

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

Established in 1857

10295 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 3B9

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Office Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Fr. Robert Reddy
Associate Pastor: Rev. Fr. Steven Szakaczki
Associate Pastor: Rev. Fr. Silvio Eljuga
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 & Mario Morelli
Catholic Women's League: Maura Moore
Legion of Mary: Roland Leandrosz
Youth Group: Boots Montano, Jackie Puri
Youth Group President, Lauren Chee-Hing 905-770-6764
St. Vincent De Paul: Louise Wilson 905-717-9827
Marriage Encounter: 905-470-9590
RCIA: Flavia Silano & Murielle Poirier
Sunday School: Margaret Gerritse
Atrium: Anita Markle, Lily McCullough, Marie Lehman
Usher: Roland Leandrosz
Homebound: Mary Barry
Nursing Home: Peggy Paterson
Children's Liturgy: Amanda Iadipaolo
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: 9:00 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 Sunday at 2:00 pm

Marriage:

Contact the priest one year in advance

Friday Exposition & Adoration: 12:00 pm to 6:50 pm

Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help: Saturday morning at 9:00 am

Two Hearts Rosary Prayer Group: Every Wed. 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Charismatic Prayer Group: Every Friday at 7:30 pm

Italian Prayer Group: Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm

Schools

St. Anne	905-883-0311	St. Charles Garnier	905-884-0223
St. Mary Immaculate	905-884-5381	Fr. Henri Nouwen	905-884-8086
Corpus Christi	905-770-8713	St. Theresa of Lisieux High School	905-787-1407

For more information please visit our website www.smirh.com

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John is the voice, and 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

ADVENT SCHEDULE OF CONFESSIONS

- Friday, Dec. 17th – 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 18th – 3-5 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 19th – 3-5 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 20th – 6-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 21st – 6-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 22nd – 6-8 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 23rd – 6-8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24

6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m. (Italian), 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.

Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 26

8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (It.), 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

Solemnity of Marv, 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.**

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Monday, Dec. 13, 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).

Monday, December 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.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA PRAYER

(begins on December 16th)

O Christ, our Lord and King, come for the sake of Your Church, Your people, that by her strength and unity of love, she may proclaim to all the world the glory and joy of Your Kingdom. In bond of union draw mankind to Your reign of love, Your reign of gentleness, of mercy and of truth. Help each of us to build Your Kingdom, to prepare our hearts in love as Your Christmas light shines clear. Sweet Infant Jesus, bless us. Amen.

SMI YOUTH GROUP will be holding a Christmas Sale at the main entrance of the church this weekend and the next to help raise money for their 2011 World Youth Day pilgrimage! They will be selling cherry wood Brazilian Saint Bracelets for \$5.00. These hand crafted Saint Bracelets are a perfect Christmas Stocking Stuffer for everyone on your Christmas List!

'VOCATION SEEDS' "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Are you one to be sent? If so, please visit www.vocationstoronto.ca or call Fr. Hansoo Park at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@vocations.ca.

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

2011 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES As announced last week, envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Church hall. Envelopes are organized alphabetically. 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 2011 envelopes until 2011. **Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.**

PLEASE NOTE that anyone wishing to have their donations included for the year 2010 must be given by Sunday, Dec. 26th. We are unable to pre-date any donations. Thank you for your support.

CWL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL on Wed., Dec. 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. Please bring an un-wrapped baby gift for the Rose of Sharon. Membership is now due for 2011, please drop your \$25.00 fee in the offertory basket or the Parish office with your name, address, phone # & email.

ADULT FAITH STUDY PROGRAMME (open to all) on Thursdays from 1 – 2:30 p.m. & from 7– 8:30 p.m. Same topic will be discussed weekly.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED. Bill C-510 (Roxanne's Law) will receive second reading on Dec. 13th. The first crucial vote will take place on Wed. Dec. 15th. Information: www.priestsforlifecanada.com.

22nd ANNUAL BENEFIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT on Sunday, December 19th at 4 p.m. at Unionville Alliance Church. Featuring Michael Burgess, Jackalyn Short, Toronto Mass Choir and the St. Michael's Boys Choir. For tickets, please call 905-887-5896 or 905-294-5230 (evenings).

