

4th Sunday of Advent



Reflection

God's plan is filled with surprises that may be different from our own expectations. In today's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary to announce Jesus' birth. The Annunciation is one of these moments in God's plan and Mary's response is a perfect example of how we should welcome God's surprises.

In our first reading, David expected that God's promise would involve an earthly kingdom, but God instead had in mind an everlasting kingdom. His promise to David would be ultimately fulfilled through a humble soul, that of Mary, who trusted completely in the Lord.

Mary is bewildered when she first hears the Angel's message. Gabriel reveals to her that she will bear a son who will be both Son of God and Son of David, the promised Messiah. When reassured that the Angel is God's messenger, Mary responds in faith, with a generous and open heart. Mary is the model believer whose deep faith and trust in God are an example for us all to imitate.

When Mary heard the Angel speak, she heard God's voice in that of his messenger. As we await the birth of our Lord, we are invited to quiet our hearts and listen, as Mary did, for God's voice in our daily lives. Let us walk in her footsteps and be surprised by the ways of God.

Nada Mazzei
Toronto, ON

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*For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish
but might have eternal life.
John 3:16*

– THIS WEEKEND –

This year is unique in that the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day; this happens about every six or seven years although a leap year might render a longer interval. *Do we have to go to Mass twice this weekend?* Yes, we get to go to Mass twice this weekend! According to the law of the Church, which is based on divine law, Catholics are required to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays and on other days of precept which we know as holy days of obligation. Christmas – same as Sunday – is a day of precept whose obligation is never lifted. Therefore, all Catholics must attend Mass the weekend of December 23/24 for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for the Solemnity of Christmas on December 24/25.

Adapted from Fr. Christopher House

Thank You So Much



THANK YOU to the many individuals who donated beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas Manger. In total, our parishioners donated over 100 flowers. **THANK YOU** to Sister Halina and her team of helpers for setting up and decorating the Christmas manger. **THANK YOU** to the many scouts and other volunteers who helped clean the church before Christmas. **THANK YOU** to all who supported the Mississauga Food Bank and the Good Shepherd Ministries by bringing in non-perishable food items. **THANK YOU** to all individuals and families who maintain our parish financially throughout the year and support the priests and staff with their prayer and kind words.

Christmas Eve Mass for Children

Children who will be attending the 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass are encouraged to dress up as characters from the Christmas Manger: Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, wise men.

SUNDAY MASS

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Responsorial Psalm:

Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16.25-27

Gospel: Luke 1.26-38

VIGIL MASS

First Reading: Isaiah 62.1-5

Responsorial Psalm:

Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.

Second Reading: Acts 13.16-17, 22-25

Gospel: Matthew 1.1-25

– FEAST DAYS –



MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Mass Schedule:

8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 7 pm

No confession / Parish office is closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr

Mass Schedule:

8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 7 pm

No confession / Parish office is closed

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Feast of St. John, Apostle

Mass Schedule: 8 am, 7 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Mass Schedule: 8 am, 7 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Mass Schedule:

8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 7 pm

Blessing of children will take place after the 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mass.

Blessing of couples celebrating their wedding anniversary will take place at the 11 a.m. Mass. Please call the parish office if you wish to have your name added to the list of couples celebrating their anniversary.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mass Schedule:

8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 7 pm

No confession / Parish office is closed

– SACRAMENTS – – AT OUR PARISH –

Anointing of the Sick

• A hospital chaplain – a Roman Catholic priest – is employed full-time at local hospitals and is on-call 24 hours a day. To arrange a **hospital visit**, please ask a nurse to call the priest on duty.

• Please contact the parish office if you or your loved one require a **home visit** from a priest.



