

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH

3600 Forest Bluff Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5N 7W2 Tel. (289) 997-2105 Fax (289) 997-2104

WEBSITE: www.stjosephinebakhita.org

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM



Nativity of Our Lord



Children's Liturgy
Children from JK to
Grade 5 are invited to
participate in the
Children's Liturgy of
the Word during our
Sunday Eucharist.

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m., and
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m., and
12:30 p.m.

MASS INTENTION

December 24 (Saturday)

5:00 PM For the Parish community
7:00 PM For the Parish community
9:00 PM For the Parish community
10:30 PM For the Parish community

December 25 (Sunday)

9:00 AM For the Parish community
11:00 AM For the Parish community
12:30 PM For the Parish community

December 26 (Monday)

9:00 AM +Melchor Capillo,
Thanksgiving in honor of St. Stephen by
the Goan community

December 27 (Tuesday)

7:45 AM Open

December 28 (Wednesday)

7:00 PM Open

December 29 (Thursday)

7:45 AM Open

December 30 (Friday)

7:00 PM Open

December 31 (Saturday)

5:00 PM For all Parishioners
7:00 PM For all Parishioners

There are several ways you can offer Holy Mass. You can fill the form on our parish website (stjosephinebakhita.org), call the Office and talk to Fatima, our parish secretary, or book your intention at the desk when you come for Holy Mass on Sundays.

**Thank you for supporting our effort to
raise funds for our church building.**

To date, we have collected \$927,3500
We accept donations to the Building Fund
at any time.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christianity, as a religion, has a great story to tell. It is such a great story that as we attend Holy Mass on the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we hear four different sets of Scripture readings. The Christmas Vigil reading from Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus from Joseph back to Abraham. Christmas Eve's Liturgy gives us Luke's account of Mary and Joseph' sojourn to Bethlehem to be registered, Jesus' birth in the stable and the announcement to the shepherds. Christmas Dawn continues Luke's story as the shepherd's come to worship Jesus while his amazed mother looked on. On Christmas day, we hear John's poetic, symbolic account of Jesus as the pre-existent Word of God. All these are attempts of the Evangelists to explain to us who Jesus is and why he is so important to our lives.

As we celebrate this day, we should also ask ourselves, who is this Jesus to me and what is the meaning of his birth and life?

The four gospel writers drew on their own culture and everyday concerns to answer these questions. For Matthew, Jesus is squarely set with the Jewish patriarchs beginning with Abraham. Jesus is the absolute and perfect fulfillment of the Mosaic Law. Luke, on the other hand, wants us to see that Jesus is also much more than the fulfillment of the Mosaic Law; he is the savior of all people, especially the poor and the marginalized typified by Mary and the shepherds. John sees Jesus in nearly cosmic terms, as the Word of God who has always been and always will be one with God.

Which of the four gospel stories speaks to you most this Christmas? Last November, I led a group of pilgrims mostly from our parish to celebrate Holy Mass at the Shepherds' Field in Bethlehem. The city of Bethlehem today is walled by the Israeli government, but life continues for the residents and the pilgrims, albeit difficult. The wall serving as a reminder of the tense relationship between Palestinians and Israelis. Nevertheless, the message of the angel to the shepherds uttered two thousand years ago continues to reverberate to us today: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of goodwill." On our way to the Shepherds' Field, something struck me as Bishara, our Tour Guide, was sharing to us the reason that God chose the shepherds as his first heralds. Think of them, he said, as the best way to disseminate information. God wanted this great news to be known by everybody; He wants all to experience it. For a people that feels boxed in by the Wall of separation, the Lucan account is appealing. Jesus came as a poor baby to a poor woman who was promised that this child would topple the powerful and bring justice to those most in need of it.

