

Saint Dunstan's Church

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Feast of the Holy Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and we pray that God will bless all families with His peace and love. Everyone knows that family life is a combination of happiness and sadness, with a lot of the ordinary in between. But what about the Holy Family? Surely there was nothing but peace and happiness? Not really. Life wasn't always a bed of roses for them: Mary having to give birth in a stable, for example, but whatever Mary and Joseph thought about their struggles, one thing is clear. They never gave up. In their faithfulness and trust, and even more so, in their commitment to love one another, they show us how to weather the storms of life. Love, that's what makes a holy family. Not the sentimental love of songs and movies but strong relentless love of God. The divine love that the Spirit pours into our hearts. No family has a perfect life. Every family faces hardships of one sort or another. But every family also has a heavenly Father who loves them. So on this Feast of the Holy Family, let's pray for our family, and all members of our parish family, that our heavenly Father will pour His merciful healing love on every family today.



CHRISTMAS APPRECIATION

Our pastor wishes to acknowledge the generous support and edifying example of parishioners who helped our parish prepare for and celebrate the feast of our Saviour's birth. Thanks to all who contributed to the parish and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society this Christmas. Bless you for making Christmas happier for those in need. Our thanks too, to Nigel Alphonso for working tirelessly in manning the projector for our Advent Movie Series. We must also thank all who made our church and liturgy so beautiful this Christmas. Thanks to our Deacon Philip Allard, our altar servers, eucharistic ministers, lectors and ushers, our choirs and choir directors, Owen Vaz, Francis Fernandes, James Boyle, Ainsley Lake and Nigel Alphonso for helping with the Christmas decorations and Jubilee banners. Fr. Jeff and our secretary Jean wish to thank those who brought or sent cards, gifts or Christmas greetings, and to all parishioners and friends who expressed in many different ways their warm support and best wishes. May the celebration of the birth of our Saviour this Christmas fill your hearts with joy. In the New Year 2025 may God continue to bless our parish and form all of us into His family of love and faith. Like Mary, let us welcome Jesus, our Saviour and carry Him in our hearts to all we meet.



PEACE

Since the pontificate of Pope 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 one's own self 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. As we commemorate Mary, the Mother of God on New Year's Day and after a year marred by so much war, violence and turmoil, let us resolve to pray often the rosary for peace in the world.



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.

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



ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Cardinal Leo invites everyone to a special Archdiocesan Celebration for the beginning of the Jubilee Year today Sunday, December 29 at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica with Mass beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass 3:30-4:45 p.m.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

Parishioners are invited to keep the Holy Father’s intention in their prayers

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

We still have 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 2025 Offertory Envelopes yet, please do so as soon as possible. **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
- (2) Also, please write clearly the amount of your donation on the envelope ~ to spare the counters the chore and because Jean, our secretary, records your donation from information on empty envelopes.

These things will make counting go smoothly and ensure that accurate amounts are recorded for Income Tax purposes. Thank you for your continued generosity and understanding.

ANNOUNCED MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday	30 December
9:00 a.m.	Louise & Cyril Ricketts Req. by Helen Ricketts
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Tuesday	31 December
9:00 a.m.	Richard Vaz & deceased members of the Vaz Family Req.by Family
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MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	
5:00 p.m.	Special Intention
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Wednesday	1 January
10:00 a.m.	Intentions of All Parishioners
12:00 noon	In honour of Mary, Mother of God Req.by Owen & Joana Vaz
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Thursday	2 January
Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors	
9:00 a.m.	Special Intention
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Friday	3 January
<i>Friday is a day of penitential observance</i> The Most Holy Name of Jesus	
12:10 noon	Repose of Joya Mary Pandy Req.by Baroi Family
7:00 p.m.	Special Intention
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Saturday	4 January
10:00 a.m.	Helen & Fred Halloran deceased relatives & friends Req.by Tardif Family
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
5:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving for Annica Ferrer Req.by Eliza & Jay Ferrer
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Sunday	5 January
10:00 a.m.	Intentions of All Parishioners
12:00 noon	Repose of Emelita Hamdan-Cox



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