

# St. Pius X Parish

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## PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Massillamani Zacharias (Fr. Mani), **Pastor**

Michelle Somers, **Parish Secretary**



Oh Come  
Let us Adore Him

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, December 23

5pm + Michael Dunphy

#### Sunday, December 24

9am No Intentions on Christmas Eve

11am No Intentions on Christmas Eve

#### Monday, December 25

8:30am No Intentions on Christmas Day

#### Tuesday, December 26

No Mass

#### Wednesday, December 27

8:30am + Andrew Formosa

#### Thursday, December 28

8:30am + Maria Estorba

+ Samuel Stephen

+ Noel Tabia

+ Degala Family & Tabia Family

#### Friday, December 29

8:30am Dianne Thomas

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Psalm: Ps 89.1-2, 3-4, 26+28

Second Reading: Romans 16.25-27

Gospel: Luke 1.26-38

#### Sponsoring the Vigil Candle

Parishioners are invited to become weekly or monthly sponsors of the Tabernacle Vigil Candle. Please contact the parish office if you wish to donate to the Vigil Candle.

#### The Vigil Candle burns for the intentions of:

Marie-Thérèse Sophoulis – December  
Marthese Fenech – January 2024

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

#### *Hail, O Favored One, the Lord Is with You!*

When the Lord comes to redeem his people he fills us with his Holy Spirit, the source of our joy and hope in the promises of God. When God made a covenant with David as King over Israel, he made a promise to David and to his descendants that David's dynasty would endure forever through the coming of the Messiah King (2 Samuel 7:16). This King would establish an everlasting kingdom of peace and security for his people. We often think of peace as the absence of trouble. The peace which the Messiah brings cancels the debt of sin and restores our broken relationship with God our heavenly Father.

We see the fulfillment of God's unfolding plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah King. The new era of salvation begins with the miraculous conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God (Luke 1:28). This child will be "great" and "Son of the Most High" and "King", and his name shall be called "Jesus" (Luke 1:31-32), which means "the Lord saves". "He will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21). The angel repeats to Mary, the daughter of the house of David, the promise made to King David: "The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:32-33). How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband?" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word, and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. What is the key that unlocks the power and grace of God's kingdom in our personal lives? Faith and obedience for sure! God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willing obedience and heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands, he also gives the help and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Let us believe in God's promises and yield to his grace.

DECEMBER 24, 2023

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule:**

#### ***Christmas Eve – Sunday 24, 2023***

5pm – Special Mass for Parents with Children

8pm – Mass for everyone

#### ***Christmas Day – Monday, December 25, 2023***

9am and 11am

#### ***Holy Family Feast***

Saturday, 5pm

Sunday, 9am and 11am

#### ***The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Vigil – Sunday, December 31, 2023***

5pm

#### ***The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God – New Year – Monday, January 1, 2024***

9am and 11am

**Please Note:** There are no Masses Tuesday, December 26, 2023, and Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Christmas Decorating**

We are looking for help with decorating the church for Christmas. All are welcome! Please contact the Parish Office with your availability.

### **Christmas Trees**

As part of the celebration of the Advent and Christmas season, our Parish installs two evergreen trees near the altar. Any assistance given for the purchase of these trees would be greatly appreciated!

### **Red Poinsettia Memorial Garden**

We invite all parishioners to bring a red poinsettia in memory of their loved ones to be placed in our poinsettia memorial garden for the altar. **We ask that you drop off your poinsettia plants in the parish office starting on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 1 pm, and Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> until 5pm.** Labels will be available on which to write the name(s) of your

loved ones which you can then affix to your poinsettia. We will place them at the altar for our Christmas celebration.

### **Advent Reconciliation**

Parishioners who wish to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) may do so by calling the Parish Office to make an appointment with Fr. Mani.

### **Security Cameras**

We have installed new security cameras throughout the church property. This will help to ensure the security of all parishioners and staff. We thank the government for their sponsorship of this safety measure.

### **New Building Committee**

Thanks to those who stepped up for this important work, we were able to establish a Parish Building Committee. We look forward to their expertise.

### **Renewal of Ministries**

We invite parishioners and their families to participate in the life of their faith by joining one of the parish ministries. We would like to welcome more people in the following ministries: Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister, Music Ministry, Lector Ministry, and Usher Ministry. Get involved, meet great people! Sign up on our website at: [www.saintpiusx.ca](http://www.saintpiusx.ca) under the tab “Get Involved”.

### **2024 Offertory Envelopes**

Offertory envelopes for 2024 will be available for pickup in the church foyer from this weekend. If you do not currently have envelopes but would like a box, please contact the Parish Office.

### **Update Regarding the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund**

Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including those of our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families. Recipients include **Wigwamen Terrace** in Toronto that will receive \$475,000 over 5 years allowing them to provide their elderly residents with assistance in various programs.

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