

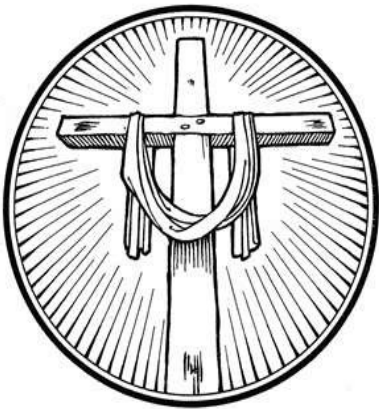
Triumph of the Cross

Early in the fourth century St. Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher over the tomb. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head.

Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross they move on." To this day the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered it from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier.

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the *Chi-Rho* until after Constantine's edict of toleration.



Reflection—TRUST IN GOD

Those who trust in God are truly blessed;  
God himself becomes their strength.  
They are like a tree planted by the waterside, sending out its roots to the stream.  
It has no worries in time of drought;  
its foliage stays green,  
and it never ceases to bear fruit.  
Lord, give us the kind of trust in you  
that will sustain us in times of difficulty,  
that will make our lives fruitful,  
and that will keep our hope unfading.  
Amen.



St. Mary's Church

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)  
Rev. Benny Joseph (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 416-531-0503

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  
Please contact the parish 416-703-2326

Espirito Santo  
Joao & Lilia Tavares 647-308-7556

Saint Vincent De Paul 416-247-8868

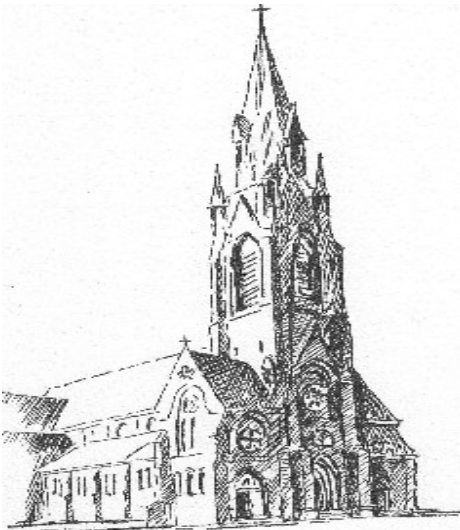
Volunteer Co-ordinator  
Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

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

School  
St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205  
Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462



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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



## Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14, 2025

**First Reading: (Numbers 21.4-9)** This image of the serpent always puzzled the Jews who were absolutely forbidden to make graven images. The rabbis explained this way: “it was not the serpent that gave life. It was God who healed them. When they turned their thoughts to God.”

**Responsorial Psalm: *Do not forget the works of the Lord.***

**Second Reading: (Philippians 2.6-11)**

**Gospel (John 3.13-17)** “ For God so loved the world so that he gave his only Son so that every one who believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

God is the Father who can not be happy until his wandering children have come home. Yes, it was not a nation; it was not the good people; it was not only the people who loved him; it was the world.

As St. Augustine had it: “God loves each of us as if there was only one of us to love.”

## Sing to the Mountains

Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea.  
Raise your voices, lift your hearts.  
This is the day the Lord has made.  
Let all the earth rejoice.

I will give thanks to you, my Lord.  
You have answered my plea.  
You have saved my soul from death.  
You are my strength and my song.  
This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us be glad and rejoice.  
He has turned all death to life.  
Sing of the glory of God.



## Above All

Above all powers, above all kings  
Above all nature and all created things  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones  
Above all wonders the world has ever known  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth  
There's no way to measure what You're worth

Crucified, laid behind a stone  
You lived to die, rejected and alone  
Like a rose, trampled on the ground  
You took the fall and thought of me  
Above all.

## Song of the Cross

Love lifted on the cross for me:  
my Lord, my God, my salvation.  
Love lifted high to set me free:  
my Lord, my God, my salvation.

Behold the wood of the cross,  
behold the lamb that was slain.  
Behold your king comes victorious,  
behold he has risen again.

O be exalted, O God,  
above the heavens and the earth.  
For by your cross and resurrection  
you have redeemed the world.

Give glory to the Father,  
give glory to the Son,  
give glory to the Holy Spirit;  
give glory to the Holy One.

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## Lift High The Cross

**Lift high the cross,  
the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world  
adore his sacred name.**

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.  
[Refrain]

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conq'ring ranks combine.

## Mass Intentions for this Week

### **Saturday, September 13th**

**5:00 pm.** Souls in purgatory—Manuel Calmeira—  
Maria Santos

### **Sunday, September 14th**

**8:30 am.**

**10:00 am.** Community—Maria da Conceição Santos  
Lousada—David José Oliveira Araujo—Intention of  
John & Lília Tavares—Leome Marchall—Albertina  
de Sousa

**11:30 am.** Luis & Berino Cabral

**1:00 pm.** Danilo Lamila—Maria Clotilde Rosa Rego,  
Honour to Our Lady of Light

### **Monday, September 15th**

**9:00 am.** Souls in purgatory  
**6:00 pm.** Henriqueta Rebelo

### **Tuesday, September 16th**

**9:00 am.** Manuel de Amaral Morgado  
**6:00 pm.** Ermelinda Arruda

### **Wednesday, September 17th**

**9:00 am.** Souls in purgatory  
**6:00 pm.** World peace

### **Thursday, September 18th**

**9:00 am.** Intention of Jordão & Conceição da  
Encarnação  
**6:00 pm.** Cousins John, Benjamin, Isabel & António  
João Medeiros

### **Friday, September 19th**

**9:00 am.** Liberal Paul Silva  
**6:00 pm.** José Manuel Oliveira Correia, intention of  
Lucia Correia

### **Saturday, September 20th**

**5:00 pm.** Mariano Machado & in-laws – Maria da  
Aparecida & family