

St. Pius X Parish

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PASTORAL STAFF

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

Michelle Somers, **Parish Secretary**



Feast of the Holy Family



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 30

5pm Parishioners

Sunday, December 31 –

No Announced Intentions --

9am Feast of the Holy Family

11am Feast of the Holy Family

5pm The Vigil of The Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God

2024

Monday, January 1

9am The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

11 am Thanksgiving

Wednesday, January 3

8:30am Parishioners

Thursday, January 4

8:30am Parishioners

Friday, January 5

8:30am Parishioners

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading: Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14

Psalm: Ps 128.1-2, 3, 4-5

Second Reading: Colossians 3.12-21

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

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

The Favor of God Was upon Him

After Jesus' birth, Mary fulfills the Jewish rite of purification after childbirth. Since she could not afford the customary offering of a lamb, she gives instead two pigeons as an offering of the poor. This rite, along with circumcision and the redemption of the first-born point to the fact that children are gifts from God. Jesus was born in an ordinary home where there were no luxuries. Like all godly parents, Mary and Joseph raised their son in the fear and wisdom of God. He, in turn, was obedient to them and grew in wisdom and grace. The Lord's favor is with those who listen to his word with trust and obedience. Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph and he prophesied to Mary about the destiny of this child and the suffering she would undergo for his sake. There is a certain paradox for those blessed by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. She received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. But her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. What do we hope for? The hope which God places in our heart is the desire for the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life and happiness with our heavenly Father. The Lord Jesus has won for us a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). The Holy Spirit gives hope to all who place their trust in the promises of God. God never fails because his promises are true, and he is faithful. The hope which God places within us through the gift of the Spirit enables us to persevere with confident trust in God even in the face of trials, setbacks, and challenges that may come our way. Is there anything holding us back from giving God our unqualified trust and submission to his will for our life? Allow the Lord Jesus to flood our heart with his peace, joy, and love. And offer to God everything we have and desire - our life, family, friends, health, honor, wealth, and future. If we seek his kingdom first, he will give us everything we need to know, love, and serve him now and enjoy him forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Year Mass Schedule

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 is no Mass on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The office will also be closed on that day.

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 funding of this project.

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 under the tab "Get Involved".

2024 Offertory Envelopes

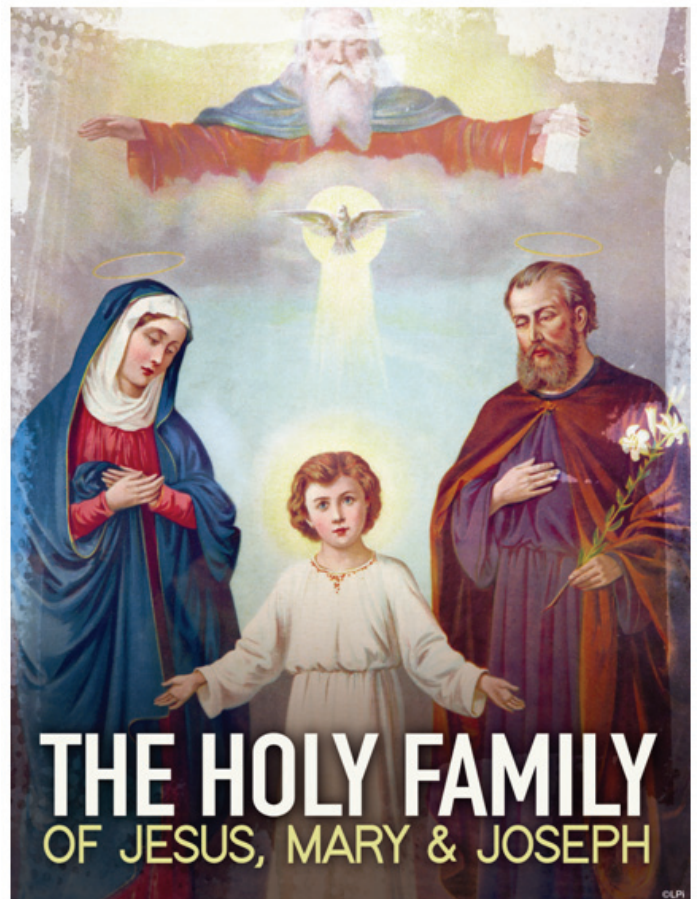
Offertory envelopes for 2024 are now available for pickup in the church foyer. If you do not currently have envelopes but would like a box, please contact the Parish Office.

Christmas Donors and Assistance

We express our gratitude to those individuals and families who have given for the Advent Wreath, Christmas trees and decorations, and the red poinsettia, as well as to those who have given their time to decorate the church. Thank you for your valued community work!

Food Bank

We extend our thanks to the members of the Food Bank who have provided the church with a brand new carpet for the foyer. It is a great improvement, and we are grateful to them.



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