

St. Pius X Parish

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PASTORAL STAFF

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

Michelle Somers, **Parish Secretary**

Viktoria Navumava, **Volunteer Screening Coordinator**

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



Feast of the Holy Family



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 27

5 pm + Maria Estorba & Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 28

9 am + Rosa Mallia

11 am Parishioners

Tuesday, December 30

8:30 am + Larry McManus

Wednesday, December 31

8:30 am Parishioners

Thursday, January 1

8:30 am No Intentions

Friday, January 2

8:30 am Thanksgiving



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading: Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14

Psalm: Ps 128.1-2, 3, 4-5

Second Reading: Colossians 3.12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23

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

"...an Angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph..."

The Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of his family in the face of danger. Scripture gives us limited details about the life of the Holy Family. What we do know is that from the very beginning, they suffered through enormous challenges.

Mary's pregnancy was the first challenge they faced. She conceived the Christ Child before she and Joseph lived together. Though she knew how she conceived the Son of God, Joseph did not understand until the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. We can imagine that relatives and members of the community expressed their disapproval, as the angel of the Lord likely did not reveal the truth to everyone.

Jesus was born far away from their home, in the little town of Bethlehem, in a cave, where animals dwelt. Within a year or two after Jesus' birth, this family had to uproot themselves from their home and flee to Egypt, find accommodations, and earn a living, because Herod was planning to kill the child Jesus. After Herod's death, Joseph was instructed in two subsequent dreams that he could return to Israel and was to move his family to the small and unremarkable village of Nazareth. Nazareth, though overlooked by the world, became the sacred ground where the Savior of the world was prepared for His mission. Finally, given that Saint Joseph is not mentioned during the time that Jesus exercised His public ministry, it is commonly believed that Jesus and His mother experienced the sorrow of Joseph's earthly death.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

Despite the hardships the Holy Family endured, the love in their home overshadowed every challenge, making their family life a source of the utmost consolation and joy. Amidst the trials they faced, the Holy Family found joy, not in worldly comforts, but in their deep union with God and with each other. Their home was a sanctuary of love, prayer, and mutual support, where God's presence was always felt. How fascinating it will be one day, in Heaven, if God reveals to us the details about the earthly and hidden life of the Holy Family. (Excerpts from: *My Catholic Life*; Loyola Press.)

PARISH NEWS

Weekly Prayer

On the fourth weekend of the month, we remember those in our families who have died. Let us pray for the repose of their souls:

O God! Listen to the prayers of Your Church on behalf of the faithful departed and grant to Your servants, whom we remember today, the inheritance promised to all. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

New Year Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year) -

Thursday, January 1, 2026 - 9 am & 11 am

Note: The Office will be closed on January 1st.

75th Anniversary Opening Mass

75th Anniversary Opening Mass – Sunday, January 4th at 10 am. This will be the only Mass on this day, and Bishop Kasun will be presiding. There will be a reception afterwards in the Hall. Everyone is invited!

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!

2026 Pilgrimage

Fr. Mani will be leading a 14-day pilgrimage to the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, France, Switzerland and Italy. The tour will run from September 3 to 16, 2026. Beginning in Amsterdam, pilgrims will visit notable shrines and churches, as well as famous tourist sites, throughout Europe. After your flight, the trip will be entirely land-based except for a boat cruise on Amsterdam's canals. Please see details on the green sheet in the foyer or speak to Fr. Mani after Mass.

Save the Dates

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

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

Friars Student Writing Contest 2026

High school students (ages 13-19) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to submit a 450–500-word essay for this year's contest. They should consult the resource of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 at bit.ly/3XYLAUn. More resources can be found at <https://bit.ly/WPCU2026> (scroll down past the Notice). Entries can be submitted at: <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>. For more information, please contact ecumenicalandinterfaith@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 x. 527. The deadline for entries is January 12, 2026.

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.





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