

# St. Joan of Arc

Proclaiming and Living the Gospel  
through Stewardship. All are Welcome.

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## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Anish Alex    Pastor (ext. 1006)

Parish Office (ext 1007)

Ms. Anne Francis    Accounting Office (ext. 1004)    [finance@joanofarc.ca](mailto:finance@joanofarc.ca)

*prepare the way...*



# ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday, December 22**

5:30 pm Emmita Landeta + &  
Birthday blessing Tivona Brito

**Tuesday, December 23**

5:30 pm Enerio Faion

**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**

5:30 pm The Parish Community  
8:30 pm The Parish Community  
12:00 am The Parish Community

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25**

10:00 am The Parish Community  
12:00 pm The Parish  
Community

**Friday, December 26**

40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Ani of Luz &  
Rolando Sucilian

**Saturday, December 27**

5:30 pm Janek Pabian +

**Sunday, December 28**

10:00 am Christine & Tina  
Starzeski  
12:00 pm Thomas Donato & For  
all mothers

**Please pray for:**

**The Sick:** Maryann Chard, Ted  
Daiel Ted Kowalczyk and anna  
Maria Silva

**The Deceased:** Trudi Cortens &  
Greg Sulliva



**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Emmanuel: God Is With Us**

Love is the heart of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and love has a name: Emmanuel. God is with us. This is not merely a comforting idea or a seasonal sentiment; it is the very core of our faith. To love is to live with God-with-us. To give love is to give God who dwells within us.

Many of us know the fatigue of loving: loving without being loved back, loving those who wound us, loving when patience runs thin. Yet we never truly run out of love, because God, who is Love itself, never leaves us. As Saint Augustine reminds us, “God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” When our human love feels empty, God invites us to draw from His inexhaustible love and to love with a supernatural love His own.

This is the miracle of Emmanuel. When we choose to love the unlovable, forgive the unforgiving, and remain faithful in difficult relationships, we become living signs of God’s presence in the world. Saint Teresa of Calcutta beautifully said, “We are not called to be successful, but faithful.” Faithfulness in love is how God continues to make Himself visible today.

The readings of this Sunday deepen this mystery. In Isaiah (7:10–14), God gives King Ahaz a sign not because Ahaz demands it, but because God freely chooses to reveal Himself. The virgin shall conceive, and His name shall be Emmanuel. This teaches us an essential spiritual truth: God acts when we humble ourselves and trust Him. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “The Son of God became man so that we might become God” (CCC 460). In Jesus, God does not remain distant. He enters our history, our struggles, our relationships.

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux wrote, “The name of Jesus is light, food, and medicine.” Emmanuel is that light and that healing presence. Saint Leo the Great echoes this teaching: “Christian, remember your dignity: you now share in God’s own nature.” Because God is with us, our lives matter, our choices matter, and our cooperation with grace matters.

Saint Paul, in the Letter to the Romans (1:1–7), reminds us that this promise is not an “empty word” but a fulfilled reality. Christ is truly God and truly man, descended from David and revealed as the Son of God in power. And remarkably, Paul tells us that we belong to Him. The Church teaches that through baptism we are incorporated into Christ and share in His mission (CCC 1267). We are no longer spectators; we are participants in God’s saving plan.

In the Gospel (Matthew 1:18–24), Joseph teaches us quiet obedience and courageous trust. Without words, he cooperates with God’s plan. Saint John Chrysostom praised Joseph’s faith, saying, “Joseph obeyed without questioning, showing the obedience of faith.” Like Mary and Joseph, God continues to work through ordinary people who are willing to say “yes.”

As Christmas draws near, the Church invites us to renewed vigilance, not anxiety, but attentive love. Emmanuel is not only coming; He is already with us. Saint Alphonsus Liguori assures us, “There is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear.” Our happiness does not depend on how others treat us, but on the unshakable truth that God is with us and loves us unconditionally.

This Advent, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Let us pray to Emmanuel, sing to Emmanuel, and trust Emmanuel. As Saint John Paul II said, “Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ.” May we allow ourselves to become instruments like Mary and Joseph through whom God continues to dwell among His people.

Emmanuel is God’s personal Christmas gift to us.

Jesus I trust in you...

## **OUR CHRISTMAS WINTER FAIR – A HEARTFELT THANK YOU**

The very first Christmas Winter Fair at St. Joan of Arc Parish was truly a joyful and memorable success. We extend our deepest gratitude to the wonderful husband-and-wife team, Michelle Rodrigues and Fabian D'Sousa, whose vision, dedication, and tireless efforts brought this beautiful event to life. From the initial idea to careful planning and execution, their commitment along with the support of many devoted volunteers made this fair possible.

We are also grateful for the fantastic vendors, the delicious variety of foods, and the lively activities such as bingo, line dancing, and more, which created a warm and festive atmosphere for all ages. Most importantly, thank you to everyone who attended, participated, and shared in the joy, fellowship, and celebratory spirit of the season.

May this wonderful beginning inspire many more joyful gatherings in our parish community. God bless you all, and thank you for making our Christmas season brighter.

### **2026 SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES & PRE AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)**

2026 Sunday Offering Envelopes are now available in the parish hall. Please note that box numbers have changed if your previous number was above 220, you have been assigned a new lower number. Kindly do not use 2025 envelopes in the new year; begin using the 2026 envelopes in January. For the first few weeks, please print your name and address clearly on your envelopes to help us update our parish records.

We also encourage parishioners to consider Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG), a simple and automatic way to support the parish each month. PAG forms are available at the church entrance, in the parish office, and on our parish website.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our parish.

### **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**December 18** - 7:00 pm Advent Penance Service

**December 24** - 5:30 pm Children's Christmas Liturgy

8:30 pm Christmas Liturgy

12:00 am Christmas Midnight Liturgy

**December 25** - 10:00 am Christmas Mass

12:00 pm Christmas Mass

**December 27 & 28** - Regular mass times

**December 31** - 5:30 pm Feast of Mary Mother of God

**January 1** - 10:00 am Feast of Mary Mother of God

12pm Feast of Mary Mother of God

**January 2** – 5:30pm First Friday Mass & Adoration

## **Your Gifts to God Monthly Comparison November**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$9,037</b>	<b>\$8,745</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$3,548</b>	<b>\$3,181</b>
<b>PAG</b>	<b>\$6,378</b>	<b>\$6,427</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,963</b>	<b>\$18,353</b>

### **PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE**

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from December 23 to January 4 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. We will reopen on Monday, January 5. If you require emergency assistance from the parish or the Pastor during this time, please leave a message on the Pastor's extension, and he will return your call as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you and your families a blessed Christmas season.

### **ADDRESS UPDATE REMINDER**

If you have recently changed your address, please contact the parish office or the bookkeeper so we can update our records. This ensures your tax receipt for 2025, and any future parish communications reach you without delay. Thank you.

### **Please Note the parish Information has changed**

Parish website is:

<https://st.joanofarcto.org>

Our Parish email is:

[st.joanofarcto@archtoronto.org](mailto:st.joanofarcto@archtoronto.org)



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