

# St. Pius X Parish

2305 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON M6S 1P1

Tel. 416-767-1859 Fax. 416-767-7715

office@saintpiusx.ca www.saintpiusx.ca

## PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Massillamani Zacharias (Fr. Mani), **Pastor**

Michelle Somers, **Parish Secretary**

Viktoria Navumava, **Volunteer Screening Coordinator**

Anselm Kerkos-De Souza, **Sacramental Preparation Coordinator**

*prepare the way...*



# ADVENT



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 20

5 pm + Maximo Arquiza, II

### Sunday, December 21

9 am + John & Mary O'Toole  
11 am Parishioners

### Tuesday, December 23

8:30 am + Judy & Nort Parry

### Wednesday, December 24

8:30 am No Intentions

### Thursday, December 25

8:30 am No Intentions

### Friday, December 26

8:30 am No Mass



### Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14  
Psalm: Ps 24.1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6  
Second Reading: Romans 1.1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24

### Sponsoring the Sanctuary Lamp



The Sanctuary lamp signifies the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It burns for the greater glory of God.

Parishioners are invited to become monthly sponsors of the Sanctuary Lamp. Please contact the parish office if you wish to donate. Doing so becomes an opportunity for friends and families to pray at the Tabernacle, knowing the Lamp burns for their intentions.

**The Sanctuary Lamp burns in December for the intentions of:** Maria Pileggi

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

*"...he did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him."*

Joseph knew that the penalty for adultery was death by stoning. His heart must have been deeply conflicted. On one hand, the virtues of his betrothed wife, Mary, were abundantly clear. Mary radiated holiness. Impurity was foreign to her Immaculate Heart. Yet she was pregnant, and Joseph was not the father. What should he do?

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

Joseph's dream was no ordinary dream. The Holy Spirit accompanied the angel and instilled the certitude of faith in Joseph's mind, empowering his will to obey God's will. Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Joseph became the father and guardian of the Saviour of the World. On December 8, 1847, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the Universal Patron and Protector of the Catholic Church. His intercessory power from Heaven is great, and we should not hesitate to call upon his prayers, especially when we need protection, struggle with fear, or face some grave challenge. (Excerpts from: *My Catholic Life*; Loyola Press.)

**PARISH NEWS**

**Weekly Prayer**

On the third weekend of the month, we remember the sick people who are admitted to hospitals and at home:

*Almighty ever living God, healer of the sick, we turn to You in this time of illness. Relieve the worry and sorrow of the sick persons among us with Your gentle love and grant them the grace and strength to accept this burden. We place them under Your care and humbly ask that You restore Your servants to good health again. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

**Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve Vigil** - Wednesday, December 24  
5 pm - Special Mass for parents with children  
8 pm - Mass for everyone

**Christmas Day** - Thursday, December 25  
9 am & 11 am

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year)** -  
Thursday, January 1, 2026 - 9 am & 11 am

**Note:** There will be no Mass on Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. The Office will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Big Thank You's!**

**Christmas Trees:** To the parishioner who gave us enough to buy two Christmas trees.

**Hymnals:** To the Catholic Women's League and two other families who donated enough to purchase all our new hymnals.

**Hall Painting:** To the parishioner who has donated towards this cost.

We are very grateful for the generous hearts of these donors!

**Gift Card Donations**

We have been receiving calls at the office asking for help with Christmas. We are asking for donations of gift cards for food in any amount you choose. Please speak to Fr. Mani after Mass if you have any questions. Thank you to those who have already given!

**Christmas Decorations**

We invite parishioners to help with decorating the church for Christmas. Decorating Day will be on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm.

**Save the Dates**

1. 75th Anniversary Opening Mass – Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am
2. St. Pius X Feast Day Mass – Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am
3. 75th Anniversary Closing Mass – Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 am

**Note:** On these dates, there will be only one Mass. Additional event dates will be forthcoming.

**Opportunities to Serve Your Parish!**

Each week, some parishioners give their time and talents so that St. Pius X can be a welcoming place. Whether greeting celebrants, serving during the Mass or working behind the scenes, every volunteer makes a huge difference in our church and helps create a great Sunday experience for all. If you have any questions or are interested in these or other roles in your parish, please speak to Fr. Mani after Mass.

**Ushers** – a wonderful way to extend our welcome, coordinate seating, or assist with offertory collection.

**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers** – These positions hold great honour and do not necessarily require a weekly commitment.

**Altar Servers** – Here is a wonderful chance to be deeply involved in the service of the Mass.

**Second Collection**

There will be a special collection this week, December 20-25, for the Christmas Offering.





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