

St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish

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PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Roger Pascall, Pastor

Rev. Warnakulasuriya Gomi Fernando, Associate Pastor

Deacon Selwyn Athayde

Margaret Caminero - Youth Minister

Maura Hernández, Office Administrator



FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MON, DEC 25 9:30 am	
10:30 am	
12:30 pm	Juanito & John Elmer Go †
TUES, DEC 26 7:00 pm	
WED, DEC 27 9:15 am	Manuel & Genoveva Barbosa †; Epifania Castro
THUR, DEC 28 7:00 pm	Felicito Jata Calara
FRI, DEC 29 9:15 am	
SAT, DEC 30 9:15 am	
5:00 PM	In Thanksgiving - Raymond, & Eva Ali & family
SUN, DEC 31 9:00 am	For the People of the Parish
10:30 am	
12:30 pm	Juanito & John Elmer Go †
10:00 pm	

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

-Stanzas 3 & 4 of, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

As the warmth, memories, and nostalgia for Christmas pasts and present lay before us, favoured carols certainly enhance this liturgical time. The backstory of the composition of this cherished carol adds to its likability. It was composed by an American pastor, originally from the Boston era. The Rev. Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) looked more the part of a football player than preacher. Standing six feet four inches tall and weighing in at 300 pounds, his hulking, handsome stature was complimented with a keen intelligence. His education at the Harvard Divinity School, at a time when the prestigious institution earned its famed reputation as a place of brilliant scholarship, had him master not only studies into Sacred Scripture, but he became fluent in Greek, Latin, French and German. When his formidable presence took to the pulpit, he commanded attention with a striking contrast of booming voice and genuine, gentle Christian demeanor.

In the summer of 1868, he traveled to the Holy Land. He so marveled at the sacred sites, that upon his return, he too, like so many who have visited, saw the gospels come alive having seen the geography and landscapes where all had taken place. As Christmas drew near, he penned the words to "O Little Town of Bethlehem" as an inspired tribute to his pilgrim meditations. He pressed the organist at his parish in the lead up to Christmas morning to compose a corresponding melody. A Christmas classic came to birth.

With less than 100 km of distance separating the town of Bethlehem from the Gaza strip, how urgent our prayer is for the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, to be known, proclaimed, confessed, and worshiped by all peoples in so troubled a time as ours.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world.

Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David. And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible.

Mary is hailed as the "daughter Jerusalem," called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior.

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High"—an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history.

He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man, His kingdom will have no end.


He is to rule over the house of Jacob—the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai, and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob.

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience—that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.



Fr. Roger

YOUTH MINISTRY



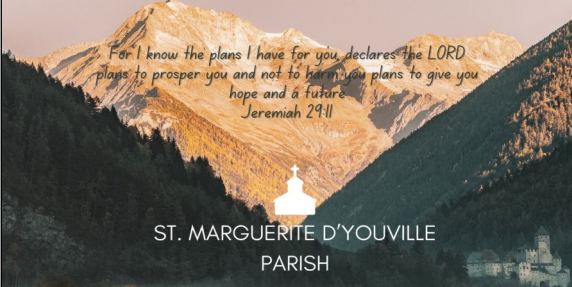
LEADING TEENS CLOSER TO CHRIST

KICK OFF EVENT FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024
7:00PM - 9:00PM

FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 9 - 12

LIFE NIGHTS every **OTHER** Friday in the Parish basement
7 - 9 pm

RELATIONAL MINISTRY WHERE TEENS ASK THE BIG QUESTIONS
AND GROW IN FAITH



*For I know the plans I have for you declares the LORD
plans to prosper you and not to harm you plans to give you
hope and a future
Jeremiah 29:11*

**ST. MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE
PARISH**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

WELCOME ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO



On the occasion of the 252nd death anniversary of our Patron Saint Marguerite d'Youville we gladly welcome His Grace Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto to our Parish. It was on December 23 in the year 1771, that our patroness died; while obviously her feast is celebrated on October 16, your presence among us is a fitting tribute to commemorate her life and to mark the conclusion of our Advent time of waiting.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

2024 boxes of Offertory Envelopes are available in the Narthex. Please ensure you pick up your **own** box and that your name & address is correct so that when the T4 slips for income tax purposes are prepared, they will be sent with the correct name & address. If your box is not there or you need to make any changes, or you wish to begin using envelopes fill out an Envelope Request Form and return it to the office. Please **DO NOT** use these envelopes until **JANUARY 1, 2024**. Reminder: **DO NOT USE ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS!**



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST



The Knights of Columbus – Council 15612 invites the children of our parish to participate in the annual “Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest.”

The Theme is: “KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS.”

Age Groups: J. K. – Grade 8 Due Date of Submission : -

December 31, 2023. For further details, kindly pick up a form from the Knights in the Narthex.

55+ CLUB - NIAGARA WINE TOUR

The 55 plus club is organizing a Niagara Wine tour on from January 26th—28th, 2024. They will be staying at the Embassy suits hotel. Buffet breakfast and managers reception is included. The cost includes the winery pass (6 Winery’s) coach bus and hotel.



Single \$621; Double \$415; Triple \$364 & Quad \$338 per person. Deposit is due by December 19th and final payment is due January 16th, 2024. If you would like more information please contact Sandy at 905-791-7315.

STITCHES FROM THE HEART



Once again we are approaching the holiday season. Stitches from the Heart group will be close for the holidays from December 4, and resume on Monday January 8, 2024. On the behalf of all the women the Stitches from the Heart Group, we would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2024.

SMALL GROUP FAITH MINISTRY

“Where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.” (Matthew 18:20) If you would like to apply what you have learned from Scripture, teachings, and practical personal reflection questions, join the SGM. For more details, email Olivia Saqui at screeningcommittee.smdy@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed!



If you are interested in volunteering at the parish, please email Linda at LYeh@archtoronto.org with the following information:

1. Your first and last name, phone number and email address.
2. Are you an Adult (18+) or Minor (under 18)
3. Which ministry you are interested in.

ST. MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 24th

Saturday 5pm; Sunday 9:00 am,
10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24th

Nativity of our Lord Masses -
5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, & 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25th

9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

December 26 - 29

Mass times as usual

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday, December 31st

Saturday 5pm; Sunday 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:30pm

New Year's Eve - Sunday, December 31st

Holy Mary Mother of God Mass

10:00 pm Mass

11:15 pm - 12:30 am Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament

New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Monday, January 1st, 2024

9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm Mass

NEXT EDGE NIGHT !!!



We will begin again in the new year on
Friday, January 5th, 2024

Anyone wishing to register their child from grades 6 - 8 please pickup a registration from in the church or visit our website.

For more information email Margaret at dyouvilleyouth@gmail.com

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