

# St. Bernard de Clairvaux Church

1789 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M6L 1E3

Tel: 416-241-6738 • Fax: 416-241-8776

E-Mail: [stbernarddeclairvauxto@archtoronto.org](mailto:stbernarddeclairvauxto@archtoronto.org)

Website: [stbernarddeclairvauxto.archtoronto.org](http://stbernarddeclairvauxto.archtoronto.org)

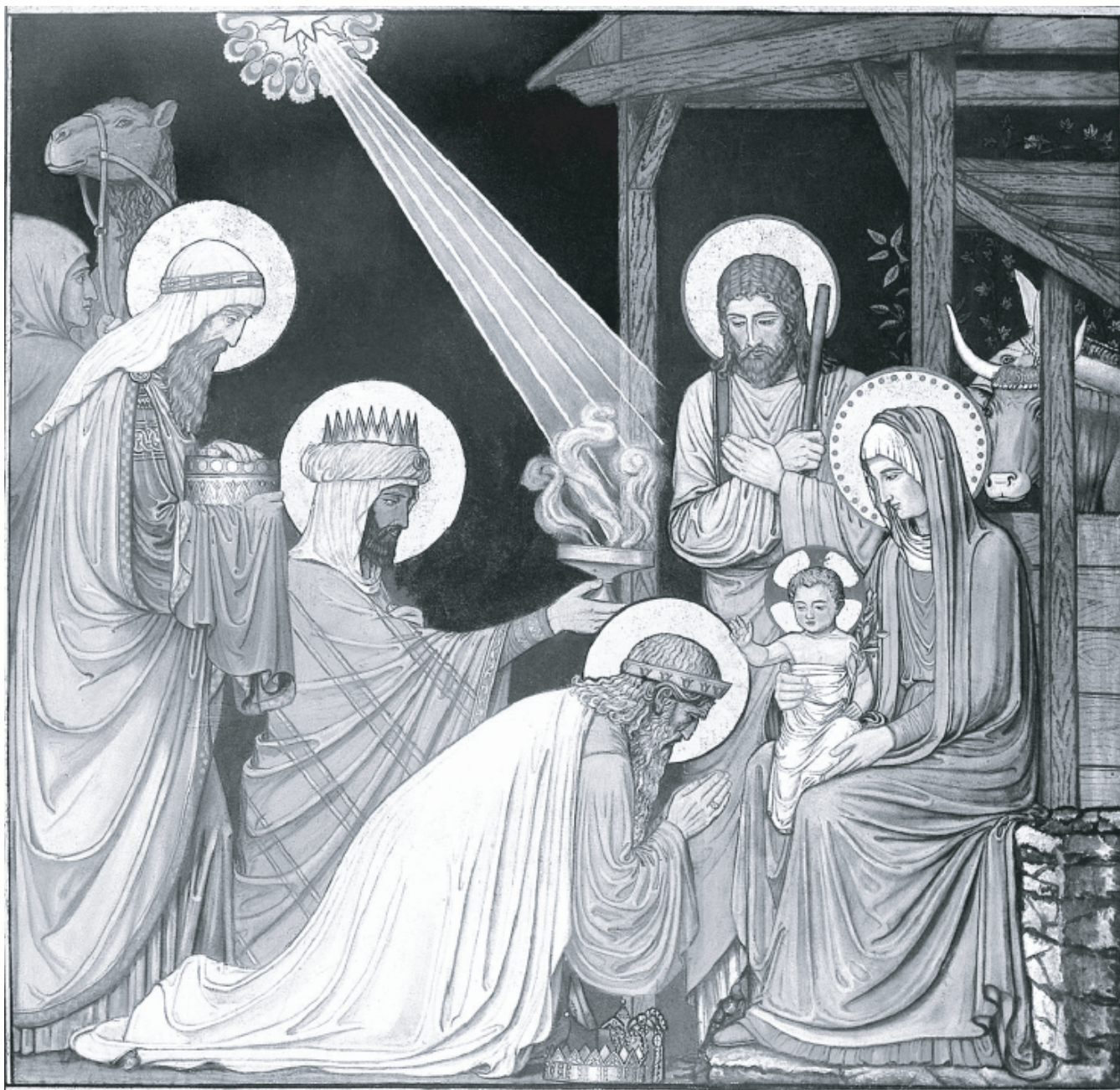
## Pastoral Team:

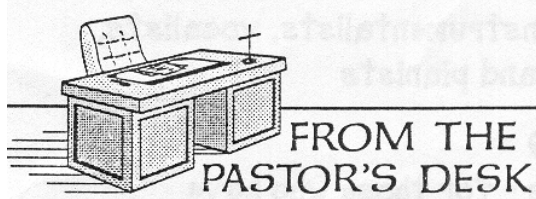
Fr. Boniface Perri, Pastor

Fr. Jose Johny, Associate Pastor/Chaplain to Sacred Heart Kerala Community

Fr. Francesco Pica, In Residence

Gina Orofino, Parish Secretary    Brenda Carvalho, Bookkeeper





Have you done all your Christmas shopping? It's nice to buy gifts for your loved ones as a way of showing you care about them. Mine is mostly done (I wonder if I should buy my cats a gift?)

As I was thinking of the Christmas season of course one thinks of Christ and faith in general. Like Mary we are called to contemplate all these things of faith in our heart. As I did, I recalled the words of St. Augustine who said that even the desire for grace is a grace itself.

