

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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## Vocation Seeds

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416 968 0997

**email: vocations@archtoronto.org**  
**www.vocationstoronto.ca**

## Fr. Steven's Christmas Message

Christ's birth is extremely significant, and not surprisingly it is celebrated throughout the world, even by non-Christians. His birth marks the beginning of God's presence among us in a physical, tangible way. We honour Him at His birth not only because of the saving works of salvation that He would accomplish for us but also because He is God incarnate. Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God. He comes to bring us all kinds of blessings and to lead us to the happiness of Heaven. May He bless each and every one of you and all your love ones, and may he grant our world His peace and His love.

**Have a joyous and blessed Christmas!**

## New Year's Mass Schedule

Saturday December 30– 5pm Sunday Vigil Mass  
Sunday December 31 - 9am, 10:30am, 12 noon,  
New Year Vigil Mass -5:00pm  
Monday January 1 - 9:00am, 10:30am, 12noon

## Birthday of Christ

Every Christmas we celebrate the birthday of Christ. Usually we give gifts or do something special for our loved ones when we celebrate their birthdays. We can give a gift to Christ by making the effort to be kind and generous to those around us.

Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him.– Pope Francis

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday December 23:

5:00 pm In Thanksgiving of Glen & Gina Family  
Coutinho, Valladares & Pereira Families  
Bonnie & Dave  
Brean & Robbie Archibald  
+Susanna Ng  
+Po Sheung Lee  
+Hugh Shang  
+Anthony Doss

### Sunday December 24:

9:00 am + Ocita & Segundo Ballete

10:30 am +Florentino Protacio

12:00 pm Pro - Populo

### Sunday December 24:

Vigil Masses for Christmas: 6pm, 8pm, 12 Midnight

### Monday December 25: Christmas Day

9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12 noon

### Tuesday December 26:

9:00 am 63rd Wedding Anniversary of Ivor and  
Naomi Patterson

### Wednesday December 27:

7:30 pm In Thanksgiving of Chan Family  
Joseph, Mary, Bonnie, Alex  
Amy, Steve, Brian Cheng  
45th Wedding Anniversary of Romanie  
and Ruben Mariathasan  
Living & Deceased Bishops, Priests, Nuns  
and Deacons  
+Tiu Teng Suiy

### Thursday December 28:

9:00 am +David Eballo

### Friday December 29:

9:30 am Celebrant's Intention

7:30 pm +Edilberto Contreras Acon

### Saturday December 30:

9:00 am Celebrant's Intention

# December 24, 2023

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## Holy Days of Obligation

Catholics are required to attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Attending a Vigil Mass on the previous day fulfills this obligation (such as the regularly scheduled Saturday evening Mass). In Canada there are only two Holy Days of Obligation that do not usually fall on a Sunday; Christmas and New Year's Day. Please note that this Christmas season, December 25 and January 1 fall on a Monday. You must attend one Christmas Mass and one of the preceding Sunday Masses. For New Year's you must attend one New Year's Mass and one of the preceding Sunday Masses

In other words, you must attend two obligation Masses on each of these weekends, from Saturday to the Monday.

## Epiphany Blessing

The Solemnity of Epiphany is traditionally on January 6 but is now celebrated on the Sunday that falls closest to it. This 2024 it falls on Sunday January 7th. There is a tradition that on the feast of Epiphany, the head of each household would lead his/her family in a prayer and blessing of their home. The parish priest cannot bless everyone's home and so the head of each family would do this every year. After doing the blessing, he will sprinkle holy water about the house and use blessed chalk to mark the main entrance lintel of their home with the following:

20+C+M+B+24 (the number would change every year; to indicate the year we are in). The letters stand for the three Magi or Wisemen: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also represent the Latin blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house".

Fr. Steven will try to have blessed chalk available on the feast of Epiphany for everyone to bless their homes. It is always a good idea to have holy water in your homes. All you need is a small container.

## Friars Student Writing Contest

High school students, ages 13 to 19, in the Catholic school boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event that commemorates the global week of prayer for Christian unity. Write a 500 word essay that explores the 2024 theme: you shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27). Great prizes await the top three submissions. Students are able to consult the resources at <https://rb.gy/wajo9> to understand the meaning and purpose of the theme and address the focus question found on the poster and submit their entries at <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>. Submissions must be received before January 15.

## 2024 Donation Envelopes

Please pick up your 2024 Donation Envelopes arranged in numerical order. If you can not remember your envelope number, one of us from the gift shop can gladly help you. Please start using these envelopes in the New Year. New parishioners who wish to use donation envelopes please register in the gift shop or from our website.

## Saint Aidan Book Club

Next meeting on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 pm at St. Aidan's to discuss the book, "Confessions" by Saint Augustine, where he narrates how he came to turn away from his youthful ideals and licentious lifestyle to become one of Christianity's most influential thinkers and saints. Come join the St. Aidan book club. To register, contact Rosario Dizon at 416-731-0484.

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Tel: 647 772 1319

[www.svdptoronto.org](http://www.svdptoronto.org)

## Our Heartfelt Gratitude

Thank you, St. Aidan parishioners, for your ongoing support and kindness! Because of your generosity, we were able to assist Neighbours-in-Need in our community throughout 2023 putting smiles on their faces and giving them hope for a brighter future.

Jesus is the light that shines through the darkness.

On behalf of the members of the St. Vincent de Paul St. Aidan Conference, best wishes for a joyous and blessed Christmas Season and a healthy and fruitful New Year.

## St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Envelopes

will be at the back of the church and in the stand-alone poor boxes. Your generosity is greatly appreciated; let us give joy and hope to our neighbours in need during this holy and glorious season.

## Sayings of the Saints

We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and humanity.– St. Paul VI

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.– St. Teresa of Calcutta

It is better to be child of God than king of the whole world.– St. Martin of Tours