

# St. Joseph Parish

*Established in 1878*

*Served by the Holy Cross Fathers*

162 Leslie St. Toronto, ON M4M 3C7

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**Website:** [www.stjosephTO@archtoronto.org](http://www.stjosephTO@archtoronto.org)

## **Pastoral Staff**

**Pastor:** Fr. Roshan Loy D'Souza, CSC

**Secretary/Bookkeeper:** Nerie Bernal    **Custodian:** Allan Cobham



Oh Come  
Let us Adore Him

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT : DECEMBER 24, 2023



## The fourth Sunday of Advent: The candle of Love

The fourth advent candle is the last one lit in most advent wreaths, marking the last phase of the advent season. It has perhaps the most sentimental meaning of all the advent candles, a meaning that is often seen as just a cliché. However, that candle's meaning is unexpectedly powerful.

The CANDLE OF LOVE is also known as the Angel candle. The angels who proclaimed the good news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. Love plays a vital role in the Christmas story. Because of Joseph's love for Mary, he didn't stone her when he found out she was pregnant with what he thought was a child out of wedlock with another man (Matthew 1:18-19). Mary had a natural motherly love for Jesus, and ultimately, we see God's love for everyone by sending His Son for us (John 3:16).

Jesus focused on preaching love throughout His ministry. Two of his greatest commands involve love: Love God, love your neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40). Love is the greatest of all virtues and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth (1 Corinthians 13:13). Not surprisingly, the Bible has a lot to say about love. The word appears about 500 times throughout Scripture. It makes sense. God is love (1 John 4). They know we are Christians by our love (1 Corinthians 13:1). Love sacrificed Jesus for our sins. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 alone tallies off a number of characteristics of love: it's patient, kind, it does not envy, etc. We cannot walk with Christ without love, and we cannot have the Christmas story without it. Love is what Christmas is all about.

**A Prayer for Love:** *Heavenly Father, You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent, help us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus. Amen*

**Merry Christmas:**

**Fr. Roshan Loy D'Souza, CSC**



**REMEMBERING ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH,  
making a charitable Bequest:**

Having a properly made will is one of the best gifts anyone can leave their loved ones in the event of their passing. It also ensures that charities and causes closest to their hearts will be sustained. By putting the parish in their will, parishioners can help the Church faithfully carry out the pastoral mission entrusted to her by our Lord, for generations to come. **For more information, please call the Parish office of St. Joseph Church.**

**Contact: 416 466 7815 or 416 518 0276**

### The Week Ahead :

Dec 21: Memorial: St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Dec 23: Memorial: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Dec 25: Memorial: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Dec 26: Memorial: St. Stephen, First Martyr



## ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

**Give ear to my words, O LORD; give heed to my sighing:**

Friday, January 12, 2024 07:00 PM - Sunday, January 14, 2024 01:30 PM. Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre Pickering.

Men Ignatian Silent Retreat - facilitated by Fr. Jim Kelly, SJ. – "Give ear to my words, O LORD; give heed to my sighing." Praying with the Psalms. This silent weekend retreat begins on Friday evening and runs to Sunday with lunch. The suggested offering is \$250 per person which includes 2 night's accommodation with meals, spiritual direction and retreat program. **REGISTER: Email [registration@manresa.ca](mailto:registration@manresa.ca) or visit <https://manresa-canada.ca>**

**Windows on Theology Winter 2024 Course - Beyond Polarities: Ignatian and Jesuit Sources for a Wounded World**

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:00 AM - Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:45 PM . Regis College . In this Windows on Theology course, Prof. Susan Wood, SCL will speak on how resources drawn from the "Spiritual Exercises" of St. Ignatius, as well as from the Society of Jesus's reflection on its mission oriented to justice and reconciliation in service of the faith, offer both a path to personal conversion and tools for accompanying our fellow travelers and offering Christ's healing in this wounded world. **To register, please visit: <https://regis.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/regis/eventRegistration.jsp>**

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT : DECEMBER 24, 2023



## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION

For December 2023:

### For Persons with Disabilities:

We pray that people living with disabilities maybe at the center of attention in society , and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



## Christmas 2023 & New Year 2024 Schedule

Dec. 23, 05:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass

Dec. 24, 10:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass

05:30 pm Christmas Concert  
& Christmas Vigil Mass

Dec. 25, 10:00 am Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 30, 05:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass

Dec. 31, 10:00 am Sunday mass: Feast of the Holy  
Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Jan. 01, 10:00 am New Year Day Mass/  
Feast of Mary Mother of God



## WEEKEND COLLECTION:

December 16-17, 2023: \$

Thank you for your constant support and generous contribution.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their commitment and to our benefactors for your continued support.

Kindly contribute through Pre Authorized Giving.

Forms are available in the foyer.

**A Big thanks to Knights of Columbus,  
Council; 9079.**



# † MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 24

10:00 am : † Delfina De Sousa & Beatriz Pereira

Req. Olga Oliveira

† Darrin Elliott

Req. Lourdes Elliott

6:30 pm: Mathew & Amy Birthday Blessings  
& Family Intentions

Req. Maria Carmo Oliveira

Monday, December 25 :

10:00 am † Cirpiano & Estela Casballido

Req. Marilene Casballido

Tuesday, December 26

9:00 am : Thanksgiving Intentions

Req. Angie & Nick Blanco

Wednesday, December 27

7:00 pm :

Req.

Thursday, December 28

9:00 am :

Req.

Friday, December 29

7:00 pm

Req.

Saturday, December 30

5:00 pm : For the Intentions of  
St. Joseph Parish Community

† Victoria Montifar

Req. Montifar Family

† Valerie Monis

Req. Monis Family

**St. Joseph, Pray for us.**

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