

# *St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish*

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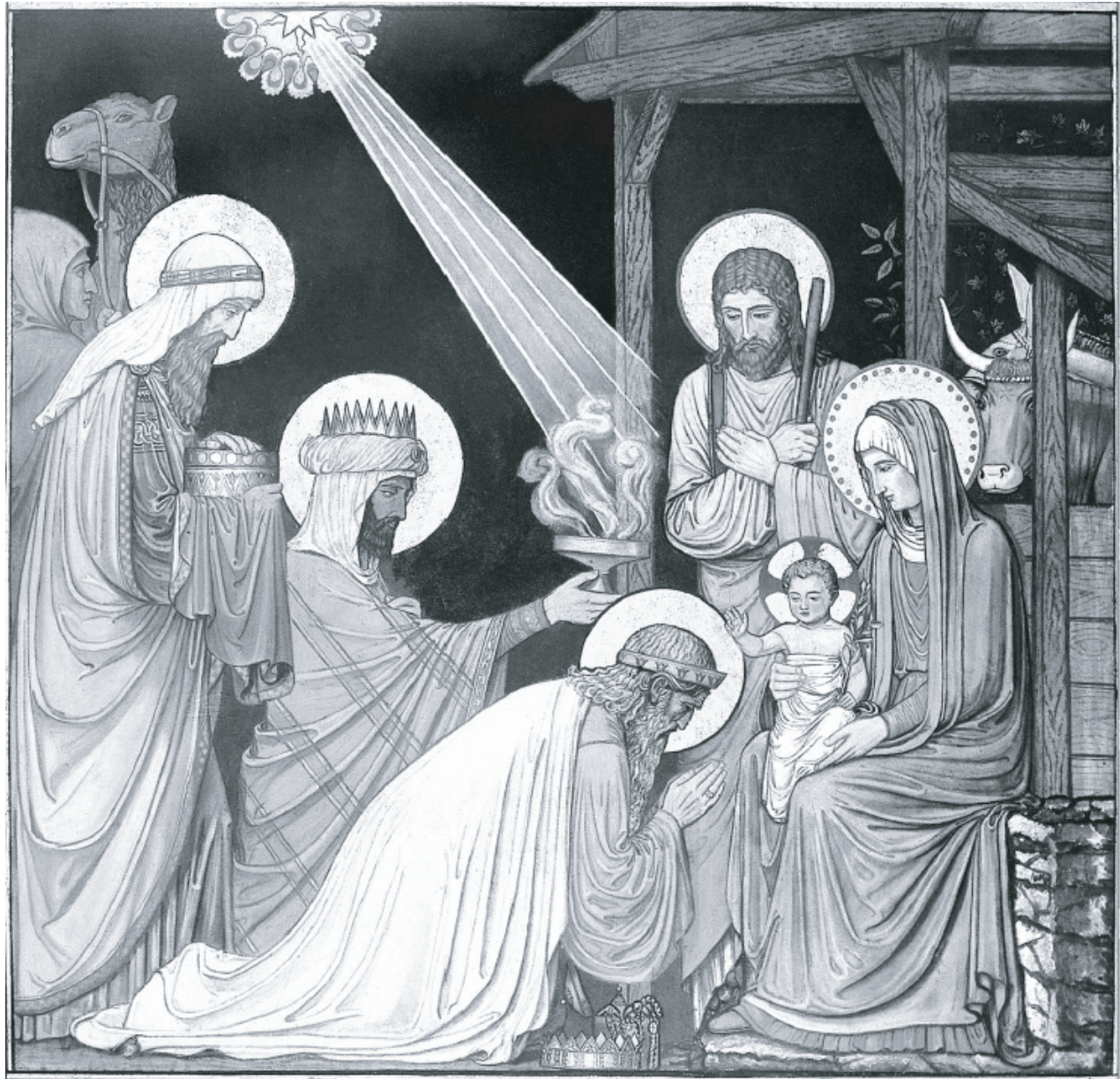
## PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Roger Pascall

