

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

Established in 1857

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



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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

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Jesus' public life begins with His baptism by John in the Jordan. John preaches "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins". A crowd of sinners - tax collectors and soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees, and prostitutes - come to be baptized by Him. "Then Jesus appears." The Baptist hesitates, but Jesus insists and receives baptism. Then the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven proclaims, "This is My beloved Son." This is the manifestation (Epiphany) of Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God.

The baptism of Jesus is on His part the acceptance and inauguration of His mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows Himself to be numbered among sinners; He is already "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Already He is anticipating the "baptism" of His bloody death. Already He is coming to "fulfill all righteousness", that is, He is submitting Himself entirely to His Father's will: out of love He consents to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. The Father's voice responds to the Son's acceptance, proclaiming His entire delight in His Son. The Spirit whom Jesus possessed in fullness from His conception comes to "rest on Him". Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all mankind. At His baptism "the heavens were opened" - the heavens that Adam's sin had closed - and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Spirit, a prelude to the new creation.

Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in His own baptism anticipates His death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with Him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and "walk in newness of life":

Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with Him; let us go down with Him to be raised with Him; and let us rise with Him to be glorified with Him.

Everything that happened to Christ lets us know that, after the bath of water, the Holy Spirit swoops down upon us from high heaven and that, adopted by the Father's voice, we become sons of God.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #535-537.

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

(A sermon by St Gregory Nazianzen)

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptised; let us also go down with Him, and rise with Him.

John is baptising when Jesus draws near. Perhaps He comes to sanctify His baptiser; certainly He comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He

comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; He who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: I ought to be baptised by You. He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of Him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of Him who has already come and is to come again. I ought to be baptised by You: we should also add, "and for You," for John is to be baptised in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with Him. The heavens, like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to Him as to an equal, bearing witness to His Godhead. A voice bears witness to Him from heaven, His place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honour to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honour to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom His every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of Him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received - though not in its fullness - a ray of its splendour, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to Whom be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Jan. 12, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Religious. St. Marguerite was born in Troyes, France, on Good Friday, April 17, 1620. Marguerite arrived in Montreal in 1653 and is rightly considered co-foundress of Montreal. In 1658, she opened the first school in Montreal and also organized an extern Congregation, an innovation at that time. She died in Montreal on January 12, 1700. Her last generous act was to offer herself as a sacrifice of prayer for the return to health of a young Sister. On October 31, 1982, Pope John Paul II canonized her and gives the Canadian Church its first woman saint.

"He must increase, I must decrease."

John the Baptist (John 3:30)

2011 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES are ready to be picked up in the Church hall. Envelopes are organized alphabetically. If your box is not there, or if you are new to the parish and wish to use envelopes, please call the Parish Office. **Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.**

ADULT FAITH STUDY PROGRAMME are held on Thursdays, from 1-2:30 p.m. and from 7-8:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

"THE LOVE OF CHRIST IMPELS US" to radically respond to His call to follow Him whole-heartedly. Jesus is inviting you to spend some time with Him so that you may discover His call. There will be an opportunity for young men of 18 years or older on Feb. 4-6 to spend a weekend for time of prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples through the Catholic priesthood at St. Augustine's Seminary. For information, please call 416-968-0997.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR begins on Wed., January 12 from 7-9 p.m. for 8 weeks. For info or to register, please call Pina at 905-832-1812.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential info or to register for the Jan. 28-30 weekend, please call 416-281-6007 or visit www.torontoretrovaille.com

VILLANOVA COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE on Friday, Jan. 14th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. As York Region's only independent Catholic School, Villanova offers an enriched academic programme from Gr. 5 to university admissions. Please join us at our Open House or visit www.villanovacollege.com. For info, please call 905-883-1909 x 367.

MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS FAMILY CENTRE The Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System is an advanced procreative education model that combines family planning with reproductive and gynecologic health maintenance. Our team of medical and health professionals teaches couples to better understand their fertility, empowering them to be primarily responsible for their overall health and family planning decisions. For info, please go to www.fertilitycare.ca or call 416-465-2868 (Toronto) or 905-508-2685 (Richmond Hill)

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION begins in our Catholic Schools or at the Catholic Education Centre. Please check the parish bulletin or the Board website at www.ycdsb.ca

13 gennaio 2008 - Battesimo del Signore

“Per una triplice ragione il Salvatore riceve il battesimo da Giovanni. Primo, perché essendo nato uomo come gli altri deve rispettare la Legge con giustizia e umiltà. Secondo, per dimostrare col suo battesimo l'efficacia del battesimo di Giovanni. Terzo per mostrare, santificando le acque del Giordano per mezzo della discesa della colomba, l'avvento dello Spirito Santo nel lavacro dei credenti (S. Girolamo, *Commento a Mt 1,3,13*).”

