

St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish

2490 Sandalwood Parkway East, Brampton, ON L6R 3A4

P: 905-792-7497 • F: 905-792-8049

Email: stmargueritedyouville@archtoronto.org • Web: stmargueritedyouville.archtoronto.org/

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

MON, DEC 29 9:15 am	Aurora Rodil †; For previous 42 generations of Chandy & Margaret Family
TUES, DEC 30 7:00 pm	In thanksgiving for the birthday of Jeslin Tom; For previous 42 generations of Chandy & Margaret Family
WED, DEC 31 5:00 pm	Rafael Manahan †; For previous 42 generations of Chandy & Margaret Family
10:00 pm	For the living and deceased members of the Gonzaga family
THUR, JAN 1 9:00 am	Netty & Christo Britto †; Michelle & Lauren Bouchard †; Brian McGinnis †
10:30 AM	For previous 42 generations of Chandy & Margaret Family
12:30 PM	Juanito & John Elmer Go †
FRI, JAN 2 9:15 am	For the intentions of Dharryl Tan
7:00 PM	For previous 42 generations of Chandy & Margaret Family
SAT, JAN 3 9:15 am	Angelito Olindan †; Maria de Lourdes Ramalho †
5:00 pm	For previous 42 generations of Chandy & Margaret Family
SUN, JAN 4 9:00 am	P.C. John & Annama John †; Emil Marianayagam †; For previous 42 generations of Chandy & Margaret Family
10:30 am	Prenamma Baby †; In thanksgiving - Okorie family
12:30 pm	Angelito Olindan †; Juanito & John Elmer Go †; Jermano Pavao †
8:00 pm	For the People of the Parish

THIS WEEK AT SMDY

December 26 - 30 - Mass times as usual

NEW YEAR'S EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2026

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

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

Happy New Year!!!

*Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells
All seem to say, "Throw cares away"
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer
To young and old, meek and the bold
Ding-dong, ding-dong, that is their song
With joyful ring, all caroling
One seems to hear, words of good cheer
From ev'rywhere, filling the air
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas*

- Carol of the Bells, English translation from the original Ukrainian folk hymn, Shchedryk

If one is not already saturated with play and repeat of Christmas songs by now, the cited "Carol of the Bells" can captivate listeners not only with its enchanting four part harmony but also with a back story that is equally fascinating. The familiar opening melody (ding, ding, dong, ding) was already part of the repertoire of Ukrainian common chant, passed along from generation to generation. In 1916, as World War I wreaked its havoc, the Ukrainian people sensed the squeeze from the Austrian/Hungarian/Germanic empire of the West to the rising danger of the Bolshevik led Russian Revolution to the East. To strengthen Ukrainian identity, a composer by the name of Mykola Leontovych wrote lyrics to the folk tune. To bolster worried spirits, the lyrics described the visit of a sparrow to a farmer's home bringing reassurance that soon spring would eventually return with its promise of bounty: fields of abundant harvest, livestock fertile with numerous offspring, and a beautiful family secure, warm, and well fed. (The title of the song, "Shchedryk" translates as "bountiful".) The song was taken on tour throughout Europe and proved to be an instant sensation. By the time it made its premiere in New York City at Carnegie Hall in 1922, an American composer of Ukrainian descent, Peter Wilhousky, recognized the immense potential of the song based on the thunderous ovations it received; in 1936, the Carol of the Bells was released as we now know it.

Obviously, it is impossible not to call to mind the bitter struggle of the noble Ukrainian people of the then and the now. Whereas a century ago they feared the loss of their Byzantine/Slavonic liturgy, customs and way of life, the current ugly and tragic plight of Ukraine has been forefront on the world stage for the past 3 years. Broken-hearted over the way foreign meddling and interference has pushed their young men into carnage and death, the bright and Utopian visions of abundant harvests and prolific family life appear as if they may never return. In their following of the Julian calendar, the Ukrainian Church is set to enter into their worship of the Christ Child. Their need for a Saviour to deliver them is recognized as more urgent than ever.

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 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

2026 PARISH ENVELOPES

2026 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, 2026**. Reminder: **DO NOT USE ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS!**



TAX DEADLINE



Our Tax deadline is December 31st, 2025, any donations processed after December 31st will count towards your 2026 donations and will not be included in your 2025 tax receipt. Thank you for your financial commitment to our parish.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

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! Wednesday, December 31st starting with Mass at 10pm followed by Exposition and Adoration from 11:15pm - 12:00am. Finger foods to share afterwards would be greatly appreciated. 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.

MONTHLY MEMORIAL MASS

On the first Saturday of each month, a Memorial Mass is offered for the repose of the souls of all whose names appear on our Memorial Wall. Join us for Mass at 9:15am, entrusting our beloved departed to God's infinite mercy and the promise of eternal life.

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.

THE 55+ CLUB

We will be breaking for the Holidays and will resume in the New year on January 6th. Wishing you peace and blessings this Christmas and into the New Year. For more information contact Sandy: sandyrob-in22@gmail.com

STITCHES FROM THE HEART

As the holidays are approaching Stitches from the heart will be close from December 1, 2025 and resume January 5, 2026. On the behalf of all the women of the Stitches from the heart group we would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year .

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 SGFM.smdy@gmail.com

PARISH BOOK STORE

The Parish bookstore is open on the first and third weekend of every month after all Masses. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Linda at LYeh@archtoronto.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a charitable Catholic organization, active throughout Canada. 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

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.

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