

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It was an event of great significance for Jesus. It marked the beginning of his public ministry. In celebrating it we recall our own baptism and its importance for us.

Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan River and was baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

And the fact that Jesus should undergo such a baptism was a source of embarrassment for the early Christians. Jesus did it to give an example of humility, to raise John's baptism to a new level, to show solidarity with sinners.

On the day of his baptism Jesus identified himself with sinners. Jesus was saying "I am on your side". Jesus identified himself with us. And on the day of our baptism we identify ourselves with Jesus: we become his brothers and sisters.

The feast of the baptism of the Lord reminds us of our own baptism and how important Baptism is in the life of the Church. That's why parents should commit themselves to practicing their faith before they ask baptism for their children.

In the early Church baptism was an "adult decision". It was a life-changing event. Baptism is not done and over when water is poured over our heads. Baptism is only the first step of many on a rich and Christ-filled life journey.

Baptism is like the planting of a seed. It usually takes a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen. By the way, do you know the date of your baptism?

Donation Envelopes for 2025

Your numbered box of envelopes is still available. You can pick it up at the back of the church.

Registration in the Parish

If you did not register as a parishioner yet, please do so by filling out the registration form. If you are already registered but changed address or phone number, please notify the office.

Income Tax Receipts

In February, we will start preparing our tax receipts, once they are ready, we will mail them. To make sure you receive your receipt without delays, please notify the office of any address changes. Thank you.

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

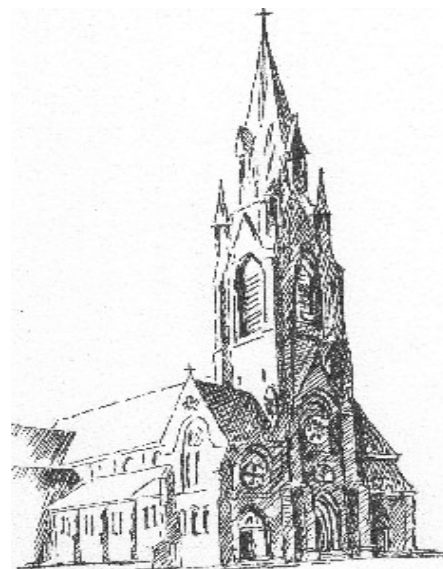
Confessions

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

Tel: 416-703-2326 Fax: 416-703-4196

Email: stmaryschurch2@rogers.com

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



Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

Baptism was a defining moment in the life of Jesus—it marked the beginning of his public mission. Luke always presents Jesus as praying before making major decisions. It's no surprise then that we find him praying during his baptism.

Psalm: *O bless the Lord, my soul!*

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own baptism. There are many offices that people can hold in the Church. But all of these pale when compared to the basic gift to all: baptism. When we stand before the throne of God, these other offices will be of no importance. Our dignity will depend on one thing only—the extent to which we have lived our baptismal calling.

The ceremony of baptism is a beautiful one. In it we were formally given a name and welcomed in the family of God's people. Lovely prayers were said over us. Our body was signed with the sign of the cross, the mark of Christ's love for us. Water was poured over us. Water is a symbol of cleansing, and in baptism we are cleansed of sin. But it is more especially a symbol of life.

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.

Gather your people, O Lord.
Gather your people, O Lord.
One bread, one body, one spirit of love.
Gather your people, O Lord.
Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life: waters of mercy,
waters of hope that flow from your side.



Earthen Vessels

**We hold a treasure
Not made of gold
In earthen vessels, wealth untold
One treasure only, the Lord, the Christ
In earthen vessels.**

Light has shown in our darkness
God has shown in our hearts
With the light of the glory
Of Jesus the Lord.

He has chosen the lowly
Who are small in this world
In his weakness His Glory
In Jesus the Lord.

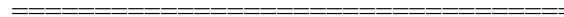
Like A Shepherd

**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

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.

Mass Intentions for this Week

Saturday, January 11

5:00 pm. Mariannina Mariconda, Saverio Aurilia—Carmina e Benjamim Travassos—Michael Correia—Souls in purgatory—Victor Correia & family

Sunday, January 12

8:30 am. Parents & in-laws of José & Margarida Silva, souls in purgatory

10:00 am. Community—Olinda Resendes—Maria da Conceição Santos Lousada—Maria Armandina da Silva—José Luis Martins—Liberal Paul Silva, grandparents & family

11:30 am. António Fernandes & family—Arlindo, Ilda & Richard Vicente

1:00 pm. Second coming of the Holy Spirit

Monday, January 13

9:00 am. Souls in purgatory

6:00 pm. Nelson de Melo

Tuesday, January 14

9:00 am. Souls in purgatory

6:00 pm. Manuel & Maria Couto & family

Wednesday, January 15

9:00 am.

6:00 pm. Ermelinda Arruda

Thursday, January 16

9:00 am. Manuel de Amaral Morgado

6:00 pm. José Pascoal

Friday, January 17

9:00 am. Ildeberto Camara

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

Saturday, January 18

5:00 pm. Mariano Machado, souls in purgatory