

What do we know about Santa Claus

St. Nicholas was born in Patara, around 280 A.D., in southwest modern-day Turkey, 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.

Nicholas 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.

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 to give them safe voyages throughout the year.

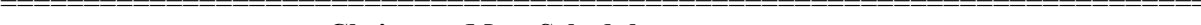
As one can see, the real St. Nicholas has little resemblance with the commercialized Santa Claus of the North Pole. As children grow up, sooner or later, they discover that there is no Santa Claus. And in some countries around the world the Christmas gifts are attributed to Baby Jesus.

There is no harm in singing that Santa Claus is coming to town... having a Santa Claus Parade, etc. But, ultimately Christmas is about Jesus. Jesus is the reason for the season!



Christmas Confessions

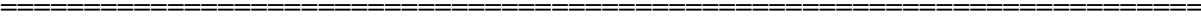
Our Christmas Confessions will be held on Thursday, December 18th from 10:30 a.m. to noon and from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Our Christmas Eve Masses will be 9:00 p.m. in Portuguese and 11:30 p.m. in English.

Our Christmas Day Masses will be 10:00 a.m. in Portuguese, 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 pm in English.



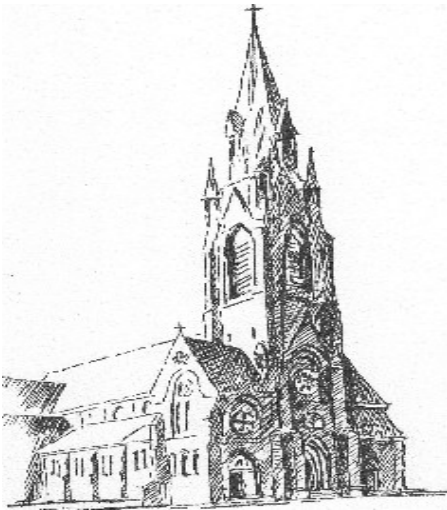
Church Offerings

We ask that all your offerings for this year of 2025, be made by **December 31st** Donations made after this date will not reflect on your income tax receipt for 2025. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



St. Mary's Church

Rev. Fernando Couto (Pastor)
Rev. Benny Joseph (Associate Pastor)



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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

- 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
Kevin & Christina Cordeiro 647-218-1601
- 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



December 14, 2025

First Reading (Is 35:1-6.10) God is the hope of his people who are crushed by misfortune. Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people, crushed by misfortune.

Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading (Jam 5:7-10) St. James urges us to be patient with one another, and patient regarding the Lord’s final coming.

Gospel (Mt 11:2-11) In today’s Gospel we see Jesus at work: enabling the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk. It is a marvelous display of compassion for suffering humanity. In this Eucharist we encounter the same compassionate Jesus. Let us not be afraid to let him see our wounds and handicaps.

Remember the Poor

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, let us all remember those families who are far less fortunate. Please submit all monetary offerings in a personal envelopes labeled “**For the Poor**” . Thank you!

Christmas Bake Sale

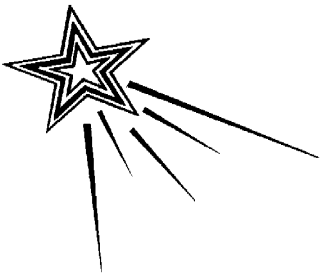
Next weekend, December 20/21, we will have a bake sale of cookies, cakes and much more at the parish hall after all the Masses.

Let Heaven Rejoice

**Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad;
Let all creation sing.
Let children proclaim to every land:
Hosanna to the King.**

Sound the trumpet into the night;
The day of the Lord is near.
Wake His people, lift your voice,
Proclaim it to the world.

Rise in splendor, shake off your sleep;
Put on your robes of joy.
And in the morning you shall see
The glory of the Lord.



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel
To thee shall come Emmanuel.**

Christ Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see

**Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come



People Look East

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Mass Intentions for this Week

Saturday, December 13th

5:00 pm. Souls in purgatory—Domingo Deomampo—Praise to St. Lucy, Irena Mariconda & family—Ana Paula—Guilherme do Couto—Antônio & Maria Melo—Mercês & Cristiano Ventura, family of Manuel & Olguete Arruda—Maria Gilda Silva—Angelo Aguiar

Sunday, December 14th

8:30 am. Maria Rosa & José Couto, parents, in-laws, family & souls in purgatory

10:00 am. Community — Maria da Conceição Santos Lousada—David José Oliveira Araujo—Jaime de Sousa—Luciano, Rosa Borges, João Engenheiro, souls in purgatory—Clemente Couto—João & Angelina Rodrigues—Arlindo da Silva — Maria Natália Sebastião — Antônio Pimentel—Joaquim Antônio Silva

11:30 am. Sacha Charles, intention of Kathryn & Luca & Deanna Taylor—Maria Silveira

1:00 pm. Stjepan Cicvaric — Romeo Pedro Humberto Meseguer Osório

Monday, December 15th

9:00 am. Souls in purgatory
6:00 pm. Manuel & Maria Couto & family

Tuesday, December 16th

9:00 am. Manuel de Amaral Morgado
6:00 pm. Miguel Medeiros, pais, sogros & family

Wednesday, December 17th

9:00 am. Manuela Amaral
6:00 pm. Luisa, Artur & Maria Cabral

Thursday, December 18th

9:00 am. Esperança Amaral & family
6:00 pm. Intention of Adelaida Guerra — Carmina & Benjamim Travassos

Friday, December 19th

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

Saturday, December 20th

5:00 pm. Mariano Machado, in-laws, Lurdes Teixeira & Edna Grace Avery — Luis Raposo & family — João Engenheiro, José & Claudia Cruz