

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



**MAY THE SPIRIT OF GOD
LEAD YOU THROUGH
THE NEW YEAR**

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

MASS INTENTIONS

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation

MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST

9:00 A.M. *New Year's Day Mass*
11:00 A.M. *New Year's Day Mass*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2ND

8:00 A.M. Sezwin Crasto
 Req. Cheryl Barreto

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD

12:10 P.M. +Pablo Narciso, Jr.
 Req. The Narciso Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH

8:00 A.M. +Annie Kemmy
 Req. The Taylor Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH

12:10 P.M. +Crisalia Couto
 Req. Manuel Couto

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH

10:00 A.M. Thanksgiving Intentions of
 Gwen Kou

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.



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.

All parishioners are welcome!

SAINT MONICA'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024

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
Tuesday, 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.)

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).





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.



**CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE
MASS**

As part of Marriage Sunday 2024 celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2024. The Mass will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment.

All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversary in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>. The broadcast will begin at 2:45 p.m.

Mary Mother of God - January 1, 2024

Mary treasured all that God had done for her and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God's gifts and ponder what He wants from you?

You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call Fr. Matt McCarthy,



Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. www.vocationstoronto.ca; vocations@archtoronto.org.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis (excerpt)

Let us now be guided by today's Gospel. Only one thing is said about the Mother of God: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (*Lk 2:19*). *She kept them*. She simply kept; Mary does not speak. The Gospel does not report a single word of hers in the entire account of Christmas. Here too, the Mother is one with her Son: Jesus is an "infant", a child "unable to speak". The Word of God, who "long ago spoke in many and various ways" (*Heb 1:1*), now, in the "fullness of time" (*Gal 4:4*), is silent. The God before whom all fall silent is himself a speechless child. His Majesty is without words; his mystery of love is revealed in lowliness. This silence and lowliness is the language of his kingship. His Mother joins her Son and *keeps these things in silence*.

That silence tells us that, if we would "keep" ourselves, we need silence. We need to remain silent as we gaze upon the crib. Pondering the crib, we discover anew that we are loved; we savour the real meaning of life. As we look on in silence, we let Jesus speak to our heart. His lowliness lays low our pride; his poverty challenges our outward display; his tender love touches our hardened hearts. To set aside a moment of silence each day to be with God is to "keep" our soul; it is to "keep" our freedom from being corroded by the banality of consumerism, the blare of commercials, the stream of empty words and the overpowering waves of empty chatter and loud shouting.

The Gospel goes on to say that Mary kept *all these things, pondering them in her heart*. What were *these things*? They were joys and sorrows. On the one hand, the birth of Jesus, the love of Joseph, the visit of the shepherds, that radiant night. But on the other, an uncertain future, homelessness "because there was no place for them in the inn" (*Lk 2:7*), the desolation of rejection, the disappointment of having to give birth to Jesus in a stable. Hopes and worries, light and darkness: *all these things* dwelt in the heart of Mary. What did she do? She *pondered* them, that is to say she dwelt on them, with God, in her heart. She held nothing back; she locked nothing within out of self-pity or resentment. Instead, she gave everything over to God. That is how she "kept" those things. We "keep" things when we hand them over: by not letting our lives become prey to fear, distress or superstition, by not closing our hearts or trying to forget, but by turning everything into a dialogue with God. God, who keeps us in his heart, then comes to dwell in our lives.

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2018/documents/papa-francesco_20180101_omelia-giornata-mondiale-pace.html



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