For those who believe, we all have many ways the faith was first presented to us. For some, it was taught by our families, for others it was what they heard in School, in a podcast or in a book. While the faith was introduced to us in many ways, this was but the mode of transmission. At some point there was an inner call. A sense of love, a desire to want to know more about the Lord, a sense of the righteousness of being with the Lord: Something that transformed those facts we heard about Christ into true faith. For some it was a distinct or dramatic choice, for others it was subtle and we don't know when our faith was ignited only that it was. That is the grace that first came to us, of Christ reaching out to us

Ultimately, Christ initiated that moment of encounter when He was born, coming down from Heaven to be with us and in time to teach us, open for us the gates of Heaven and unite us to Himself and through Christ to His Heavenly Father.

The wise men came and gave their gifts to the new-born king, out of love and devotion to Him. As Christmas is the celebration of Christ's coming, the question is what gift will we present to Him? What does one get the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity anyway? Our Blessed Mother, Mary and St. Joseph, show us the perfect gift. He came to be with us so we give Jesus what HE wants, ourselves. We, like Mary and Joseph are with Him physically. While they have the manger, we have His presence in the Blessed Sacrament and we come to worship Him. Hey it is called Christmas, Christ Mass for a reason, to rededicate ourselves to Him as His disciples. As we celebrate this great moment of our faith with family

and friends in our decorations of a Christmas tree, nativity scene or other decorations in our words and prayers and in our thoughts, we never forget Him. Like Mary, we keep Him always close to our hearts as we are close to His Sacred Heart.

I do hope that this Christmas season is a blessed time for you and your family and that God gives you every joy under Heaven.

Merry Christmas Everyone!!!

(I saw a stocking full of cat toys maybe I'll buy Nefi and Stacy one of those for Christmas)



*A tutte le famiglie della nostra  
comunita' parrocchiale,  
Tanti e tanti auguri  
per un felicissimo e Santo Natale*




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**Office of Catholic Youth  
Archdiocese of Toronto  
Spiritus Ministry  
Regional Young Adult Ministry**

Spiritus Ministry is a regional Young Adult Ministry serving those ages 19-39 in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Spiritus Ministry hosts monthly ministry nights centered on prayer, theology, social issues, fellowship, and catechesis. Our young adult ministry also has a focus on community building including social activities and outreach initiatives.

We are currently in 6 regions of the Archdiocese of Toronto

- Central** (Downtown Toronto, Midtown, North York),
- Durham** (Ajax, Oshawa, Pickering, Whitby),
- East** (Scarborough, East York),
- North** (Alliston, Barrie, Bradford, Newmarket),
- West** (Brampton, Etobicoke, Mississauga),
- York** (Markham, Richmond Hill, Stouffville, Vaughan).

**Please email [youth@archtoronto.org](mailto:youth@archtoronto.org)  
to find out more about Spiritus Ministry and  
other young adult initiatives.**

**Office of Catholic Youth: [ocytoronto.org/young-adults](http://ocytoronto.org/young-adults)**

**Follow us on Instagram to stay up to date -  
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(<https://www.instagram.com/spiritusministry/>)**

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 5:00 pm Luigi, Angelina, Rosina & Francesco Sottile  
Melina & Ferdinando Marchese  
Catherine Mac Intyre  
Elide Buset

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 am Anna Susanna  
Mauro Ardizzi and Pia Ardizzi  
Iolanda Florio  
Giovanni & Ascienza Di Vona  
Fiore Molinaro  
Maria Di Bernardo  
Benito & Maria Belissimo  
Amelia Costa (2 year death anniversary)  
Angelo & Liberata Apa and Rosina Apa  
Giuseppe Ianniello

10:30 am Peace & Happiness for Haung Family  
Vinko Jelenic

12:00 pm PRO POPOLO

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 pm Holy Rosary  
7:00 pm Amelia Filice

Tues 24<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
5:00 pm English Mass  
7:00 pm Malayalam Mass  
12:00 am English Midnight Mass

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
9:00 am Italian Mass  
10:30 am English Mass  
12:00 pm English Mass

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am Giovanni Monte

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Holy Rosary  
7:00 pm

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm Catherine Mac Intyre

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Francesco Conforti  
Mauro Ardizzi and Pia Ardizzi  
Iolanda Florio  
Marcello Matricciano  
Dante Mazzini  
Nazzareno Tari  
Ernesto Simone & Enzo Simone

10:30 am PRO POPOLO

12:00 pm Good Health & God's Protection for Noah  
Ida Maria & Francesco Rende

**CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS**

“He was created of a mother whom he created.  
He was carried by hands that he formed.  
He cried in the manger in wordless infancy.  
He the word without whom  
all human eloquence is mute.”  
St. Augustine

“The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus...  
He has entered our history;  
He has shared our journey.  
He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light.  
In Him was revealed the grace,  
the mercy and the love of the Father.”  
Pope Francis

**2025 Offertory Envelopes**

Your 2025 Sunday Donation Envelopes  
are available in the Gold Room.

They can be picked up during office hours or ask  
the ushers after the Masses.

**LE BUSTE PER L'OFFERTA DOMENICALE 2025**

Vi preghiamo di prelevare il vostro pacchetto  
nel Gold Room. Se iniziate quest'anno ad usare le buste,  
chiamate in ufficio per registrare. Grazie a tutti per il  
sostegno finanziario che date alla parrocchia.

**HELP WANTED!**

To make our Finance Council as effective as it can be,  
we are looking for one or two trained Accountants  
to join our team.

If you are interested, please talk to Fr. Boniface.

**Weekly Collection**

Last week, our collection was \$4,032.55  
It takes 5,000.00 to cover weekly expenses.  
Thank you to those who continue to support us.  
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