Rev. Jesuraj Anthony Silva I.V.Dei, Associate Pastor

Deacon Selwyn Athayde

Maura Hernández, Office Administrator



# *Feast of the Holy Family*

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>MON, DEC 30</b> 9:15 am	Thomas Francis †; Annie Thomas †; Ramon Saraza †; In thanksgiving for the birthday of Jeslin Tom
<b>TUES, DEC 31</b> 5:00 pm	Madaline Diaz †
10:00 PM	
<b>WED, JAN 1</b> 9:00 am	For the People of the Parish
10:30 am	Olga Medeiros †
12:30 pm	Juanito & John Elmer Go †; Gilbert Lambe †
<b>THUR, JAN 2</b> 7:00 pm	
<b>FRI, JAN 3</b> 9:15 am	
7:00 am	
<b>SAT, JAN 4</b> 9:15 am	
5:00 PM	For the People of the Parish
<b>SUN, JAN 5</b> 9:00 am	Manuel Paul †
10:30 am	Olga Medeiros †; In thanksgiving - Okorie family
12:30 pm	Juanito & John Elmer Go †; Germano Pavao †; Freddy Flores †
8:00 pm	

*I know by acting in this way I have not chosen an easy path and that I risk not being understood by many of my fellow citizens. To those who may be shocked by my decision, I ask them: Is it right that I am the only Belgian citizen to be forced to act against his conscience in such a crucial area? Is the freedom of conscience sacred for everyone except for the king?"*

*King Baudouin of Belgium (1930-1993), letter to the Prime Minister, 1990*

During the octave of Christmas (December 28), standing in contrast to the joy of babe in the manger, is the somber Feast of the Holy Innocents; the death of Bethlehem's boys as ordered by King Herod is a portent of the eventual sacrifice of newborn Saviour. The treachery of Herod and his tight grip on power all too often seems the only way for those of high office. The cited quote of King Baudouin provides a dramatic illustration of the counter-cultural and enduring legacy for those who embrace the gospel's demands.

King Baudouin took the throne at the age of 20. His father, King Leopold III, was compelled to abnegate the crown for his perceived lack of resistance to the Germans during WWII. The newly installed young monarch was very convinced that close discipleship to Jesus was the best way to heal a broken Europe. During his reign, he balanced the tensions within his own people and their varying backgrounds of German, Flemish, French and Dutch influences; he helped lay the foundations for the then promising European Union; he oversaw the successful transfer from a colonial to independent Congo. But his most notable achievement was his willingness to renounce the throne when compelled to sign into law the recently promulgated abortion law. King Baudouin and his faithful wife, Queen Fabiola, were torn in conscience in wanting to uphold the unity of the constitutional monarchy they had vowed to serve yet knew they had to oppose a law that undermined the natural rights of Belgians to be born. The pressure on them was immense: their surrounding European counterparts had all passed liberal laws approving of the termination of pregnancies. The Christian Democrat party in power pleaded for the King to sign the law since it at least promised to limit the terms of abortion rather than yield to the momentum of the more leftist parties who wanted no restrictions whatsoever. The Belgian Royals, who had undergone five miscarriages and had no birthed no successor, traveled to the Holy House of Loreto, Italy to pray for strength and peace to hold fast to their resistance. They refused to cooperate with the intrinsically evil proposal. The impact of the heroic resistance across the nation was so great that the Belgian parliament had to move fast to acknowledge the King's right to abstain and begged him to return to rule. King Baudouin died soon thereafter by way of heart failure while visiting Spain. Pope Francis announced his intention to beatify the noble King during his September 2024 visit to Brussels.

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church.



In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it. The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called His "parents" and are referred to separately as His "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose. The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling. But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church.

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son".

*Fr. Roger*

Heavenly Father,  
we pray for your protection  
and blessings upon our families  
and upon our parish community.  
As you offer us the example of  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
in their closeness to each other,  
collaboration in daily work,  
and fidelity in all manners of holiness,  
we recognize how far  
we often are from imitating them.  
As we face challenges of family unity,  
anxieties over financial stability,  
and lukewarmness towards commitment  
to growth in prayer and worship,  
provide us with the abundant signs  
that you sustain us in every good effort  
and openness to humble faith.  
We ask this in the name of Christ,  
the newborn King.  
Amen.

