

# St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church

44 Broadway Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4P1T4

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**Pastor:** Fr. Damian Young-Sam-You

**Parish Secretary:** Eloisa Mandelker



Oh Come  
Let us Adore Him

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

**\*Nativity of the Lord - Holy Day of Obligation\***

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

9:00 A.M. Christmas Day Mass

11:00 A.M. Christmas Day Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

Public Holiday – Boxing Day

10:00 A.M. Protection of Unborn Children

Req. Masses for Life Project

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

12:10 P.M. +Crisalia Couto

Req. Manuel Couto

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 A.M. +Larissa

Req. Gwen Kou

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

12:10 P.M. +Mary Catherine Staples

Req. Martin & Judy Bishop

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

10:00 A.M. +Joseph Ratzinger

Req. Parishioner

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](mailto:stmonicatoronto@gmail.com).



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

will take place on January 5, 2024 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the church. For the Adoration pamphlet with prayers, visit



[www.stmonicasto.archtoronto.org](http://www.stmonicasto.archtoronto.org).

**All parishioners are welcome!**

SAINT MONICA'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024

Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023

Confession 9:30-9:50 a.m. & Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Confession 4:00-4:40 p.m. & Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023

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

*\*These morning Masses are for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.*

**\*\*THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION\*\***

CHRISTMAS EVE: SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023

VIGIL MASS at 5:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY: MONDAY, DEC. 25, 2023

MASS at 9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

No Confessions on Monday, Dec. 25, 2023.

Parish Office will be closed.

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023 - Boxing Day

Confession 9:30-9:50 a.m. & Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Wed. Dec. 27 – Fri. Dec. 29, 2023

*Regular Schedule for Confession & Daily Mass*

Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023

Confession 9:30-9:50 a.m. & Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Confession 4:00 – 4:40 p.m. & Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023

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

*\*These are regular Sunday morning Masses.*

**\*\*SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION\*\***

NEW YEAR'S EVE: SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 2023

VIGIL MASS at 5:00 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

MASS at 9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

No Confessions on Monday, January 1, 2024.

Parish Office will be closed.

**Regular schedule resumes on Tues. January 2, 2024.**

**(FRFE) FIRST RECONCILIATION CATECHETICAL CLASS**



The ***First Reconciliation Catechetical Preparation Class*** will take place on ***Saturday, January 27, 2024*** at ***6:15 pm, in-person in the church***. (The next class, after this one, will take place on Saturday, February 24, 2024.)

We need **VOLUNTEERS** to serve as ***Ministers to the Sick & Homebound,***



***Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Choir Members and Garden Volunteers!*** If you are

interested, please contact the Parish Office by phone at (416) 483-1513 or by email at [stmonicatoronto@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicatoronto@gmail.com).

**RCIA 2023-2024**

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).



**Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2023**



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, religious, or permanent deacon. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca); [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org).

**2023 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, 2023 will be included in your tax receipt for 2023. If you would like to receive your tax receipt by email, register at [www.stmonicasto.archtoronto.org](http://www.stmonicasto.archtoronto.org). *Thank you very much for supporting St. Monica's Parish!*

**SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
**Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis (excerpt)**

Tonight God is drawing near to you, because you are important to him. From the manger, as food for your life, he tells you: "If you feel consumed by events, if you are devoured by a sense of guilt and inadequacy, if you hunger for justice, I, your God, am with you. I know what you are experiencing, for I experienced it myself in that manger. I know your weaknesses, your failings and your history. I was born in order to tell you that I am, and always will be, close to you". The Christmas manger, the first message of the divine Child, tells us that God is with us, he loves us and he seeks us. So take heart! Do not allow yourself to be overcome by fear, resignation or discouragement. God was born in a manger so that you could be reborn in the very place where you thought you had hit rock bottom. There is no evil, there is no sin, from which Jesus does not want to save you. And he can. Christmas means that God is close to us: let confidence be reborn!

The manger reminds us that he was surrounded by nothing but love: Mary, Joseph and the shepherds; all poor people, united by affection and amazement, not by wealth and great expectations. The poverty of the manger thus shows us where the true riches in life are to be found: not in money and power, but in relationships and persons.

The manger speaks to us of *concreteness*. Indeed, a child lying in a manger presents us with a scene that is striking, even crude. It reminds us that God truly became flesh. As a result, all our theories, our fine thoughts and our pious sentiments are no longer enough. Jesus was born poor, lived poor and died poor; he did not so much talk about poverty as live it, to the very end, for our sake. From the manger to the cross, his love for us was always palpable, concrete. From birth to death, the carpenter's son embraced the roughness of the wood, the harshness of our existence. He did not love us only in words; he loved us with utter seriousness!

May we not let this Christmas pass without doing something good. Since it is his celebration, his birthday, let us give him the gifts he finds pleasing! At Christmas, God is concrete: in his name let us give a little hope to be born anew in those who feel hopeless!

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2022/documents/20221224-omelia-natale.html>



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