

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

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Parish Staff

Fr. Carlos Sierra Tobon, **Pastor**

Fr. Sami Farid Mikhail Bakhit, **Associate Pastor**

Msgr. Fady Boktor: **Pastor of Holy Family Coptic Catholic Church**

Mrs. Rhoda Marcoccia, **Administrative Assistant**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

The Gospel according to St. Matthew begins with the "genealogy of Jesus Christ" (Mt 1:1-17).

The evangelist thus emphasizes that the story that God began with Abraham has now reached its goal in Jesus Christ. The goal is not the end of history, since it continues, but in a new way. The passage from today's Gospel that speaks of the "birth of Jesus Christ" shows us just how new this story is. St. Matthew uses this word here, which can mean anything: genesis, origin, source, existence, becoming. The complete renewal is already being prepared in verse 16, which says: "Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born." It is therefore clear that St. Matthew means that Joseph was none other than Jesus' adoptive father.

MARY AND GENEALOGY OF JESUS

Matthew's Gospel (Chapter 1) provides Jesus' genealogy through Joseph's line, tracing back to Abraham via King David and Solomon, naming Jacob as Joseph's father, but notably includes five women (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary) in an unusual way, emphasizing Jesus' connection to both Jewish history (David) and the wider world. Luke's Gospel offers a different genealogy, tracing through Mary's line (Joseph's father-in-law, Eli) back to Adam, highlighting Jesus' universal role, with both genealogies converging on Jesus' Davidic descent as Messiah, fulfilling prophecy.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=MARY+AND+GENEALOGY+OF+JESUS+ST+MATTHEW>

**PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS**

May the souls of the departed rest in peace:
**Gebre-Medhin Woldu, Giuseppe Staibano,
 Margaret Little, Norbert Fernandez**

WINNERS OF THE 65th ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE DRAW

TICKET NO.	PRIZES	WINNERS
00011	Maple Leaf Tickets	Mirello Farello
00021	Basket No. 2	Maria De Sousa
00161	Nexgrill BBQ	Joe Muto
00164	Basket No. 5	Joe Muto
00351	Basket No. 3	Joe Klanfar
00422	Visa Gift Card (\$100)	Mary Jane Tenuta
00651	Basket No. 6	Chris Pimento
00710	Television 55"	Chris Pimento
00773	Cheese Certificate (\$50)	Sandy Horvath
00801	Sparkle Gift Certificate	Madalane Turpin
00806	Rayban Sunglasses	Lidia Mydiak
00862	Basket No.1	Mark McCallen
00899	Yeti Cooler	Peter Nweke
01002	Ralph Lauren Tote Bag	Vicki V
01009	Mini Refrigerator	David & Tessa
01101	Free Oil Change	Marlene
01115	Chafing Dish	Li Salomao
01452	Basket No. 4	Lisa Lovecchio
01652	Beville Café	Candalaria Gantala
01705	Cheese Certificate (\$50)	Prisca Uzomak

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**Wednesday, December 24th**

9:30 am: Morning Mass
 5:30 pm: Family Christmas Mass
 11:30 pm: Carols with the Choir Members
 12 Midnight: Christmas Mass

Thursday, December 25th

7:45 am, 9:00 am Italian, 10:30 am, 12 Noon, 7:00 pm & Adoration

ADORATION

Adoration will take place at 4:00 pm on Christmas Day until Boxing Day. We will keep the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle, please enter by using the security code.

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**Wednesday, December 31st**

9:30 am: Morning Mass
 5:30 pm: New Year's Day Mass
 12 Midnight: New Year's Day Mass

Thursday, January 1st

7:45 am, 9:00 am Italian, 10:30 am, 12 Noon, 7:00 pm & Adoration

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will close at 12 Noon on Wednesday, December 24th and will re-open on Friday, December 26th.

The parish office will close at 12 Noon on Wednesday, December 31st and will re-open on Thursday, January 2nd.

2026 DONATION ENVELOPES

2026 contribution envelopes are available in the parish hall. They are arranged numerically, so please be sure you know your envelope number when you come in. If you have not picked up your envelope as of yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. A white binder, organized alphabetically by last name, is available near the envelopes to assist you in locating your number. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

If you are a registered parishioner and have recently changed your address, please let the parish office know so that we may keep our records up to date. Thank you for your consideration.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Christmas Collection Envelope for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is being collected. Donations may be placed in the collection basket during Mass. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers:

Theresa Burns, Noemy Pereira, Clint Viegas, Lisa Petriglia, Tony Elia, Samuel Cordeiro, Arthur Ruston, Raphael Colaco, Gianfranco, Ines, Roman Zakrajse, Teresa Pirrello, William Bennett, Emily Williams, Margaret Speciale, Mark Ramjattan, John Benjamin, Jane Delgado, Rosa Natale, Christina Vitale, Gary Cullum, Manuel Uy, Luisa Spinato, Katherine Idzik, Domenico Loprevite, Ramon Ortiz, Alba Micelli, Joseph Borgerding, Leo Bombardieri, Ann, Feliciano Ventura Jr., Domenica Fantini, Ivy D'Souza, Luca, Naz, Giuseppe Staibano, Bert, Geoffrey, Mary Sue Snow

