

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 in 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?



First Communion Meeting

There will be a meeting for all the parents of the children preparing for their Holy First Communion this year. The meeting will take place in the church on February 4th, at 7:00 pm.



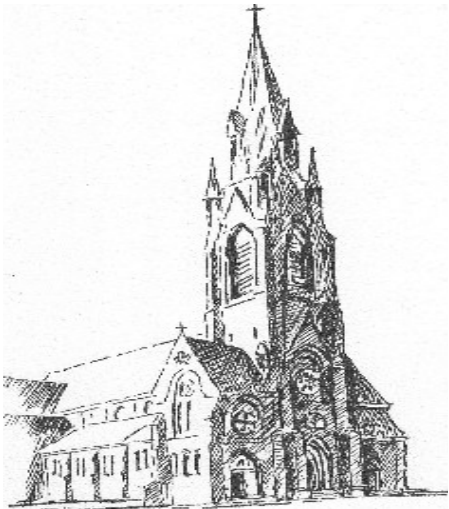
Confirmation Meeting

In preparation for Confirmation, we will have a meeting in the church on February 5th, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is for all the candidates and their parents or sponsors.



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



### Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

*First Reading (Is 42:1-4.6-7)* Here we are given a portrait of a true servant of God. It is something realized perfectly in Christ, and something to which his followers ought to aspire

*Second Reading (Acts 10:34-38)* This contains a reference to Jesus’ baptism, and is an example of the early Christian preaching to non-Jews.

**Psalm:** *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

*Gospel (Mt 3:13-17)* At his baptism, Jesus’ true identity was revealed, as the Son of God. This is Matthew’s main emphasis. John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance of the forgiveness of sins. The fact that Jesus should undergo such a baptism was a source of embarrassment for the early Christians. Why did he undergo it? To give an example of humility, to raise John’s baptism to a new level, to show solidarity with sinners, and to inaugurate his missions to sinners—a mission which is beautifully described by Isaiah (First Reading). Matthew also probably wanted to show what baptism means for Christians.

### This Day God Gives Me

This day God gives me  
Strength of high heaven,  
Sun and moon shining,  
Flame in my hearth,  
Flashing of lightning,  
Wind in its swiftness,  
Depths of the ocean,  
Firmness of earth.

This day God sends me  
Strength to sustain me,  
Might to uphold me,  
Wisdom as guide.  
Your eyes are watchful,  
Your ears are list'ning,  
Your lips are speaking,  
Friend at my side.

God's way is my way,  
God's shield is round me,  
God's host defends me,  
Saving from ill.  
Angels of heaven,  
Drive from me always  
All that would harm me,  
Stand by me still.

### On Jordan's Bank

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

### Here I Am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them – whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me;  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne My people’s pain.  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My Word to them – whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them; My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them – whom shall I send?

### 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 10th**  
**5:00 pm.** João Raposo & Lucia Brandão — Victor Correia & family—Manuel Fernandez Perez, Guadalupe & Armando Munoz Badillo, Gloria Wendolyn, Guadalupe Perez Cruz

**Sunday, January 11th**  
**8:30 am.** Olivia, João & Fernando Machado

**10:00am.** Community—Maria da Conceição Baptista—Maria Natália Sebastião — Jaime & Albertina de Sousa — António da Costa, Maria José Cruz & children—Olinda & Manuel Resendes

**11:30 am.** Gabriela da Costa—Jesus Christ Vicar on earth

**1:00 pm.**

**Monday, January 12th**  
**9:00 am.**  
**6:00 pm.** António Fernandes e familia

**Tuesday, January 13th**  
**9:00 am.**  
**6:00 pm.** Nelson de Melo

**Wednesday, January 14th**  
**9:00 am.** Intention of Maria, Andy, Elayna & Fátima Medeiros  
**6:00 pm.** Ermelinda Arruda

**Thursday, January 15th**  
**9:00 am.** Souls in purgatory  
**6:00 am.** José Pascoal

**Friday, January 16th**  
**9:00 am.** Manuel de Amaral Morgado  
**6:00 pm.** Maryanne Dorothy Pinto

**Saturday, January 17th**  
**5:00 pm.** Mariano Machado, souls in purgatory