

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

During the first four centuries there was no uniformity in the Initiation Ritual. Generally, the newly baptized were welcomed by the bishop as they stepped out of the waters of baptism, who then would lay hands on them, or simply extend his hands over them. Their forehead was anointed with perfumed oil, they would receive a ritual kiss of peace and then would be led to the Eucharistic table. That’s how it was done in Rome in the year 215.

As time went by Confirmation became associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit and, by the time the Church gained her religious freedom in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century things really changed again. Local churches began to baptize infants as soon as possible after birth. This was done by the priests. The special anointing, still known as Chrismation by the Eastern Orthodox Churches, was postponed until the bishop was able to visit those particular parish communities. By the 5<sup>th</sup> century the bishops anointing on the forehead, in the form of a cross, became known in the West as “Confirmation”.

Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century it was understood that the purpose of Confirmation was to strengthen the faith of the baptized person.

Until modern times Confirmation was celebrated before receiving the Eucharist. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it became popular to receive Holy Communion at an earlier age. This practice was highly encouraged by pope Pius X in 1910.

Presently Confirmation is understood as the Sacrament of Christian Maturity, received in the mid to late teens, at a time when candidates can maturely make a commitment to their Baptism.

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World Day of the Sick

The ministry of Jesus to the sick is central to the life of the Church. On February 11th (Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes) we are reminded that the service to the sick and suffering cannot be neglected. More than ever we recognize the great effort of doctors, nurses, health care institutions and pastoral care givers. **Blessing of the Sick will be administered after the Mass.**

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Valentine’s Day

On Saturday, February 14th, we will have a Valentine’s Day celebration, with lots of music and dance. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to be served at 7:00 p.m. An evening of elegance! For information and tickets contact Kevin or Christina 416-427-4739 or 647-218-1601.

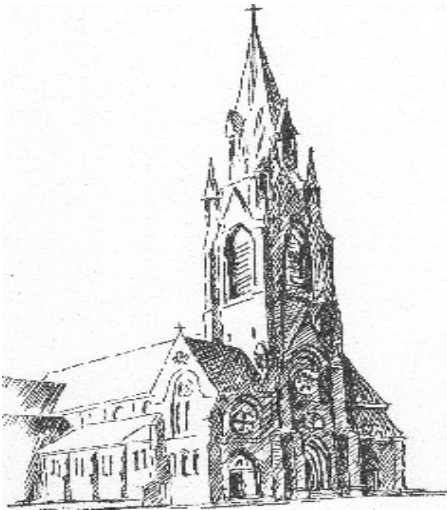
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Malassadas / Portuguese Donuts

Malassadas for Carnival, made fresh on Family Day Monday!  
Pre-order only.  
Pick up Monday, February 16th, 2-4 PM.  
\$3 each or \$30 per dozen.  
To pre-order, please call: Christina 647-218-1601 or Margarida 905-873-1908.

# 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**

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**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)** 416-703-2231  
Marco Lima (President) 416-818-5462

**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



V Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 8, 2026

First Reading (Is 58:7-10) Genuine worship of God is shown forth in the practice of justice and in concern for the poor and the needy.

Second Reading (1 Cor 2:1-5) The success of the Gospel doesn't depend on human cleverness but on the power of God.

Psalm: Light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Gospel (Mt 5:13-16) Christ's disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. In the ancient world, salt was one of the most important necessities of life, especially for preserving and seasoning food. So too was light for obvious reasons. We shouldn't turn salt and light into allegories. They are just images. Both images are making the same point: Jesus' disciples have a vital role to play in the world through their good deeds. When the disciples stop witnessing through their deeds, they become as useless as salt that has lost its taste or a lamp that doesn't give light.

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Tax Receipts

We are preparing our tax receipts. Once they are ready, we will be sending them by mail.

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.

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



Whatsoever You Do

Whatsoever you do to the least of my people  
That you do unto me.

When I was hungry, you gave me to eat;  
When I was thirsty you gave me to drink.  
Now enter into the home of my Father.

When I was homeless, you opened your door;  
When I was naked, you gave me your coat.  
Now enter into the home of my Father.

When I was weary, you helped me find rest;  
When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears.  
Now enter into the home of my Father.

We Are The Light of the World

Blessed are they who are poor in spirit,  
Theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit;  
Bless us, O Lord, our God

We are the light of the world;  
may our light shine before all,  
that they may see the good that we do,  
and give glory to God.

Blessed are they who are meek and humble,  
They will inherit the earth  
Bless us, O Lord, make us meek and humble;  
Bless us, O Lord, our God

Blessed are they who will mourn in sorrow,  
They will be comforted  
Bless us, O Lord, when we share their sorrow;  
Bless us, O Lord, our God.

Bless those who hunger and thirst for justice,  
They will be satisfied.  
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for justice;  
Bless us, O Lord, our God

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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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 7th

5:00 pm. Jesus Christ Vicar on earth, intentions of Iliohan family—Bernardete Oliveira Alcacia Falcão—Maria Matos—José Gomes Pinheiro—Lindauro Luz & Lindauro Maiato

Sunday, February 8th

8:30 am. Olivia, João e Fernando Machado

10:00am. Community—Maria Natália Sebastião—Teófilo Ponte — Julio Miguel Domingos — José de Amaral & Maria Bolarinho

11:30 am.

1:00 pm.

Monday, February 9th

9:00 am. Ermelinda Arruda  
6:00 pm. Bill, Jean Skora & parents

Tuesday, February 10th

9:00 am. Souls in purgatory  
6:00 pm. Manuel e Maria Couto e familia

Wednesday, February 11th

9:00 am. Miguel Medeiros, pais, sogros, irmãos e familia  
6:00 pm. Ildeberto Camara

Thursday, February 12th

9:00 am. António Cordeiro e familia  
6:00 am. Odilia & Michael Correia, intention of Ernesto Correia

Friday, February 13th

9:00 am. Intention of Nesochi Chuba  
6:00 pm. Deodato e Leontina Medeiros

Saturday, February 14th

5:00 pm.