CLOSING MASS FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

We wish to extend a warm invitation to the faithful of the archdiocese to join with Cardinal Leo for the Closing Mass for the Year of Jubilee on Sunday, December 28th at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica at 5 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available with numerous priests present from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Each Jubilee Pilgrimage Church will also celebrate a Closing Mass for the Year of the Jubilee on Sunday, December 28th, at a regularly scheduled mass of their own choice. Please visit the pilgrimage church websites for further details:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/sub-sites/year-of-prayer/home/pilgrimage-churches/>

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE 2026

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 4:00 p.m. EST

Venue: Runnymede United Church, 432 Runnymede Rd, M6S 2Y8

Theme: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4)

Join Bishop John A. Boissonneau and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations and the GTA Council of Christian Churches.

MARRIAGE SUNDAY 2026

As part of Marriage Sunday 2026 celebrations, Bishop John Boissonneau will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2026. The Mass will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond St., Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass. All are welcome to attend. Reserved seating is available for couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversary in 2026. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass. Registration and other important information can be found at www.archtoronto.org/marriage.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY

On the weekend of February 27 - March 1, 2026, St. Augustine's Seminary is offering a Discernment Retreat at their seminary for single men aged 18+ who feel the Lord may be calling them to discern the priesthood.

The retreat will start on Friday evening at 6:30 PM and will end on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM. Meals & Accommodations will be provided. A suggested donation of \$100 is appreciated.

- No one will be turned away due to financial reasons

Register now or for more information, please contact:

Email: vocations@archtoronto.org

Web: www.vocationstoronto.ca

"And the angel said to her: Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God.

Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus." Luke 1:30 – 31



The passage highlights Mary's special role. She is not chosen by accident; she has "found grace with God." Her openness to God's will becomes essential for the salvation of the world. This verse emphasizes her holiness and her unique vocation as the Mother of God.

MASS INTENTIONS & LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:45 am All living & deceased members of our Parish
9:00 am †Vincent Genova, †Pina Locicero, †Theodore Grizzaffi, †Girolama Cangemi, Special Blessings for Josie
10:30 am †Anthony Menezes, †Paul Fantauzzi, †Alex Risavy, †Jose Henriques, †Maria Reyes
12:00 pm †John Colosimo & deceased family members, †Ciriaco Grieco, †Anna Maietta, †Carmine & Francesca Maietta, †Theresa Tigani D'Urzo
1:30 pm IGBO Mass
7:00 pm †Francesca Primerano, †Marty Russell
8:00 pm Adoration (with ½ hour Meditation)

Monday December 22 Late Advent Weekday

9:30 am †Gilda Gabriel, †Vincenzo Piertronio & deceased family members
†Gertrude & Vivian D'Sylva, †Maria Perez

Tuesday December 23 Late Advent Weekday/St. John of Kantz, Priest

9:30 am †Domenico Cosentino, †Matthew & Wayne Dishart

Wednesday December 24 Late Advent Weekday

9:30 am All living & deceased members of our Parish
3:30 pm Mass at Parkland
5:30 pm Family Christmas Mass
11:30 pm Carols with the Choir Members
12 Midnight Christmas Mass

Thursday December 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

7:45 am All living & deceased members of our Parish
9:00 am All living & deceased members of our Parish
10:30 am All living & deceased members of our Parish
12:00 pm All living & deceased members of our Parish
7:00 pm All living & deceased members of our Parish

Friday December 26 Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

9:30 am †Josephine Indovina, †Lorenz Stachelscheid

Saturday December 27 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

9:30 am Thanksgiving for Prayers Received
3:30 pm Mass at Parkland
4:30 pm Confessions
5:30 pm †Souls in Purgatory

Sunday December 28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:45 am All living & deceased members of our Parish
9:00 am †Deceased members of the Valdere Family, †Pat Sandre, †Claudio Loprevite
10:30 am †Dominic Bertucci & all deceased family members, †Rowena and Fred Moge, A Special Blessing for Bert Vanderwyst
12:00 pm †Lina & Rosario Colosimo, †Joseph Valador, Noel Rodriguez, †Francisco and Rosalina Brum, †Oliver Yap
7:00 pm Thanksgiving for Prayers & Blessings Received
8:00 pm Adoration (with ½ hour Meditation)

COLLECTION

Our regular collection last week was: \$6,874.00. Thank you to all the parishioners for your contributions and for supporting our parish. We truly appreciate your kindness. The Pre-Authorized Giving (P.A.G.) program is available. For your convenience you may now donate by using your debit and credit cards on the TipTap device in the vestibule. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

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