

# *St. John Fisher Parish*

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**PASTOR:** Fr. Regulo Imperial



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**MASS INTENTIONS  
FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**5:30 p.m.** – ✠Placido Huang Trung requested by the Lam Family

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Advent)**

**9 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. / 12 p.m.** – No intentions

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)**

**5 p.m. / 7 p.m. / 9 p.m.** – No intentions

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)**

**9 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. / 12 p.m.** – No intentions

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

**9 a.m.** – ✠Camu, Mai, Roslyn, Rose, Rodriguez Santos requested by the Santos Family

**Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

**9 a.m.** – Special Intentions & In Thanksgiving for Juliette Maranan

**Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

**9 a.m.** – ✠Rita D'souza requested by the Antao Family

**Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9 a.m.** – ✠Souls in Purgatory requested by the Miles Family

**Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 p.m.** – ✠Maureen Buck req by Rod, Leanne, David & Lorna

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (Holy Family)**

**9 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. / 12 p.m.** – No intentions

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (Mary, Mother of God)**

**7 p.m.** – Holy Hour

**8 p.m.** – Mass – No Intentions



To the People of God at St John Fisher Parish:

**GREETINGS OF PEACE AND JOY!**

The shepherds said to one another, *“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”*

Jesus left his home in heaven and became like us, adopting himself to our ordinary human situation. Surprisingly enough, on the day he was born of Mary, his Mother, he allowed himself to be revealed first to the poor shepherds.


To understand completely and deeply the story of Christmas, one has to adopt the lowliness, humility and dependency of the shepherds. There was no knowledge of what happened to the shepherds who first visited the baby Jesus. I would presume that something amazing had happened to their personal lives or that of their families on a spiritual level, and who knows, maybe it did translate into some material sufficiency. *“For nothing will be impossible with God,”* says the Angel Gabriel.

The story of Christmas speaks to us again of new birth and the possibility of our own rebirth. It tells us that things can be different. To quote a patristic cliché, **“GOD BECAME HUMAN THAT WE MIGHT BECOME DIVINE.”**


Jesus is Emmanuel: God-with-us. How lovely is God’s dwelling indeed! God dwells with us here and now in our parish community, in our homes, in our schools, in our neighbourhood.

**A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

Shalom, Fr Regulo Imperial, Pastor

 From the Angel Gabriel, Mary heard God’s plan for her life and she 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. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world, 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.

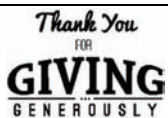
Contact Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Vocations Director, ArchToronto 416-968-0997 / [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) / [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

 Do you have gifts and talents that you can share with our parish? Join a parish ministry today! Volunteer what you can, when you can and as often as you can.

*Being God's hands and feet* No contribution is too small. Training and support will be provided. We especially need:

**Communion Ministers, Lectors & Ushers.**

*Call or email the office to sign up!*

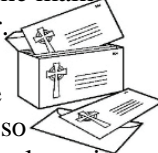


**Offertory:**

December 10<sup>th</sup>: \$ 4,596.25  
Building Fund: \$ 3,224.25  
ShareLife: \$ 1,000.00



**2024 ENVELOPES** are available for pick-up at the main church entrance. They are in alphabetical order. Please take your box only. Please do not use these new envelopes until January and complete the outside of the envelope for the first 3 weeks so we can verify the information. If your box of envelopes is not there, or if you would like to start using envelopes and don’t yet have them, please contact the church office. Thank you.



Please include: ❶ Name(s)  
❷ Mailing Address ❸ Email Address  
❹ Telephone Number

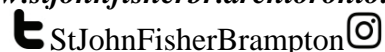
We are expanding our database to be able to communicate with parishioners more easily. Parishioners are asked to email their contact information to [stjohnfisherbr@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohnfisherbr@archtoronto.org).

Thank you for your cooperation!




**SUNDAY MISSALS**  
are available to purchase for \$10 each.

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<p><b>Christmas Eve</b> Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 5 pm – 7 pm – 9 pm</p>	<p><b>Christmas Day</b> Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 10:30 am – 12 pm</p>
<p><b>New Year's Eve</b> <b>Mary, Holy Mother of God</b> Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 7 pm Exposition &amp; Holy Hour 8 pm Mass</p>	<p><b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Mary, Holy Mother of God</b> Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 10:30 am – 12 pm</p>

 **SHARELIFE WISHES YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS**  
As we shelter from the winter cold, the ShareLife team thanks you for your faithful support. We wish you a warm and safe Christmas season, grateful for the enduring compassion you extend to those less fortunate. You are igniting hope for a better future. If you wish to share your blessings this Christmas, your contribution will double in value. Your year-end gift to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched up to \$500,000.

Our parish has currently raised **\$17,577.70** towards our suggested goal of **\$21,000**.  
Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate). Thank you and Merry Christmas!

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18-25**  
**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD...AND YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.** (Luke 10:27)  
Join Archbishop Francis Leo and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church.  
**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m.**  
St Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral  
455 Ferrier St, Markham  
This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.

**FRIARS' STUDENT WRITING CONTEST 2024**  
**Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself."** (Luke 10:27)  
Write an essay and win great prizes! Deadline to enter is January 15<sup>th</sup>. High school students (ages 13-19 years) 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. Students are encouraged 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 at <https://surl.li/mlfkw>.  
More details at: <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>



**Jesus is the reason for the season.**



**PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY:** As we celebrate the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish and construction of our church, it is the last year of our Pastor, Father Regulo Imperial's leadership of our parish. To honour all of this, we are working with **IPC Canada Photo Services** to create a **2024 Parish Directory** – a yearbook of our parish with photos of all parishioners, families, and organizations who wish to participate. The Anniversary Committee encourages you all to join in this great project.

**WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE?**

- ▶ Get to know your fellow parishioners, including those you regularly sit near to during mass, those of different generations than your own, and others who attend different mass times.
- ▶ Help Father Reg know the faces of his flock.
- ▶ Make it easier for the Church Office to know who we are.
- ▶ Increase community spirit!

**WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?**

▶ Your photo in the directory gets you a **FREE** copy of the directory. If you choose to buy copies of your pictures, the prices are reasonable.

**HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR A PICTURE?**

▶ Volunteers will be at the back of the church after all masses to register parishioners, families, and members of parish organizations for a photo appointment in the Parish Hall. Appointments are the week of January 30<sup>th</sup>.



**INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND UPDATE:**  
On December 12<sup>th</sup> the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families. *Recipients include the Indigenous Spirit Fund, a branch of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, Ontario that will receive \$400,000 over four years to enrich their On the Land culture camp program curriculum.* Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit [www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation](http://www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation).

**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 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2024. Couples celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment. Click the register button at: <https://www.archtoronto.org/marriage>  
**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm at St Michael's Cathedral**  
Watch the Mass via livestream: <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>

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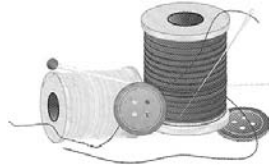
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