

LENT

Because the date of Easter (Páscoa) varies with the lunar calendar used in Jewish tradition to determine the date of Passover, the date for the beginning of Lent, counted forty days back from Easter, also varies.

The first general church council, in 325, decided to celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the first full moon of the spring equinox. Consequently, the feast can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. In recent years, however, there has been much discussion on question of choosing a fixed date for Easter, just like Christmas.

Ash Wednesday ushers the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence and on this day the Gospel reminds us of the need for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Most Catholics take Ash Wednesday very seriously. We go to church to be marked with ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our need for conversion and our willingness to enter into this season of repentance.

During Lent we try to improve our spiritual lives. We talk about “giving up” something. We forgive and ask for forgiveness. We reach out to the poor. We give to ShareLife.

For catechumens, who are preparing for baptism at Easter Vigil, it is a final stage of their journey toward initiation into the Church.

In Latin countries Lent is called “Quaresma” or “Queresima” meaning forty. The Bible says that in Noah’s time it rained for forty days and forty nights. Jesus was in the desert for forty days. The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years. Biblically speaking, forty can simply mean a long time, during which we can better our lives.

Ash Wednesday

March 5 is Ash Wednesday.

We will have Masses at 9:00 am Portuguese, 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm in English.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent we will have the Stations of the Cross after the 6:00 pm Mass.

Jubilee—Church Hours

Our church is open every weekday from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and from 4:00—6:30 p.m. At other times, please contact the parish office and we will let you in.

Pilgrims and groups of pilgrims that wish to visit our church, please contact us to book your visitation, Mass etc.

ShareLife

Lent is a time to repent and be generous. Let us pray for all those in need during this Lent season. Our first ShareLife collection will take place on the weekend of March 22-23.



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

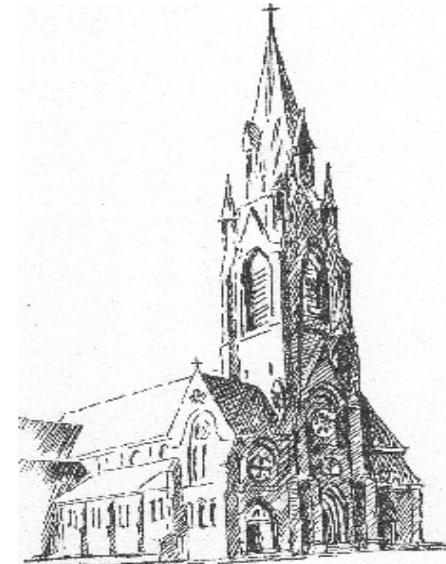
Confessions

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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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



VIII Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 2, 2025

Responsorial Psalm - *Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.*

When I was young and fired with the love of God, I thought I could convert the whole world.

But soon I discovered that it would be quite enough to convert the people who lived in my town, and I tried for a long time to do that, but did not succeed.

Then I realized that my program was still too ambitious, so I concentrated on those in my own household.

But I found that I could not convert them either. Finally, it dawned on me: I must work on myself. When people complain about what's wrong with the world, they are usually blaming somebody else.

They should look at themselves first. That way, they will know they are making a difference in at least one life.

We can't take anyone farther than we've gone ourselves.

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.

We are parts of the body of Christ,
needing each other,
each of the gifts the Spirit provides.

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

Refiner's Fire

Purify my heart, let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart, let me be as gold
Pure gold.

**Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for you Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will.**

Taste and See

**Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times.
Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord;
for God has been so good to me.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord, who answered me;
from all my troubles I was set free.

Worship the Lord, all you people.
You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
in God we need put all our trust.

You Are the Voice

**You are the voice of the living God
Calling us now to live in your love
To be children of God once again.**

Praise for the light that shines through the night
From darkness to light, from death to new life
And praise to the morning that brings forth the sun
To open our eyes to the Lord,
To open our eyes to the Lord!

Praise for the water that springs from the sea
The seed that gives life to all who believe
God's love overflowing, our hearts know the joy
To be daughters and sons of the Lord,
To be daughters and sons of the Lord!

Mass Intentions For This Week

Saturday, March 1

5:00pm: For Pope Francis

Sunday, March 2

8:30am: Olivia, João & Fernando Machado

10:00am: Community—Antônio & Maria Raposo—
Antônio Correia—José, Henriqueta & John Rebelo—
José Luis & Maria Teresa Branco—Liliana Correia
Vieira

11:30am: Nada Dean—Zoltan Kugler—Cesar Lopes
Pires

1:00 pm: For Pope Francis

Monday, March 3

9:00 am: Souls in purgatory

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

Tuesday, March 4

9:00 am: Manuel Cordeiro & family

6:00 pm: Sabrina Campana Gomes

Ash Wednesday, March 5

9:00 am: Portuguese

12:00 pm: English

6:00 pm: English

Thursday, March 6

9:00 am: Maria Oliveira

6:00 pm: Intention of José Arruda & Joshua Medeiros

Friday, March 7

9:00 am: Ermelinda Arruda

6:00 pm: Antônio Rodrigues Marques

Saturday, March 8

5:00 pm: Luis Augusto Ribeiro Raposo — Souls in
purgatory—Alda Medeiros—José Jacinto Medeiros,
Lindaura & Jeremias Melo—Silvério & Mercília
Angeja—Antônio & Maria de Lourdes Barros, Maria
Lobo & Maria do Carmo de Barros—Alda Jacob