

St. Joseph The Worker Parish

191 Wade Gate, Thornhill, L4J 5Y4 Tel. 905-660-1253

Website: <https://stjosephtheworkerth.archtoronto.org>

Email: stjosephtheworkerth@archtoronto.org

Parish Office Team

Parish Priest: Fr. Victor Amole vamole@archtoronto.org

Deacon Dominic Pullano dominic.pullano@sympatico.ca

Youth Minister: Alston Moras amoras@archtoronto.org

Office Manager/Secretary: Adelina Tang stjosephtheworkerth@archtoronto.org

Secretaries: Janelle Martires, Lisa Noronha stjosephtheworkerth@archtoronto.org



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

GOSPEL REFLECTION: THE HOLY FAMILY AS AN EXAMPLE

The child's father and mother were amazed. (Luke 2:33)

“Amazed.” That’s how Mary and Joseph reacted when Simeon said that their son would be “a light for revelation” and “glory for . . . Israel” (Luke 2:32). They knew that Jesus was special, but seeing a prayerful, holy man treat him with such awe and reverence left them speechless. Who was this child whom God had given them?

This is a perfect image for today’s feast of the Holy Family. For all that Mary and Joseph had already experienced, Jesus was still a mystery to them. And he would continue to be a mystery. They would be “astonished” when they found him, at twelve years old, debating with the scribes in the Temple (Luke 2:48). Surely Mary was surprised when Jesus seemed to rebuke her for trying to see him (8:19-21). And imagine her shock when she saw him crucified!

So how did Mary and Joseph respond to the great mystery of their child? With prayerful, open hearts. Luke says that Mary—undoubtedly along with her husband—reflected “in her heart” every time a new challenge arose (2:19). They knew they didn’t have all the answers. They needed to be open to God’s plan for Jesus rather than respond quickly and rashly based on their own ideas.

What a model for us! Whether we are relating to our parents, our spouse, or our children, we should always approach them with a sense of awe and humility. Because they are “wonderfully made” by God himself, they deserve to be treated with respect and honor (Psalm 139:14). May we never try to impose our plans on them. May we instead be open to God’s work in them and love them as he loves them.

Amazed. Prayerful. Humble. Imagine how much peace could flow in families this coming year if we all followed the Holy Family’s example!

“Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for all families this year!”

MASS READINGS

First Reading: Sirach 3.2-6,12-14

Second Reading: Colossians 3.12-21

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 31 December, 9:00 AM (Italian)
For all Parishioners

Sunday 31 December, 10:30 AM
For all Parishioners

Sunday 31 December, 12:00 PM
For all Parishioners

Sunday 31 December, 5:00 PM
For all Parishioners

Monday 1 January, 10:00 AM
For all Parishioners

Tuesday 2 January
No Mass

Wednesday 3 January, 7:00 PM
+ Henry Chong
+ Teresa Paul
+ G. John Marie Antoine

Thursday 4 January, 9:00 AM
For all Parishioners

Friday 5 January, 7:00 PM
+ Franca & Carmine Arnone
+ Melidia Fernandez
+ Deceased Members of the Chelliah Family

Saturday 6 January, 9:00 AM
+ Emeliano de los Santos

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE 2024

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. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.

Resources: The following complementary resources provide helpful information of how to observe the WPCU in your parish.

- The Roman Missal (Third Typical Edition-Canada 2011) offers: The Eucharistic Prayer ‘The Church on the Path of Unity’ (pages 748-754); The ‘Mass for the Unity of Christians’ (with options A, B and C) (pages 1261-1267); as well as Formularies for the Universal Prayer (e.g., pages 301-302 and pages 1450-1451).
- The 2024 WPCU international resources produced and published jointly by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches may be retrieved at: <https://rb.gy/wajo9>.
- Sample Intercessions and Prayers of the Faithful for 2024 may be accessed at: GEII-Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute.
- Remind and encourage High School Students to participate in the Annual Friars’ Writing Contest for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. For details, please see the poster at: <https://bit.ly/3G0I4zT>.
- Consider organizing a weekday neighbourhood service during the WPCU according to local situations: ideally prepared ecumenically with other Christians in your parish boundaries, or for your parishioners in your church (with an outreach/invitation to other Christian communities in your area if possible). The international service is easily adapted for local use. Should assistance be required, please contact us at Ecumenical@archtoronto.org

JOIN THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Our Faith calls us to serve, and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul welcomes all who wish to live their faith by loving and serving their neighbour. We are seeking new members to help visit the poor and others in need in their homes and assist us with food and clothing drives. For more information on how you may be able to help, please call our helpline at 647-303-2621

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Come and join us in learning more about the women of the Bible. Have you often wondered who are some of the women in the Bible that really had an impact? Can we as women in our modern world relate to any of these stories or experiences in our lives. Join us on January 3, and January 24 after the Wednesday Mass at 7:35 pm. There will be fellowship, Bible reading, and sharing of ideas. If you are 18+ we look forward to seeing you. Please bring a notebook and a bible.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Every month on the first Friday on the month, St. Joseph the Worker invites everyone to our holy hour of Adoration, beginning at 8:00 Pm after our Friday Mass. Set some time in your schedule to connect with God and experience the power of his wonderful love. Our next monthly adoration will be on Friday, January 5, 2024.
Come

REMINDER: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes will be starting Saturday, January 13th. They will be from 10 AM- 12 PM for First Holy Communion students and 3 PM- 5 PM for Confirmation students.



CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO – FEBRUARY 11, 2024 AT 3:00 P.M.

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 (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass.

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 at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass. Registration and other important information can be found at www.archtoronto.org/marriage.

For questions, please email formation@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 ext. 523.



*Jesus, Son of God,
and of Mary and of Joseph,
brother of us all,
you became a member
of the human family
so we could all be members
of God's eternal family.
Make our families schools of love.
Heal our wounds and draw us deeper
into your grace. Amen.*



Archdiocese
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PRAYER FROM WWW.CCCB.CA
IMAGE: HOLY FAMILY, TORONTO

FRIARS STUDENT WRITING CONTEST 2024 (NOVEMBER 8, 2023 TO JANUARY 15, 2024)

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

High school students (ages 13-19 years) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event that commemorates the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18-25. Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2024 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions. Students are 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://bit.ly/3G0I4zT> and submit their entries at <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

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