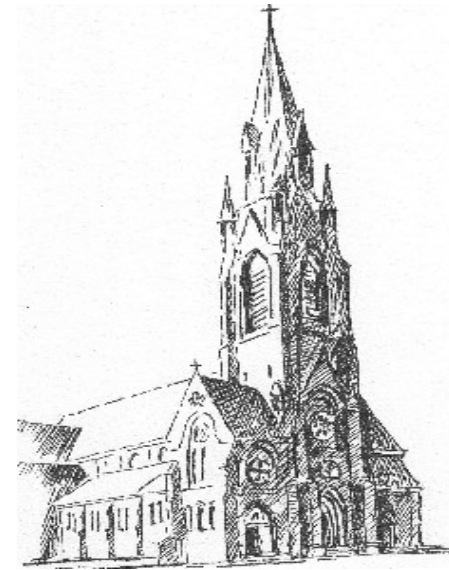
Confessions

Every day **before** Mass, except on Sunday

Schools

St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205

Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462



588 Adelaide St. W.

Toronto, On. M6J 3P8

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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



**Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024**

First Reading (Zeph 3:14-18a) Jerusalem is urged to rejoice because God stands in her midst.

Psalm: Shout aloud and sing for joy: great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading (Phil 4:4-7) Paul urges us to rejoice in the Lord, and to let go of anxiety by living in a spirit of prayer and thanksgiving.

Gospel (Lk 3:10-18) John the Baptist tells the people what they must do 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.

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th)
9:00 pm in Portuguese
11:30 pm in English

Christmas Day (Dec. 25th)
10:00 am in Portuguese
11:30 am in English
1:00 pm in English



City of God

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
has turned the night into day.**

We are sons of the morning,
we are daughters of day.
The One who has loved us
has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness
has called us to be
a light for all people
to set their hearts free.



Wait for the Lord (Taize hymn)

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.

Soon and Very Soon

**Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon,
we are going to see the King
Alleluia, alleluia,
we're going to see the King!**

**No more crying there,
we are going to see the King...
No more dying there,
we are going to see the King...**

Mass Intentions for this Week

Saturday, 14th of December

5:00 pm. Intention of Adelaida Guerra—Maria Rosa & José Couto, parents, grandparents, family & souls in purgatory—Aditi Eid—Maria da Conceição Rego & Guilherme Soares—Renée Cummings—Lynda Smyth

Sunday, 15th of December

8:30am. Olivia, João & Fernando Machado

10:00 am. Community — João Luis de Faria—António Pimentel—Guilherme do Couto—Judy da Silva—Maria Sofia Couto—Maria da Conceição dos Santos Lousada

11:30 am. Stjepan Cicvaric—Abel da Rocha, Vasco & Maria Afonso

1:00 pm. Maria & Manuel Raulino—Maria Adelina Almeida—Ihor Blyschak

Monday, 16th of December

9:00 am. Intention of Connie, Larry & Joshua Medeiros

6:00 pm. Manuel & Maria Couto & family

Tuesday, 17th of December

9:00 am. Manuela Amaral

6:00 pm. Conceição & Luis Soares

Wednesday, 18th of December

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

6:00 pm. Luisa, Artur & Maria Cabral

Thursday, 19th of December

9:00 am. Liberal Paul Silva

6:00 pm. Alfredo da Ponte Garcia & Francisca Paiva

Friday, 20th of December

9:00 am. Manuel de Amaral Morgado

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

Saturday, 21st of December

5:00 pm. Mariano Machado, in-laws, Lurdes Teixeira & Edna Grace Avery—Melillo & Aurilia families—João & Angelina Rodrigues — Intention of Maria Rosalina De Miglio—Maria Armandina da Silva