

# St. Mary's Church

65 Amelia Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 1M7

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Parish Office Hours Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Larry Léger, Pastor - ext. 104

Rev. Neil Pereira, Associate Pastor ext. 107

Rev. Scott Young – In Residence

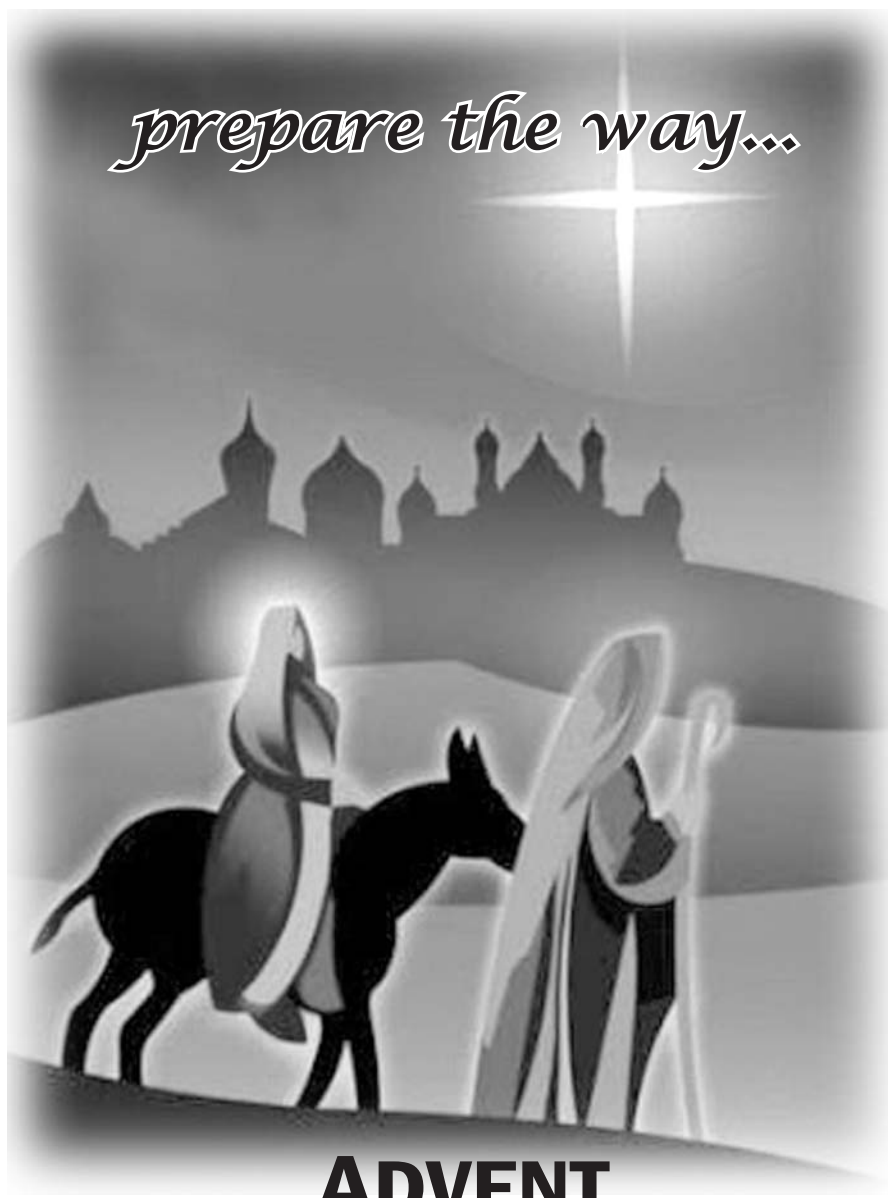
Deacon Del Allan – ext. 125 Deacon Robert Suthers, Retired

Catherine Ecker, Coordinator of Ministry with Maturing Adults and Parish Catechist –ext.115

Shannon Barks, Music/Youth Minister – ext. 116 or 705-229-7426

Susan Scarff, Administrative Assistant – ext. 101 David Murdoch, Pastoral Assistant – ext. 113

Pat Borho, Finance – ext. 102 Dennis Cormier, Building Manager



## ADVENT

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 23	12:10 p.m.	† Mark and Michael Gellegan
Thursday, December 26	9:00 a.m.	Intentions of the People of St. Mary's Parish
Friday, December 27	12:10 p.m.	† Vittorio, Pina and Riccardo Ravenese
Saturday, December 28	9:00 a.m.	† Joe Galle
		† Luigi Stocco
		† Frank and Wendy Grech
		† Reg Driscoll
		Intentions of Angela Hughes