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 - 12 dicembre 2010

"Il Signore vuole aprire una via dentro di voi, per la quale possa penetrare nelle vostre anime e costruire il suo cammino... Questa è la via per la quale entrò la Parola di Dio, che consiste nella 'capacità' del cuore umano. Grande è il cuore dell'uomo, spazioso e capace, come se fosse un mondo... Vedi come il cuore dell'uomo non sia piccolo, dato che contiene tante cose. Osserva come la sua grandezza non risieda nelle sue dimensioni fisiche, bensì nella forza del suo sentimento, per cui raggiunge tale conoscenza di verità... Prepara la via al Signore con una buona condotta e con azioni irreprensibili spiana il sentiero, perché la Parola del Signore cammini in te senza ostacolo alcuno (Origene, *Comm. a Lc 21, 5-7*)."

"La Chiesa ha scoperto, all'interno della sua fede, la testimonianza silenziosa della Vergine, ma vi è una testimonianza silenziosa anche del Battista. Testimonianza che stupisce! Il più grande dei profeti è stato trattato, da quel Dio che pure lo amava, come non viene trattato neppure il più piccolo nel regno dei cieli. (...) Profeta dell'attesa e della rinuncia, è stato colmato nella sua rinuncia perché ha udito la voce dello Sposo, ma questa voce non si rivolgeva a lui e lo Sposo viveva per altri... Il rigore e lo spoliamento della vita del Battista, questo deserto implacabile che fu la sua unica dimora, ci spaventano se ne misuriamo l'intensità, l'immensità. Bisognava essere Dio per concepire tale destino e proporlo a un uomo, per osare domandargli tale nascondimento, tale passione prima che il ricordo della passione di Cristo potesse addolcirne le sofferenze e illuminarne la notte... Nessuno, a parte la Vergine, è stato più intimamente associato all'incarnazione del Figlio di Dio, ma la vergine trovava la sua gloria nella sua stessa povertà, mentre il Battista ha trovato solo l'abbandono e la morte (A. Besnard, *Giovanni Battista* pp. 646-7)."

AVVISI

1. Sia il 23 dicembre che il giorno di Natale, si benediranno le figure del Bambino Gesù dei vostri presepi.
2. Per la celebrazione della Vigilia di Natale, vi si incoraggia a portare campanelle per "suonare" insieme la nascita del Redentore.
3. Si organizza la festa della famiglia per l'8 gennaio 2011. Per iscriversi, chiamate Antonietta Miniaci (905-737-3210) o Rosa Marsella (905-731-9175).

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec. 12-18**

- SUN. 9:30 a.m.** +Gabriele Magnotta
+Angelo Mignardi
+Giacinta Rizzi & Evito
Servedio
+Giovanna Minchella
+Benedetto & Matilde Curtis
+Antonio & Dolorosa
Minchella
+Antonio & Elena Petruzzo &
famiglia
+Famiglia Monaco
+Famiglia Maione
+Giuseppina Cariati
- MON. 8:00 a.m.** +Giuseppe Giusti
7:00 p.m. +Holy Souls in Purgatory
- TUE. 8:00 a.m.** +John D'Souza
7:00 p.m. + Holy Souls in Purgatory
- WED. 8:00 a.m.** +Milan Grm
7:00 p.m. +Gabriele Magnotta
+Maria & Luigi Pomponio
+Olga Campos
+Rino Carraro
+Anna & Giuseppe Alfano
+Gaetano Campisi
- THURS. 8:00 a.m.** Spec. Int. of Janice Choi
7:00 p.m. +Holy Souls in Purgatory
- FRI. 8:00 a.m.** +Augustine Uhm
7:00 p.m. In reparation to the Sacred
Heart of Jesus
+Rita Nazareth
+Maria & Giuseppe
Vecchiarelli
+Anto Smiljcic
+Francesco & Filomena
Rotundo
+Gus Lanzarotta
+Alma Gibbons
+Deceased of the Naughton
Family
+Herbert, Catherine, & Patrick
Paxton Family
+Holy Souls in Purgatory
- SAT. 9:00 a.m.** In reparation to the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
+Libera Mastro
+Ann Joseph
+John LeClaire
+Philip Ellen & Michael Lacey
Spec. Int of David Shin
Spec. Int of Louis Pomeroy
+Holy Souls in Purgatory
+ Paxton deceased family
Intentions of our Holy Father
Intentions of SMI priests

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK: Winifred Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, David Canivet, Esmy, Peter Christoff, Manuela Clement, James Davidson, Caterina & Dominic De Grano, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Godfrey Gosein, Gertiudes Henriques, Theresa Hogan, Margaret Kelly, Olivera Lambeta, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Margaret McConnell, Paul Melotte, Anthony Morse, Susan, Myola Nunes, Michael & Michelle Osborne, Domenico Pileggi, Louis Pomeroy, Todd Santaguida, Vincenzo Sorbara, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Sandra Weinholdt, Kathleen Whelan, Ted Zygmunt.

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