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St. Mary Immaculate Parish

Established in 1857

10295 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 3B9 Tel: (905) 884-1784 Fax: (905) 884-1883 E-mail: smirh@bellnet.ca www.smirh.com Office Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm





Associate Pastor: Rev. Fr. Marco Testa Associate Pastor: Rev. Fr. Pietro Gennuso

In Residence: Rev. Fr. Jim Adams Deacon: Rev. Mr. Wayne McCulloch Pastoral Worker: Michelle Gregory

Secretary: Ida Foch

Pastoral Care Giver: Anne Roman

Knights of Columbus: Ross Bruno & Ross Caldarola

Catholic Women's League: Maura Moore

Legion of Mary: meets every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Youth Group: Boots Montano, Jackie Puri

Youth Group President, Lauren Chee-Hing 905-770-6764

St. Vincent De Paul: Louise Wilson 905-717-9827

RCIA: Flavia Silano & Murielle Poirier Sunday School: Elizabeth Follows

Atrium: Anita Markle, Lily McCullough, Marie Lehman

Usher: Roland Leandrosz Homebound: Mary Barry Nursing Home: Peggy Paterson

Parish Volunteer Screening: Antoinette Stirling Italian Prayer Group: Adele Cremonese & Rosa Marsella

Italian Pastoral Care Giver: Antonia Ciuffetta Italian Committee: Antonietta Miniaci

Sunday Masses:

Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 8:00 am

9:30 am (Italian)

11:00 am 12:30 pm 4:30 pm

Lauds: Monday to Friday: 7:30 am

Weekday Masses:

Monday to Friday: 8:00 am Friday: 7:00 pm Saturday: 8:30 am

Wednesday Italian Mass: 7:00 pm

Confession:

Saturday: 4:00 to 5:00 pm Sunday: 4:00 to 4:30 pm

15 minutes before each Sunday Mass. Weekdays: Appointment with the priest

Baptism:

2nd, 3rd, & 4th Saturday at 10:00 am

Marriage:

Contact the priest one year in advance

Friday Exposition & Adoration: 6:00 pm to 6:50 pm

Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help: Saturday morning at 9:00 am **Two Hearts Rosary Prayer Group:** Every Wednesday 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Italian Prayer Group: Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm

Schools

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 905-884-0223

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JOHN IS THE VOICE & CHRIST IS THE WORD

John is the voice, but the Lord is *the Word* who was *in the beginning*. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning, Christ is the Word who lives forever. Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine. When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: The word ought to grow, and I should diminish? The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: My joy is complete. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in Him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offence to the Word. I am not the Christ, he said, nor Elijah, nor the prophet. And the question came: Who are you, then? He replied: I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord. The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead Him into your hearts, but He does not choose to come where I lead Him unless you prepare the way for Him." What does prepare the way mean, if not "pray well"? What does prepare the way mean, if not "be humble in your thoughts"? We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ," you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

Taken from a Sermon of St. Augustine

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

The Sanctuary Lamps burn for: +Deceased of the Delgado-Perez Family +Deceased of the Whitelaw Family

Monday, Dec. 12th, **Our Lady of Guadalupe.** On Dec. 9 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian convert, Juan Diego, and left with him a picture of herself impressed upon his cloak. Devotion to Mary under this title has continually increased and today, she is the Patroness of the Americas and of the unborn.

Tuesday, Dec. 13th, St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr. St. Lucy died at Syracuse, Sicily, probably during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. Her cult spread throughout the Church, and her name was introduced into the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I).

Wednesday, Dec. 14th, **St. John of the Cross, Priest, Religious, Doctor,** St. John of the Cross was born in Spain around 1542. After a number of years as a Carmelite friar, he was persuaded by St. Teresa of Avila in 1568 to lead a reform movement among the brothers of the Order. He died in 1591. His spiritual writings are a source of great wisdom and clarity.

