

Saint Dunstan's Church

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*May the Blessings of this
Holy Season be with you Always.*

JANUARY 1, SOLEMNITY OF MARY
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

On 1 January, the Octave (eighth) Day of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. After celebrating the birth of Christ on 25 December, it is only fitting to celebrate the Blessed Virgin who consented to God's plan of salvation and became the Mother of the Redeemer, the Word made flesh in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. "Mother of God" is Mary's greatest privilege and title. On this great feast day, may Our Lady inspire us to say our own "yes" to God and welcome the Saviour into our lives and hearts. Also, on the first day of the civil calendar, the Church observes the World Day of Peace, praying for peace among nations and an end to war and violence.



Please note that 1 January is a holyday of obligation in Canada.

PEACE

Since the pontificate of Saint Paul VI, the Catholic Church has observed 1 January as the World Day of Peace. We know that peace is a great blessing and one of the deepest longings of the human heart. We also know that real and lasting peace cannot co-exist where there is injustice, oppression and poverty. Building peace is everyone's



responsibility. Each person must be committed to creating conditions that will foster peace, beginning with oneself and one's own family. The "seeds" needed to build up peace in the family and in the world are respect, humility, self-control, patience and tolerance, inner strength, generosity, goodness and kindness, joy, justice and prayer. In this Christmas season we rejoice that Jesus has given us the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist so that we could live in peace and communion with God and one another. As we commemorate Mary, the Mother of God on New Year's Day and after a year marred by so much violence, turmoil and sickness, let us resolve to pray often the rosary for peace in the world.

1923 ~ CENTENNIAL OF ST. DUNSTAN'S PARISH ~ 2023

New Year's ushers in our Centennial Year marking 100 years since our parish was established by Archbishop Neil McNeil. The first Mass was celebrated on October 17, 1923 in the original church (the present church is the third on this site) and on October 28, 1923 the church was solemnly blessed by His Grace the Archbishop.

The opening celebrations today on New Year's Eve with Bishop Robert Kasun presiding, along with a guest choir and musicians providing the music, and followed by a reception in the parish lounge, is the first of a number of special Centennial events planned throughout the year. Other celebrations include the following: The Junior Choir from the renowned St. Michael's Choir School will sing at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on 15 April, the Saturday after Easter, and give a 30 minute concert following the Mass. Bishop Kasun will join us again to celebrate the Solemnity of our Patron, Saint Dunstan of Canterbury on Friday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. A parish picnic is planned for the Victoria Day weekend. In July we are planning a parish trip to London, England where we plan to take a day trip to Canterbury to visit the tomb of Saint Dunstan (more information to follow soon). The Cardinal Archbishop will celebrate the 12:00 noon Mass on October 15 and a Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, October 21. All parishioners are invited to these special events. If you have friends or relatives who have attended our parish in the past, let them know about our 100th Anniversary and invite them to join in our celebrations.



FRIARS' STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed annually January 18-25. The theme of this year's observance is inspired by the message of the prophet Isaiah: "Do good; seek justice" (Is 1:17). High School students aged 13-19 years in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in the 21st Annual Friars' Student Writing Contest. Students must write a 500 word essay that explores the 2023 theme. Prizes are awarded to the top three submissions. Students are encouraged to consult the resources available at <https://bit.ly/3AgBy5j> to understand the meaning and purpose of the theme. See the poster details of the contest at <https://bit.ly/3KXgu8m>. Contact ecumenism@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 ext 527 for more information. Deadline for submission is January 16, 2023.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

Parishioners are invited to keep the Holy Father's intention in their daily prayers.

For educators that they may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

We still have a number of Offertory Envelopes that have not been picked up yet. Maybe you haven't had a chance, or people have moved and not informed us ~ if you have not had a chance to pick up your 2023 Offertory Envelopes yet, please do so as soon as possible by calling the parish office to arrange a time when you are available. If you are unable to pick up your envelopes due to mobility issues and would like for us to drop them off at your home please notify the office and we can arrange this for you.

A GENTLE REMINDER

While we are on the subject of Offertory Envelopes, we have been asked by the "Counters" if we would mention the following:

(1)Please do not use tape or staples on your Offertory Envelopes. (B)Also, please write clearly the amount of your donation on the envelope ~ to spare the counters that chore and because Jean, our secretary, records your donation from information on empty envelopes. These things will help make counting go smoothly and ensure that accurate amounts are recorded for Income Tax purposes. Thank you for your continued generosity and understanding.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Children preparing for First Communion and Confirmation candidates are reminded to see Fr. Jeff after Sunday Mass every week.



Masses For The Week

- Monday 2 January
Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors
10:00 a.m. The repose of Joao & Zelia Garcia
 Req.by Delfina Garcia
-
- Tuesday 3 January
The Most Holy Name of Jesus
9:00 a.m. The Intentions of the Leyson Family
-
- Wednesday 4 January
7:00 p.m. The repose of Julitta Sookhai
 Req.by Jacinta & Family
-
- Thursday 5 January
9:00 a.m The repose of Louisa D'Souza
 Req.by Mercy Alphonso
-
- Friday 6 January *First Friday*
Friday is a day of penitential observance
12:10 noon For the Protection of Unborn Children
 Req.by Masses for Life Project
7:00 p.m. The repose of Nathaline Fernandes
 Req.by Gwen McCoy
-
- Saturday 7 January *First Saturday*
Saint Andre Bessette, religious
10:00 a.m. Helen&Fred Halloran, deceased
 relatives & friends
 Req.by Tardif Family
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
5:00 p.m. The repose of Nathaline Fernandes
 Req.by Lena & Avelino Lobo
-
- Sunday 8 January
10:00 a.m. Intentions of All Parishioners
12:00noon. The repose of Nathaline Fernandes
 Req.by Catherine&Avelino Lobo
-





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