You may have another take on the story. Perhaps, you are more comfortable with continuity and change. Matthew's account may be more appealing to you: Jesus is the one who stays within his tradition but improves it. Whatever situation you are in right now, may you find something in the story that would speak to you. Whether Luke or Matthew, all agree that Jesus was a living, breathing person, alive as you or me. Christmas celebrates this incredible reality, God so loved us that He wants us to touch His love tangibly. God wants you to know that He is always with you and understands you. If this Christmas is difficult for you, know that this baby, born in a manger, grew up to be an adult, suffered and died, in order to tell you that God really "gets it."

On behalf of the parish staff, Sister Nocy, Sister Linda, Deacon Michael and Elizabeth Ho, and Fatima, we wish you all a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.

We would like to thank the Very Rev. Msgr. Terence D'Souza for celebrating some of our Holy Masses this Christmas. Msgr. Terence has been a great help and inspiration to us. We thank all our volunteers: altar servers, choir, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Children's Liturgy Team, Arts and Environment Committee, and all of you who have contributed your time and talent to make our celebration a success. May the good Lord, whose birthday we celebrate today, bless you and your loved ones in every way.

We invite everyone to join

THE LEGION OF MARY

meets every Saturday at 10 AM
St. Peter's Mission Church on the Ninth Line



**December 26 (Monday)
The Feast of St. Stephen**

will be celebrated at 9 AM St. Peter's Mission Church

December 27 to 31
Regular Schedule

**The Schedule of Holy Mass for New Year's Eve and
New Year's Day**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31 New Year's Eve
5:00 PM at St. Joan of Arc Secondary School
7:00 PM at St. Peter's Mission Church

January 1 New Year's Day
at St. Joan of Arc Secondary School
9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 12:30 PM

*Please note that there will be no Mass on New Year's day at
St. Peter's Mission Church*

January 2
The Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM
St. Peter's Mission Church

The Archdiocese of Toronto is pleased to announce that as of December 1, 2011 you can support our parish or favorite charity of the Archdiocese by making a tax deductible gift using your credit card. A DONATE NOW button is accessible on the archdiocesan website that will take you to a page where you can make a gift. Thank you for your support of the Church

Are you a male Catholic looking for an Men's Organization that will provide you with fraternal and spiritual benefit?



Join
The Knights of Columbus
St. Josephine Bakhita Council
contact JC Cadieux or Tony Ciuffo
if you are interested.



Are you a female Catholic looking for an Organization that will unite all Catholic women in a bond of friendship and spiritual growth?

Join
The Daughters of Isabella
St. Josephine Bakhita Circle
contact Rita Venantius

Are you interested in doing volunteer work for the Parish? Please contact Sister Linda or Fr. Mark to discern which ministry to be involved in. There is a great harvest, but there are very few laborers. Join us in serving the Lord!

A Prayer as one grows older

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seem a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I do not ask for improved memory, but for growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

Are you an Organ Donor?

"Organ donation is a peculiar form of witness to charity. In a period like ours, often marked by various forms of selfishness, it is ever more urgent to understand how the logic of free giving is vital to a correct conception of life. Indeed, a responsibility of love and charity exist that commits one to make of their own life a gift to others, if one truly wishes to fulfill oneself. As the Lord Jesus has taught us, only whoever gives his own life can save it (cf. Lk 9: 24)." – Pope Benedict XVI

One organ and tissue donor can save up to 8 lives and enhance the lives of 75 others. Register today at BeADonor.ca. You can also visit www.archtoronto.org/organdonation for additional resources.

The Mass for the Unborn

December 28, 2011
St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto.

The Mass for the Unborn will be celebrated at St. Michael's Cathedral at the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Rev. Ed McGovern will be the celebrant. All are welcome.

NOTE FROM THE PARISH SECRETARY

Fatima, our parish secretary, is asking the parishioner who is using the envelope number 867 to please update your information, so she can record all your donations for tax receipt purposes. Thank you.





Dr. Cecille Rubic-Pangilinan
Dentist

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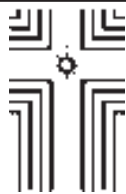
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