2012 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES As announced the last few weeks, envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Church hall. Envelopes are organized numerically. For the parishioners who put their donations in previous year's envelopes, plain envelope and/or use loose cheques week after week, please help us record your donation in our accounting system by getting a box of envelopes which will be your envelope number to use. If your box is not there, or if you are new to the parish and wish to use envelopes, please call the Parish Office. Please do not use your 2012 envelopes until 2012. Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.

ADVENT SCHEDULE OF CONFESSIONS

Friday, Dec. 16^{th} – 5-7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17^{th} – 3-5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 18^{th} – 3-5 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 19^{th} – 6-7 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 20^{th} – 6-7 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 21^{st} – 5-7 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 22^{nd} – 5-7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 23^{rd} – 3-7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24

5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 12 Midnight

Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25

8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Italian), 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

There is **NO** 4:30 p.m. Mass this day.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Eve (Friday, Dec. 31): 5 p.m., 8 p.m. (Italian) **Day (Saturday, Jan. 1):** 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Italian), 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. There is **NO** 4:30 p.m. Mass this day. Please note that January 1st is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.**

PLEASE NOTE that anyone wishing to have their donations included for the year 2011 must be given by Sunday, Dec. 25th. We are unable to pre-date any donations. Thank you for your support.

RIGHT TO LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CAKES are available in the Parish Office during Office hours.

CWL Bake Sale this weekend. All proceeds going to the SMI Building & Maintenance Fund. Thank you for your support.

TWO HEARTS ROSARY PRAYER GROUP invites everyone to pray the 4 mysteries of the Rosary on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Church.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will be giving away "Christ is Christmas" buttons after all the Masses next weekend in exchange for any amount of donation for the Martyrs' Shrine and the Wheelchair Foundation.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH presented by Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, Dec. 11th at 8 p.m. Performed by the award winning Vocal Horizons Chamber Choir under conductor Vincent Cheng and featuring the Vocal Horizons Symphony Orchestra, this extraordinary evening of moving music will inspire, bringing added meaning to the holiday season. For tickets or info, please call 905-787-8811.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Unionville Alliance Church. Proceeds go to the York Centre for children, Youth and Family. Special guests: Michael Burgess, Jackalyn Short, Toronto Mass Choir, Upper Canada Children's Chorus. Tickets: \$35. for tickets call 905-887-5896 x 235 or 905-294-5230.

PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

Lord God, our Eternal Father, we come to Your Throne full of awe and reverence at Your Saving Power. Through our Brother and Savior Jesus Christ, we beg You to help us stop the widespread slaughter of unborn life in our land. May our love for our innocent brothers and sisters closely resemble the love that exists in the Holy Family. Help us provide all human life with protection under civil laws. We know that through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe Chosen Spouse of the Holy Spirit, our request will be granted through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

SAINT ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA

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 piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

3^a di Avvento - 11 dicembre 2011

"Voce di chi grida nel deserto, voce di chi rompe il silenzio. Preparate la via significa: Io risuono al fine di introdurre lui nel cuore, ma lui non si degna di venire dove voglio introdurlo, se non gli preparate la via. Che significa: Preparate la via, se non: chiedete come si deve? Che significa: Preparate la via, se non: siate umili di cuore? Prendete esempio dal Battista che, scambiato per il Cristo, dice di non essere colui che gli altri credono sia. Si guarda bene dallo sfruttare l'errore degli altri ai fini di una sua affermazione personale. Eppure se avesse detto di essere il Cristo, sarebbe stato facilmente creduto, poiché lo si credeva tale prima ancora che parlasse. Non lo disse, riconoscendo semplicemente quello che era. Precisò le debite differenze. Si mantenne nell'umiltà. Vide giusto dove trovare la salvezza. Comprese di non essere che una lucerna e temette di venire spenta dal vento della superbia. (Dai «Discorsi» di sant'Agostino, vescovo)"

"Dopo essere stato annunciato dalla voce del Battista, Gesù stesso è diventato voce del Padre, assumendo la carne, pur restando Parola: "La Parola si fece carne e venne ad abitare in mezzo a noi"! La testimonianza storica del Vangelo e della tradizione cristiana acquista, così, un valore primario nella vita del cristiano. "Quanto sarebbe più bello un cristianesimo senza cristiani" è stato detto. Ed è vero, in un certo senso. Ma senza la testimonianza dei cristiani esso si ridurrebbe ad una filosofia, non sarebbe una religione. Certo, predicarlo solo come una dottrina sarebbe più facile. Testimoniarlo con la vita è enormemente più difficile (G. Benedetti, *Il Vangelo della festa*, pg. 277)."