My Fellow Parishioners,

As the days become darker and darker, as the weather gets colder, one of my great joys growing up was to sit in the family room, with all the lights in the room turned off, and the Christmas tree lights on. Our family crèche played "Silent Night" and this was a magical time for me. Each Christmas we enter anew into the Mystery of God, who chooses to come among us. God is not like the Swiss Watch maker – watching us from a distance. NO! The Incarnation reminds us that God desires to be close to us. That God's love for us is so deep, God cannot help but come among us. May the gift of God – present among us – be for you and your family a blessing. May you know God's peace and Joy this Christmas, even if it means you simply get a chance to sit in the dark with the tree lights on, and ponder the nearness of God!

## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24

(No 12:10 p.m. Mass)

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., and 12:00 Midnight

### Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25

10:00 a.m. (this Mass is also livestreamed)

12:00 p.m.

### Thursday, December 26

9:00 a.m. (Church closes at 10:00 a.m.)

### Friday, December 27

12:10 p.m.

### Saturday, December 28

9:00 a.m. (Confessions 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

### Feast of the Holy Family

### Saturday, December 28

5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 29

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

**Praying for the Sick** - If you or a family member is sick please let us know and we shall add their name to our prayer list which is posted in the gathering space of the church.



**We remember in prayer those who have died recently.** We pray for all deceased members of our parish.

### **Celebrating Advent: A Season of Joyful Expectation Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent**

Light four candles on your Advent wreath. If you do not have an Advent wreath you may light a taper before you pray.



**God of all hope, you have chosen us to be a witness to your love.**

**Help us and guide us in all that we do in your name.**

**May we rejoice in the coming of your Son. Amen.**

**Come, O Emmanuel, presence of God among us, and fill our hearts with every good gift.**

**Come Lord Jesus!**

### **Celebrating Christmas until January 12, 2025**



The Christmas season continues until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrated this year on Sunday January 12, 2025. Throughout the liturgical season of Christmas our Church celebrates the many ways that God is made present in our midst and world. We are invited to celebrate the full season of Christmas. From Christmas Day until the Baptism of the Lord, the following prayer can be prayed when your family gathers for a meal.

**Father in heaven, you so loved us that You sent Your Son, among us as Savior and Lord. Fill us with Your blessing, that we may grow in love and continue to live our Christian faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**Some suggestions for celebrating Christmas beyond December 25 are:** sing a verse or refrain of a favourite Christmas carol before the evening meal; call or

schedule a virtual visit with a family member who lives a distance from your home; pray for peace in our homes, community and world; at meal time talk about the many ways you see God each day; walk through your neighbourhood and enjoy the lights and decorations.

### **Are You New to Our Parish ?**

**We offer you a warm welcome!** Please take the time to register. Forms are available in the vestibule or at the parish office. We invite you to support the parish through either offertory envelopes or preauthorized giving. For information on Preauthorized Giving please visit <https://stmarysba.archtoronto.org/en/parish-life/downloadable-forms/> or collect offertory envelopes from the vestibule or parish office. Thank you for your support and we are glad you're here!

### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Monday, December 23, 2024 – OPEN for usual hours  
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 through to  
Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – CLOSED  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Tuesday, December 31 – adoration of the blessed sacrament will be in the church proper from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.  
Thursday, January 2, 2025 – OPEN for usual hours.  
**Come and thank the Lord for your blessings.**

### ShareLife Food Security Grants



ShareLife initiated the Food Security Grants in response to the surging demand for support witnessed by government, charities, and parish communities. Year-over-year grocery cost increases of 10% or more are forcing many families to turn for help for the first time – one in seven food bank users are employed. Those already struggling are being pushed further into poverty. Our parish and The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Mary's Conference will receive \$15,000 in grants to support families in need in our local community. This is only possible because of your generosity! Currently, all donations are being matched by a generous parishioner in the Archdiocese of Toronto, so when you give ShareLife \$100.00, ShareLife receives \$200.00. That means your compassionate generosity helps even more families in need, including those nourished through ShareLife's recently announced food programs. Double the impact of your kindness this Christmas by giving at the parish with a ShareLife envelope or anytime online at [www.sharelife.org/donate](http://www.sharelife.org/donate). **Thank you for living the Gospel.**

### All Adults 55+ Ministry with Maturing Adults



**VON SMART** (*Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together*) **Exercise Program** is held on Tuesday mornings. For details regarding registration please call: VON at 705 737 5044 ext. 221. There will be no program on **December 24 and 30.**

Christian Meditation an ancient form of contemplative prayer is deeply rooted in the Christian tradition. Our next meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025** on Zoom.



