

Saint Dunstan's Church

3150 DANFORTH AVE., SCARBOROUGH, ON M1L 1B6

OFFICE PHONE: 416-694-2811 FAX: 416-694-2809

EMAIL: stdunstanssc@archtoronto.org WEBSITE: stdunstanssc.archtoronto.org

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Masterson

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Philip Allard

Secretary: Mrs. Jean Walsh



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. We all know 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. Mary had to give birth in a stable, and the whole family had to flee to Egypt to escape the slaughter of the innocents decreed by King Herod. 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 is what makes a family holy. 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 faithfully manning the projector for our Advent Movie Series. We must also thank all who made our church and liturgy so beautiful this Christmas. 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 2026 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 closing of the Jubilee Year today Sunday, December 28 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 that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

2026 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 2026 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	29 December	
9:00 a.m.	Repose of Angela Rizza	Req. by Family
Tuesday	30 December	
9:00 a.m.	Special Intention *	
Wednesday	31 December	
9:00 a.m.	Special Intention *	MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
5:00 p.m.	In honour of Mary, Mother of God	Req. by Owen, Joana & Lawrian
Thursday	1 January	
10:00 a.m.	Intentions of All Parishioners	
12:00 noon.	Repose of Joseph Baring	Req. by Heidi Baring & Family
Friday	2 January	<i>First Friday</i>
		<i>Friday is a day of Penitential observance</i>
		Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors
12:10 noon	Special Intention*	
7:00 p.m.	In honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	Req. by Owen, Joana & Lawrian
Saturday	3 January	<i>First Saturday</i>
		The Most Holy Name of Jesus
10:00 a.m.	Helen & Fred Halloran deceased relatives & friends	Req. by Tardif Family
		EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
5:00 p.m.	Special Intention *	
Sunday	4 January	
10:00 a.m.	Intentions of All Parishioners	
12:00 noon	In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph	Req. by Lina Cardenas



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