"Ogni uomo è un volto di Dio. Signore, tu sei il Verbo che presiede a tutta la creazione, principio e fine di ogni cosa.

Signore, tu sei venuto e ogni creatura ha ripreso a cantare liberata dalla vanità della morte.

Signore, tu sei venuto, hai mani e voce come noi, un cuore come il nostro cuore.

Signore, tu sei venuto, e hai fissato i tuoi occhi nei nostri occhi.

Nessuno ha mai visto Iddio, solo tu ce lo hai rivelato: ora ogni uomo è un volto di lui e noi contempliamo la sua gloria. (D.M. Turoldo)"

AVVISO

- 1. Sabato, 17 dicembre, durante la mattina, p. Piero condurrà un ritiro di preparazione al S. Natale. Vi si invita tutti a partecipare.
- 2. Durante l'Avvento, si celebra la S. Messa in italiano da lunedì a giovedì alle 7pm.
- 3. Si prepara la festa della famiglia che si terrà sabato, 7 gennaio 2012. Per informazioni chiamate Antonietta (905-737-3210) o Rosa (905-731-9175).

MASS INT	TENTIONS	Dec. 11-17
	9:30 a.m.	+Maria Veltri
		+Matilda & Benedetto Curtis
		+Dolorosa & Antonio Minchella
		+ Deceased of the Iafrate Family
		+Vincenzo & Lucia Gaetano-
		Baldassarra
		+Bernardo Poretta
		+Sande & Emilia Baldassarra
		+Vincenzso DeAcetis
		+Giovanni & Giuseppina Monaco
		+Rosanna & Lida Orrico
		+Claudio Bonacci
		+Michele & Giuseppina Ritacca
MON.	8:00 a.m.	+Pietro & Antonio Ferrari
	7:00 p.m.	Holy Souls in Purgatory
TUE.	8:00 a.m.	+Giuseppe Giusti
	7:00 p.m.	Holy Souls in Purgatory
WED.	8:00 a.m.	+Jane Bulger
	7:00 p.m.	In Honour of St. Joseph
		+Maria & Luigi Pomponio
		+Padre Giuseppe D'Sario
		+Giuseppe D'Amore
		+Assunta Bartucci
		+Alberto Giraudi
		+Caterina Doria
		Intentions of the Lorenzon Family
		+Filomena & Francesco Rotundo
THURS.	8:00 a.m.	+ Deceased of the Grm Family
	7:00 p.m.	Holy Souls in Purgatory
FRI.	8:00 a.m.	+Carmela Nanfara
	7:00 p.m.	In reparation to the Sacred
		Heart of Jesus
		+Deceased of the Naughton Family
		+Gus Lanzarotta
		+Luigi Abbatino
		+Pietro Sarracini
		+Fernanda Morais
SAT.	9:00 a.m.	Holy Souls in Purgatory In reparation to the Immaculate
JA1.	9:00 a.m.	Heart of Mary
		+Libera Mastro
		+Augustin Uhm
		+Augustin Olilli +Giuseppe Iacobelli
		+Luigi Corsetti
		+Giuseppe & Maria Vecchiarelli
		Holy Souls in Purgatory
PLEASE	REMEMBER	R OUR SICK: Ursula Addesi, Dori
		nba, Winifred Burke, Stephanie Byrne
		alado, David Canivet, Baby Abigai
		eter Christoff, Manuela Clement, Ala
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