## 247 - 3

# St. John Fisher Parish

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Email: stjohnfisherbr@archtoronto.org Website: www.stjohnfisherbr.archtoronto.org
Instagram & Twitter address: StJohnFisherBrampton

**PASTOR:** Fr. Regulo Imperial



Oh Come Let us Adore Him



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 30th

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

Sunday, December 31st (Holy Family)

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

Sunday, December 31st (Mary, Mother of God)

7 p.m. – Holy Hour

**8 p.m.** – Mass – No Intentions

Monday, January 1st (Mary, Mother of God)

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

Tuesday, January 2nd

9 a.m. - \$Souls in Purgatory & World Peace req by the Antao Family

Wednesday, January 3rd

9 a.m. – \$Souls in Purgatory & World Peace req by the Antao Family

Thursday, January 4th

9 a.m. – †Youssef Wasaya requested by the Sawaya Family

Friday, January 5th

9 a.m. – \$Leonardo & Maria Elena Maranan req by the Family

Saturday, January 6th

5:30 p.m. – Daniel Cabral Andrade req by the Andrade Family

Sunday, January 7th

**9 a.m.** – In Thanksgiving requested by the Antao Family

10:30 a.m. – Special Intentions for El Friede Frey & Family requested by the Martins Family

12 p.m. – †Esmeralda & Romeo Yee reg by Elvin & Christina Yee

– †Edgardo Palad

Thank You

**Offertory:** 

**GIVING** December 17<sup>th</sup>:

\$ 6, 929.15

GENEROUSLY Building Fund: \$916 ShareLife: \$40

**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: **1** Name(s)

**②**Mailing Address **③**Email Address

**4**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.

Thank you for your cooperation!



#### **SUNDAY MISSALS**

are available to purchase for \$10 each.



To My Beloved Parishioners:

January is named for the Roman god Janus, a doorkeeper with two faces, one looking back and the other forward. It's an appropriate symbol for us as we enter a new year.

Looking back, we thank the Lord for the wonderful things God has done for us; appreciating the grace, faith and strength He gives us to rebuild and restart; and feeling sorry for the wrong doings and bad decisions in the past year.

Looking forward to 2024, we make a resolution to rediscover our faith and improve our relationship with God and with one another; praying with a firm hope for peace throughout the world.

It is important, therefore, that we keep intact the biblical role of Mary that we hear proclaimed in our January 1st gospel. She continued to be a faithful disciple eager to learn about the will of God. There is hope for us in this role of Mary, who despite all odds continues to believe that God will do great things for her.

Mary is the Mother of God and was also a young Jewish mother who experienced the hardships, struggles and poverty of our world. Mary did not fully understand the implication of what had occurred. In this situation the Gospel tells us that Mary "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."

What does Mary model for us as we contemplate the past year and the new year before us? We all have mysteries to ponder, sorrows to absorb, hopes to nourish for ourselves, our children, and our world. Mary offers us a lens that will see everything with the eyes of faith. We have the angel's assurance to Mary, "Don't be afraid," as our first response to whatever happens. We have Mary's "Yes", let it happen to me as God proposes, as the perfect prayer when life is difficult. This is all God asks.

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Shalom, Fr Regulo Imperial, Pastor

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph offers each of us an occasion for recognizing and appreciating the treasure of family.

Family must be very important for God. He could have sent His Son out of the blue and showed himself in our midst. God could have sent his Son from heaven riding in a cloud with angels trumpeting his coming. But no! God wanted his Son to be born as a baby and grow up in a natural way within the confine of a family. This affirms the family's importance and significance for both society and the church.

Many of us become caught up with material things and numerous tasks to accomplish and we forget to appreciate the treasure of the family. Parents: Remember to check what kind of blessed experiences you are giving your children. It is simply not enough to feed and clothe your children, we must nurture their minds and hearts and souls.

For most of us, our family is the closest thing we have to heaven. A family is where children learn right from wrong and begin to develop a moral sense, where values are taught, priorities are set and virtues are cultivated. There are two beautiful descriptions of families: • It is called the *school of love* because it's where we first learn to love; and It is called the *domestic or* mini-Church because it's where we first learn about God.

HAPPY FAMILY DAY! Fr Regulo Imperial, Pastor



#### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

#### New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31st 7 pm Exposition & Holy Hour 8 pm Mass

> **New Year's Day** Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 10:30 am – 12 pm



By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person.

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.

Contact Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Vocations Director, ArchToronto 416-968-0997 / vocations@archtoronto.org / www.vocationstoronto.ca

Beginning Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup>, the **CHARISMATIC** 

PRAYER GROUP will be meeting on the 2nd week of the month on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am in the

church hall (right after the 9 am mass).

LAST CHANCE TO MAKE A MATCHING GIFT IN 2023

If you've been one of our parish's generous heroes in 2023, thank you. Because of you, a neighbour is healing from trauma, or is thriving as a young mother, or isn't going hungry – among the many lives your kindness has transformed.

### Our parish has currently raised \$17,597.70 towards our suggested goal of \$21,000.

There's still time to join our incredible chorus of heroes. If you give at *sharelife.org/donate* by December 31<sup>st</sup>, you will receive a 2023 tax receipt. Thank you for living the Gospel!

# 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 21st 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.

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 Gods 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!

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>.



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/

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF A JOYFUL MARRIAGE!

Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. By learning the tools of healthy communication, you can build greater intimacy.

Retrouvaille is Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. *January 19-21* (Mississauga).

437-234-5610 or visit torontoretrouvaille.com or helpourmarriage.org

May the LORD bless you, and keep you;
May the LORD make his face shine to upon you,
and be gracious to you;
May the LORD turn his countenance to you
and grant you peace. Numbers 6:24-26



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