The Zoom link is on our parish website or contact Catherine Ecker if you are interested in learning more about this form of prayer or have questions. All are welcome! Catherine Ecker. [cecker@archtoronto.org](mailto:cecker@archtoronto.org) or 705 728 2985 ext. 115.



**Save the Date!** Begin 2025 with an afternoon of fun! Everyone is invited to attend our Birthday Party on **Wednesday January 15, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.** There will be refreshments, games, cake and some door prizes. All are welcome.

### Catholic Women's League Membership and Hospitality Weekend - January 4 and 5, 2025

Membership renewals and new members are welcome. Annual membership is \$37.00. Membership dues may be dropped at the CWL Table, in the offertory box envelopes, or can be e-transferred to: [cwlmembers20@gmail.com](mailto:cwlmembers20@gmail.com). The Catholic Women's League is many things to many people, whether it's faith, service, social justice or sisterhood, our sisters have found fulfillment by becoming members. We support charities both at home and abroad.

### Wedding Anniversaries: Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage



The married couples in our parish are a sign to us of God's faithfulness and through their witness we are strengthened. If you celebrated a wedding anniversary in December we shall pray with you and share in your joy at all Sunday (Saturday evening) Masses on **December 28 and 29.** Please join us in thanking God for the gift of the married couples in our midst.

### Youth Ministry



**M.E.R.C.Y. (Ministry to Educate Roman Catholic Youth)** is for youth grades J.K. to Gr. 4 and gathers once a month on Friday nights from 6:00-7:30 p.m. where we explore our faith in a dynamic way through activities, games, crafts and music. Our next gathering is **Friday, January 10, 2025.** Registration required.



**EDGE** is a youth ministry program for youth grades 5-8 to come together once a month on a Friday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. EDGE is a safe, fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about faith and most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. Our next gathering is **Friday, January 24, 2025.**



**LIFETEEN** – for high school teens to explore their faith through talks, prayer and friendship meeting monthly on Sunday nights. Our next gathering is

**TONIGHT, Sunday, December 22 and then Sunday, January 12, 2025** after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Dinner provided.



**Theology on Tap – Sunday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m.** at Flying Monkeys Brewery, 107 Dunlop St. East.

**Questions?** Please call Shannon Barks our Youth Minister at 705-229-7426 or email [stmarysyoungministrybarrie@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysyoungministrybarrie@gmail.com).

If you are interested in any of the following ministries of programs, please contact David at [dmurdoch@archtoronto.org](mailto:dmurdoch@archtoronto.org).

- **Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word with Children** We will celebrate a separate Liturgy of the Word with Children on January 26, February 9 and March 9 during the 12 noon Mass. All children between the ages of 4 and 8 are invited to participate.
- **Altar Servers?** Are you in Grade 3 or above and have made your First Holy Communion? We have a particular need for 8:00 a.m. servers.
- **Classic Movies at St. Mary's Parish** - Twice a month in the parish hall we offer great movies at no cost (free will offering). Snacks and drinks included! All are welcome. No sign up – Tuesdays at 2:00pm. Our next film is Alfred Hitchcock's **Strangers on a Train** on **January 14** and **Libeled Lady** on **January 28.**
- **Just Sing!** - You're invited to join us for song and fellowship as we come together to JUST SING our way through folk, pop, gospel and traditional music. No sign up – just come and just sing! Cookies and tea included. Join us on **Tuesday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m.** in St. Joseph's Room.



### Parish Library

We invite you to stop by and visit our parish library. Spend some time browsing and select titles of inspiration, faith, and hope to read over Christmas and into the New Year. We are open weekday afternoons and Sundays. Our collection has adult and children books, DVD's and CD's.



**Hospital Visitation:** If you or a family member are admitted to RVH, please let them know you are Catholic and call the parish office. If you wish to receive Holy Communion please let the parish office know and one of our pastoral visitors will come to see you.

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