“Cristo nel Battesimo si fa luce, entriamo anche noi nel suo splendore; Cristo riceve il battesimo, inabissiamoci con lui per poter con lui salire alla gloria. Giovanni dà il battesimo, Gesù si accosta a lui, forse per santificare colui dal quale viene battezzato nell'acqua, ma anche di certo per seppellire totalmente nelle acque il vecchio uomo. Santifica il Giordano prima di santificare noi e lo santifica per noi. E poiché era spirito e carne santifica nello Spirito e nell'acqua Gesù sale dalle acque e porta con sé in alto tutto intero il cosmo. Vede scindersi e aprirsi i cieli, quei cieli che Adamo aveva chiuso per sé e per tutta la sua discendenza, quei cieli preclusi e sbarrati come il paradiso lo era per la spada fiammeggiante. E lo Spirito testimonia la divinità del Cristo: si presenta simbolicamente sopra Colui che gli è del tutto uguale. Una voce proviene dalle profondità dei cieli, da quelle stesse profondità dalle quali proveniva Chi in quel momento riceveva la testimonianza.(S. Gregorio Nazianzeno, *Discorsi*.”

“Gesù e Giovanni nell'atto del battesimo adempiono ogni giustizia, in quanto il Battesimo rappresenta la via della giustizia. Gesù da parte sua è venuto ad adempiere le Legge e i Profeti, chiedendo di praticare una giustizia operosa superiore a quella di coloro che ascoltano senza mettere in pratica (cfr Mt 13, 20)... Tuttavia, è pur vero che Giovanni e Gesù, l'uno dopo l'altro, percorreranno anche un'altra via, quella lungo la quale il colpo non si abbatte sull'empio (*Già la scure è posta alla radice... Mt 3,10*), bensì sul giusto. A venir violentemente soppresso ora è colui che cammina sulla via della rettitudine (cfr Sl 37,14). Come alle acque del Giordano, anche sul monte della Trasfigurazione Gesù udrà la voce dal cielo che dice: *Questi è il figlio mio prediletto, nel quale mi sono compiaciuto*. Poi scendendo dal monte parla di Giovanni ormai ucciso e dopo aver associato la figura di quest'ultimo a quella di Elia dice: *Elia è già venuto e non l'hanno riconosciuto, anzi l'hanno trattato come hanno voluto. Così anche il Figlio dell'Uomo dovrà soffrire... (Mt 17,22)*. Gesù ricevendo il Battesimo si associa a Giovanni nella 'via della giustizia', ma in seguito si assocerà a lui anche sulla via della violenza subita (P. Stefani, *Sia santificato il tuo nome A p. 53*).”

AVVISI

1. A tutti auguri di un buon anno nuovo, apportatore di gioia e serenità.
2. Le buste per le offerte per il 2011 sono disponibili in sala; vi si prega di ritirarle.

MASS INTENTIONS**Jan. 9-15**

- SUN. 9:30 a.m.** +Gabriele Magnotta
+Gina Pellegrini
+Giuseppe & Domenico
Giancola
+Domenico Di Paolo
+Michele Fedele
+Holy Souls in Purgatory
Intentions of our Holy Father
- MON. 8:00 a.m.** +Marie Hennessy
- TUE. 8:00 a.m.** +John LeClaire
- WED. 8:00 a.m.** In Thanksgiving (Thomas
Gomes)
- 7:00 p.m.** In honour of St. Joseph
+Giuseppe Tullo
+Rahele Lisozzi
+Ida Pellegrini
Spec. Int of the Mazzobel
Family
+Holy Souls in Purgatory
Intentions of our Holy Father
Intentions of the SMI priests
For an increase in vocations
- THURS. 8:00 a.m.** +Giuseppe Giusti
- FRI. 8:00 a.m.** Holy Souls in Purgatory
- 7:00 p.m.** In reparation to the Sacred
Heart of Jesus
+Marie De Souza
+Eui(e) Hong Choi
+Anita Damiani
+Frank Samardak
+Deceased Members of the
Naughton Family
Holy Souls in Purgatory
For an increase in holy
vocations
- SAT. 9:00 a.m.** In reparation to the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
+Irma Leskowsky
+Deceased of the Paxton
Family
Spec. Int. of the Sgro Family
+Deceased of the Mastro &
Berardinelli Families
+Annette Cutulle
Holy Souls in Purgatory
Intentions of our Holy Father

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK

Winifred Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, David Canivet, Esmey, 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, Abigail Walz, Sandra Weinholdt, Kathleen Whelan, Ted Zygmunt.

RECENTLY SEPARATED OR DIVORCED CATHOLICS

are invited to attend a 10-week program (Feb. 8-Apr. 12) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Catholic Family Svcs., 5799 Yonge St., Ste. 300 for those who are dealing with the many struggles involved in the process of separation and divorce. For info, pls. call Mario at 416-222-0048.

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