**MESSAGE FROM FRANK CARDINAL LEO**

My hope and prayer for the Archdiocese of Toronto is that we embrace the call of our Holy Father to be *Pilgrims of Hope*; that we journey together and proclaim Jesus Christ to a world in need of His love. On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis inaugurates the Jubilee Year with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, and asked that on December 29, in cathedrals around the world, a holy Mass be celebrated as a solemn opening of the Jubilee Year in each diocese. His Holiness will be celebrating at his cathedral, St. John Lateran, in union with diocesan bishops around the world (*Spes non Confundit*, 6). Here in the Archdiocese of Toronto, I will be presiding over a Eucharistic celebration at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on December 29th. I invite all of us to join in that Mass in union with all other dioceses around the world in giving witness to that hope and love which comes from the heart of the Saviour. What a beautiful sign of the unity and catholicity of the Church it will be.



**TAX DEADLINE**

Our Tax deadline is December 31st, 2024, any donations processed after December 31st will count towards your 2025 donations and will not be included in your 2024 tax receipt. Thank you for your financial commitment to our parish.



**2025 PARISH ENVELOPES**

2025 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, 2025**. Reminder: **DO NOT USE ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS!**



**WELCOME THE NEW YEAR IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD**

You are invited to come participate in Adoring and Worshipping our Lord in His Eucharistic Presence to herald in the New Year! Be blessed as you unite your heart to His glorious presence at the dawning of a New Year. Be renewed, refreshed and strengthened by this experience as you look forward for a year filled with the peace and joy that He alone brings. O come let us Adore Him! Tuesday, December 31st starting at 11:15 pm - 1:00 am. Hosted by the SMDY Alpha Ministries.



**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION**

First Friday Adoration, is a Eucharistic adoration held the first Friday of every month in the church. It begins with 9:15 AM Mass and is followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the remainder of the day. Adoration concludes at 7:00pm followed by Mass.

**WHAT FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION PARTICIPANTS DO:** *Come any time during the adoration hours (approximately 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM) to spend some quiet, prayerful time with Jesus. Adoration participants commit to specific time (There will be a sign-up sheet in the office). These "Guardians of the Eucharist" ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone.*

**FIRST FRIDAY - HOLY HOUR**

Please join us in this holy hour of prayers during the Eucharistic adoration on First Fridays of every month. We start with the 3 O'clock Prayer and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm. Then, we continue with Prayers of Adoration, Thanksgiving, Reparation, and Intercession. We also pray the Eucharistic Rosary and the Litany of the Blessed Sacrament. We end the hour with a hymn of praise and adoration at 4:00pm. All are welcome.

**Volunteers Needed!**



If you are interested in volunteering at the parish, please email Linda at [LYeh@archtoronto.org](mailto: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.

**NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**  
**Tuesday, December 31st**

5:00 pm Mass,  
10:00 pm Mass; 11:15 pm - 12:30 am  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Office open from 9am-12pm

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**  
**Wednesday, January 1st, 2025**

9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm Mass  
(\*NO 8pm Mass\*)  
OFFICE CLOSED

Regular office hours as of January 2, 2025

**THE 55+ CLUB**

We will be breaking for the Holidays and will resume in the New year on January 7th. Wishing you peace and blessings this Christmas and into the New Year. For more information contact Sandy: [sandyrob-in22@gmail.com](mailto:sandyrob-in22@gmail.com)

**STITCHES FROM THE HEART**

As the holidays are approaching Stitches from the Heart will be close from December 2, 2024 and resume January 6, 2025. On the behalf of all the women stitches from the heart group we would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a healthy new year. Thank you.

**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 meetings on Wednesdays and Saturdays. For more information, email Olivia Saqui at [olivia.saqui@gmail.com](mailto:olivia.saqui@gmail.com)

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

The work of the society is to assist those in need who live within our parish boundary. If you are in need of assistance please contact the St. Marguerite d'Youville Conference directly at 647-642-4906 or email: [vincentdepaulsmdy@gmail.com](mailto:vincentdepaulsmdy@gmail.com)

**SERRA'S VOCATION SEEDS**

By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained, or consecrated person. If you feel God is calling you to priesthood, religious life or the diaconate, call **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.** Email: [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) or [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)





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