

THE CRUCIFIX

The most widely used sacramental for Catholics is the crucifix. And a crucifix is a cross upon which the body of Christ is shown: nailed to it. Most Catholics feel that the cross without Christ tends to become an idea rather than the real-life event of Jesus' death.

The history of the cross and the crucifix is a long one. Constantine, Roman emperor of the early 300s, claimed that he dreamt of a cross and was told that "in this sign you will conquer". He ordered the sign of the cross to be put on all soldiers' shields, and then won the battle by which he became the emperor of Rome. Although he was not a Christian, he liberated the church, making Christianity a legal religion in the empire, and brought an end to the persecution of Christians.

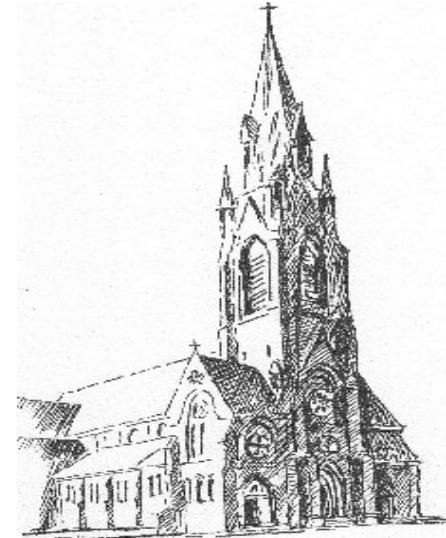
Since then, the cross became the universal symbol of Catholicism. Actually there are so many varieties of the cross in use. But when did the cross become a crucifix? Well, sometime in the Middle Ages the body of Jesus was affixed to the cross and the image became known as a crucifix.

The crucifix became one of the most recognized symbols of the Catholic Religion. Catholics display the crucifix prominently in their churches, homes, cars, as pendants around their neck, etc.



St. Mary's Church

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



588 Adelaide St. W.
Toronto, On. M6J 3P8
Tel: 416-703-2326 Fax: 416-703-4196
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

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)

Marco Lima (President) 416-703-2231
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

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 next weekend, March 21 / 22nd

Thank you in advance for your generous donations. God Bless.



Day of Confession

This coming Thursday, March 19th, from 10:30 to 12:00 noon, and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Laus-Perene / Blessed Sacrament Adoration and Easter

With Easter just around the corner, we will need your offerings towards the purchase of flowers to decorate the church for the Blessed Sacrament Adoration and Easter.

All contributions are very much appreciated.





IV Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

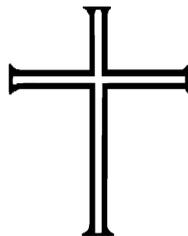
First Reading (1 Sam 16:1.6-7.10-13) God choose David, the least of Jesse's sons, to be king of Israel. While people look at appearances, God looks at the heart.

Psalm: *The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.*

Second Reading (Eph 5:8-14) Paul tells the Ephesians that now that Christ has enlightened them, they must adopt a lifestyle in keeping with their new state.

Gospel (Jn 9:1-41) Jesus, the light of the world, not only gives sight to the physically blind, but the light of faith to the spiritually blind. There is a frightening amount of darkness in the world today. But the Gospel of today's Mass contains the wonderful words of Christ: 'I am the light of the world.' Christ is indeed the light of the world and of our lives.

LENT



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



Hosea

Come back to me with all your heart.
Don't let fear keep us apart.
Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall;
so must we to others' call.

Long have I waited for your
coming home to me
and living deeply our new life.

The wilderness will lead you
to your heart where I will speak.
Integrity and justice,
With tenderness, you shall know.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come
'Twas grace that brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun
Than when we first begun

Blest Be the Lord

**Blest be the Lord; blest be the Lord,
The God of mercy, the God who saves.
I shall not fear the dark of night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day.**

He will release me from the nets of all my foes.
He will protect me from their wicked hands.
Beneath the shadow of his wings I will rejoice
To find a dwelling place secure.

I need not shrink before the terrors of the night,
Nor stand alone before the light of day.
No harm shall come to me,
no arrow strike me down, no evil settle in my soul.

LENT

Mass Intentions For The Week

Saturday, March 14th

5:00 pm. Francelina Reis Silva—Intention of Nesochi Chuba—Manuel Lopes Azevedo

Sunday, March 15th

8:30 am. Francelina & Manuel Mendonça

10:00 am. Community—Jaime & Albertina de Sousa—Manuel Afonso—Judy da Silva—Tommy de Carvalho

11:30 am. José & Angelo Medeiros & uncles—Claudia Boaventura—Joaquim Lemos

1:00 pm.

Monday, March 16th

9:00 am. Manuel de Amaral Morgado

6:00 pm. Ermelinda Arruda

Tuesday, March 17th

9:00 am. Intention of Inês, Luis, Danny & family

6:00 pm. Intention of Nesoch Chuba

Wednesday, March 18th

9:00 am. Souls in purgatory

6:00 pm. Francelina Reis Silva

Thursday, March 19th

9:00 pm. Praise to Saint Joseph

6:00 pm. Praise to Saint Joseph

Friday, March 20th

9:00 am. Liberal Paul Silva

6:00 pm. José Manuel Oliveira Correia, intention of Lucia Correia

Saturday, March 21st

5:00 pm. Mariano Machado & in-laws—Jesus Christ Vicar on earth, intention of Ilhoan family — Artur, Maria & Luisa Cabral—Angelo Aguiar—João Luis de Faria