

St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church

44 Broadway Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4P1T4

tel: 416-483-1513 • fax:416-483-2630

Email: stmonicatoronto@gmail.com • Website: www.stmonicatoronto.ca

Pastor: Fr. Damian Young-Sam-You

Parish Secretary: Eloisa Mandelker

**JOY • PEACE •
LOVE**



HOPE • FAITH

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

10:00 A.M. +Mary Sandanam
Req. The Sandanam Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

10:00 A.M. +Teresa Scully & the Living and
Deceased Members of her Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

12:10 P.M. +Gregoria Mallari and
+Martin Makabali
Req. Connie Makabali

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

8:00 A.M. Noreen O'Brien & the Living and
Deceased Members of her Family
Req. Patrick Morrison

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

12:10 P.M. Shannon, Caitlin & Shea Morrison
& the Living & Deceased Members
of the Morrison & O'Brien Families
Req. Patrick Morrison

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

10:00 A.M. +Mary Catherine Staples
Req. Judy & Martin Bishop

5:00 P.M. *NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL MASS*

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to **Offer a**
Weekday Mass, please call the
Parish Office at 416-483-1513 or
send an email to
stmonicatoronto@gmail.com.



Christmas - The Birth of Our Lord - December 25, 2022

We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto, 416-968-0997, www.vocationstoronto.ca, vocations@archtoronto.org.



This is a project for parishioners, by parishioners! We invite everyone to join us in learning more about the lives of Saints.

For more information, please visit our parish website: www.stmonicasto.archtoronto.org.



(FRFE) FIRST RECONCILIATION CATECHETICAL CLASS

The *First Reconciliation Catechetical Preparation*



Class will take place **in-person in the church** on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 6:15 pm. For more information and the schedule of classes, please visit www.stmonicasto.archtoronto.org.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday Adoration will take place on January 6, 2023 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Church.
All are welcome!

RCIA 2022-2023

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in becoming Catholic or if you are already Catholic but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation & receiving Eucharist for the first time). The next batch will start in January 2023.



SAINT MONICA'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 23, 2022

Confession 11:40 a.m. & Mass 12:10 p.m.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Eve - Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022

Confession 9:30 a.m. & Mass 10 a.m.

Confession 4 pm & **Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.**

Christmas Day - Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022

Mass at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Monday (Boxing Day), Dec. 26, 2022

Confession 9:30 a.m. & Mass 10 a.m., office closed

Holiday Tuesday (for Christmas), Dec. 27, 2022

Confession 9:30 a.m. & Mass 10 a.m., office closed

Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022

Confession 11:40 a.m. & Mass 12:10 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022

No Confession, Mass 8 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 30, 2022

Confession 11:40 a.m. & Mass 12:10 p.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve - Saturday, December 31, 2022

Confession 9:30 a.m. & Mass 10 a.m.

Confession 4 pm & **Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.**

New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1, 2023

Mass at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Monday, Jan. 2, 2023

Confession 9:30 a.m. & Mass 10 a.m., office closed

Our Regular Church & Office Schedule Resumes

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

2022 Donation Tax Receipts

We are kindly requesting that all parishioners who use donation envelopes to please print clearly your name and mailing address on the envelopes that you use during this month of December so that we can update our tax receipt mailing list. Donations received until December 31, 2022 will be included in your tax receipt for 2022. If you would like to receive your tax receipt by email, please register online by going to our website www.stmonicasto.archtoronto.org. Thank you very much for supporting St. Monica's Parish!

EXCERPT FROM POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY ON THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

In the darkness, a light shines. An angel appears, the glory of the Lord shines around the shepherds and finally the message awaited for centuries is heard: "To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:11). The angel goes on to say something surprising. He tells the shepherds how to find the God who has come down to earth: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger" (v. 12). That is the sign: a child, a baby lying in the dire poverty of a manger. No more bright lights or choirs of angels. Only a child. Nothing else, even as Isaiah had foretold: "unto us a child is born" (Is 9:6).

The Gospel emphasizes this contrast. It relates the birth of Jesus beginning with Caesar Augustus, who orders the census of the whole world: it presents the first Emperor in all his *grandeur*. Yet immediately thereafter it brings us to Bethlehem, where there is no grandeur at all: just a poor child wrapped in swaddling clothes, with shepherds standing by. That is where God is, in *littleness*. This is the message: God does not rise up in grandeur, but lowers himself into littleness. Littleness is the path that he chose to draw near to us, to touch our hearts, to save us and to bring us back to what really matters.

Brothers and sisters, standing before the crib, we contemplate what is central, beyond all the pretty lights and decorations. We contemplate the child. In his *littleness*, God is completely present. Let us acknowledge this: "Baby Jesus, you are God, the God who becomes a child". Let us be amazed by this scandalous truth. The One who embraces the universe needs to be held in another's arms. The One who created the sun needs to be warmed. Tenderness incarnate needs to be coddled. Infinite love has a miniscule heart that beats softly. The eternal Word is an "infant", a speechless child. The Bread of life needs to be nourished. The Creator of the world has no home. Today, all is turned upside down: God comes into the world in littleness. His grandeur appears in *littleness*.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2021/documents/20211224-omelia-natale.html>



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