



# St. Joan of Arc

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1701 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, ON M6P 1B1

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Phone 416.762.1026  
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## Served by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. Robert Langone, SA  
Pastor (Ext 1001)  
frbob@joanofarc.ca

Bro. Alexander Reed  
Deacon (Ext. 1002)  
alex@joanofarc.ca

Mrs. Rosanne Kelly  
Pastoral Assistant (Ext 1007)  
parish@joanofarc.ca

Ms. Anne Francis  
Accounting Office (Ext 1004)  
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Mr. Arturo Gonzalez  
Religious Education  
Contact (Ext 1003)  
religioused@joanofarc.ca

Ms. M.J. Ramos  
Parish Manager (Ext. 1005)  
mj@joanofarc.ca

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers  
Call the office

Eucharistic Ministers  
Catrina Bova

Lectors:  
Genia Vanderkruk  
10:00AM Choir  
Susan McElcheran  
Rehearsal: Thursday 7:30 PM  
12:00 Noon Choir  
Michael Thibodeau

Greeters/Ushers: Call the office

### CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Monday - Saturday  
5:30 PM

Sunday  
10:00 AM  
12:00 PM

### CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
or by appointment.

### BAPTISMS

Arrangements are made through the  
Religious Education office. Couples  
expecting a child are encouraged to  
contact the office before the child is  
born. Please contact Ext 1003, for  
more information.

### MARRIAGE

Please call Fr. Bob at least one year  
prior to the planned wedding date.

### Pastoral Visitation of the Sick:

To arrange for a visit  
Call the office Ext 1007

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Closed Wednesday mornings

Wednesday afternoons  
1:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Friday Closed

### ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League  
See CWL Bulletin Board for Details

Children's Liturgy  
10:00 AM Mass

Creation Care Ministry  
2nd Tuesday of each month 7pm.

Development and Peace  
www.devp.org  
3rd Monday of the month 7:00 PM

Merrymakers  
3rd Thursday of the month 12:00 PM

Knights of Columbus  
1st Thursday of the Month

Parish Council  
Every two months

St. Vincent de Paul Society  
2nd Saturday of the Month 4:00 PM



## MASS INTENTIONS



### **Sunday, December 17**

Is 61: 1-2, 10-11 Lk 1: 47-54 1Th5:  
16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28  
10:00 am Brendan Clough  
12:00 pm Henryk Szymanski & Jan  
Sikorski

### **Monday, December 18**

Je 23: 5-8 Ps 72: 1019 Mt 1: 18-24  
5:30 pm Peace in the family

### **Tuesday, December 19**

Judg 13: 2-7, 24-25 Ps 71: 3-6, 16-  
17 Lk 1: 5-25  
5:30 pm Sofia Prus

### **Wednesday, December 20**

Is 7:10-14 Ps 24: 1-6 Lk 1: 26-38  
5:30 pm Amorsolo Pinto & Len  
Sylvester

### **Thursday, December 21**

Zeph 3:14-18a Ps 33: 2-3, 11-12,  
20-21 Lk 1:39-45  
5:30 pm Int. of Elizabeth

### **Friday, December 22**

1 Sam 1: 24-28 1 Sam 2: 1-8  
Lk 1: 46-56  
5:30 pm Int. of Elizabeth

### **Saturday, December 23**

Mal 3:1-4, 5-6 Ps 25: 4-14  
Lk 1: 57-66  
5:30 pm Int. of Naty Gibson



## *Friar's Nook*

The manger scene in the church has slowly grown as we have proceeded through Advent. It will reach completion at Christmas. Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi created the first creche scene 800 years ago?

The tradition originates back to a cave in Greccio, Italy, where St. Francis had visited to celebrate Christmas. St. Francis had planned to celebrate Midnight Mass in the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage but realized it would be too small for the congregation for Mass, thus prompting him to set up the altar in a nearby cave.

St. Francis had wanted to create a scene that would be symbolic of Christ's birth and that would leave an everlasting impact on those in attendance. He therefore prepared a manger, which was a feeding trough for farm animals, hay, and brought an ox and donkey to where he prepared the altar. In the altar lay a statue of Christ. The scenery had symbolized the poverty and plainness that was associated with Christ's birth into the world.

St. Francis had been frustrated with the greed and materialism that had consumed Italy at the time and wanted to combat this by recreating the nativity scene. It reminds me of the Charlie Brown Christmas when he was reacting to the commercialization of Christmas over 50 years ago! It seems that some things never change.

Large groups of people gathered that night to hear St. Francis preaching. He was so passionate with his words that many believed the statue of Christ came alive as he was cradling it. Certainly, Christ was present there. St. Francis was so taken by the fact that God would become one of us that he celebrated the humanity of Christ.

As we move forward through Advent, let us ponder the humanity of Christ for ourselves who came to us, not strong and mighty in power, but rather weak and lowly to lead us from our lowly state to the fullness of glory in the Kingdom. In Jesus, God came to us as one of us so that we might be one with him and grow in His Holiness. Amidst the commercialization and greed in the world at this time, let us be mindful of the wisdom of Saint Francis. And let us seek what is truly important for us in our world today that we may celebrate Christmas with great joy.

Peace,  
Fr. Bob

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**The Sick:** Aniela Kuncaitis, Antonia Bova, Celeste Cignarella, Guillermo Medina, Michelle Rodrigues, Rose Menecola, Rosanne K

**The Deceased:** Frank Grech, Brendan Clough, Mary Bonneau, Len Sylvester, Gregor Rustja

**Christmas Pageant**

Any child interested in participating in the Christmas Pageant is invited to come to the parish hall for rehearsal. Parents are also needed to help with the children during the rehearsal and the pageant.



## Christmas Schedule

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

5:30 pm Liturgy with Children's pageant  
8:00 pm Christmas Liturgy

**Christmas Day, December 25**

12:00am Midnight Christmas Liturgy  
10:00 am Christmas Liturgy  
12:00 pm Christmas Liturgy

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**New Year's Eve, December 31**

5:30 pm The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

**New Year's Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

10:00 am Mary, The Holy Mother of God Liturgy  
12:00 pm Mary, The Holy Mother of God Liturgy

**A Christmas Anticipation Prayer**

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, (*State your intention here*) through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

**10:00 am SUNDAY LITURGY**

We continue to live stream the 10:00 am Mass on our website: [www.joanofarc.ca](http://www.joanofarc.ca)

**From the office:**

- There will not be any parish activities between Christmas and New Year's Day.
- No weekday 5:30pm Mass on Mon. Dec 25 and Mon. Jan 1
- The parish offices will be closed from December 25 to January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Offertory Envelopes**

A gentle reminder that we will not be getting new envelope boxes for 2024. Please use the remaining of your 2023 envelopes. If you would like a new box, please contact the parish office.

**A Great Big THANK YOU**

To all our parishioners who supported the Christmas Dinner. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and organizers. We have raised a total of \$1,072 to go towards the purchase of robes for our children altar servers! Thank you to everyone! Please stay tuned for next year's activities!

**Monthly Offertory 2023**

Offertory	November
Envelopes	\$ 7,116
Loose	\$ 2,140
PAG*	\$ 6,102
Total	\$ 15,358

*\*Pre-Authorized Giving*

Contributions to the Building Maintenance Fund for the month of November were \$4,277.



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