Baptism

Parents who are registered members of St. Maximilian Kolbe Church and would like to baptize their child must contact the parish office at least six weeks before the anticipated date of baptism. Preparation course is mandatory for all parents and Godparents. Baptisms take place during Mass:

- on Saturday at 5 p.m. in English
- on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in Polish

Godparents must meet all requirements outlined in Canon 874, paragraph 1:

- be at least 16 years old
- be fully initiated into the Catholic Church
- be in good standing with the Church (not married outside of the Church and not cohabitating)

Matrimony

Couples wishing to be married at St. Maximilian Kolbe Roman Catholic Church must contact the parish office at least one year prior to the anticipated date of the wedding in order to open a wedding file and obtain a list of required documents. In addition, marriage preparation course is mandatory for all couples. Please keep in mind that our priests can only officiate at marriage ceremonies of registered members of our parish who reside within the geographical boundaries of the Archdiocese of Toronto. Otherwise, permission of the local ordinary is required. For more information, couples may e-mail the parish office at kolbemagda@gmail.com.



Reconciliation

Regular confession takes place 30 minutes before each Mass in the confessionals.



– OTHER NEWS –

ROSE 55 will lead the rosary this week.

Parish Registration Change of Address

Are you formally registered at the parish? Has your address changed?

Ours is an ethnic parish. Our parishioners are those who are of Polish descent and are formally registered at this church. Please note that we are not able to issue any references or letters of eligibility to non-parishioners. Registration forms and change of address forms can be found in the parish hallway. Please fill them out and place in the collection basket on Sunday.

Offertory Envelopes for 2024

Offertory envelopes for 2024 are arranged in alphabetical order in the parish hall on the right-hand side of the stage. Please pick up your set of envelopes.

Novi Singers – Christmas Concert Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church

Novi Singers Toronto and Toronto Sinfonietta, under the musical direction of Maciej Jaskiewicz, are hosting a concert entitled "Christ is Born," featuring Joseph Zeidler's Shepard's Mass and classic Christmas carols, performed by Karolina Podolak, Novi Singers, and a Children's Choir. Suggested donation to cover the cost of the production is \$20.

Radio Maria Banquet

Radio Maria Christmas Banquet will be held on **Sunday, January 14, 2024**, at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. and banquet will begin at 1 p.m. The event includes a hot meal prepared by Jan Gromada, a lottery, caroling, and a Christmas concert by Kinga Mitrowska. Tickets at \$75 are available from:

• Health from Nature Store (416) 532-9805

• Something Special Store (905) 629-2347

• Joanna Szydłowska (905) 818-1040

• Joanna Strzeżek (905) 845-3553

Pilgrimages

Guadalupe April 8 – 14, 2024

Medjugorje May 3 – 13, 2024

For more information please contact:

Marzena (647) 284-1631

Malgorzata (416) 859-8469

– MASS INTENTIONS –

MONDAY December 25

8⁰⁰ ◦ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God's continued blessing for the Podolak, Lewandowski, and Włodarczyk families

9³⁰ ✚ Kazimierz Mieczkowski and family members

11⁰⁰ ◦ In thanksgiving on the 34th wedding anniv. of Maria and Jaroslaw and for God's blessing for the Mitrut family

13⁰⁰ ◦ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God's blessing, Mary's protection, and gifts of the Holy Spirit for Nicole Cislo on her 18th birthday

14³⁰ ◦ For God's grace for children: Szczepan, Jerzy, Sebastian, and Michal

19⁰⁰ ✚ Husband Jan, parents Rozalia and Stanislaw

TUESDAY December 26

8⁰⁰ ✚ Helena and Kazimierz Poniatowski

9³⁰ ◦ For God's blessing for the Olejniczak family

11⁰⁰ ✚ Bożena Sniezek

13⁰⁰ ✚ Stanisława Wilczak and members of the Patrzyk family

19⁰⁰ ✚ Members of the Wielgus and Luczak families

WEDNESDAY December 27

8⁰⁰ ✚ Helena, Stanislaw, Wieslaw Nowicki

✚ Jozef Kmiec and Lucyna Kupiec

19⁰⁰ ◦ Collective Mass Intentions

THURSDAY December 28

8⁰⁰ ◦ God God's blessing, grace, gifts of the Holy Spirit for Natalia on her 26th birthday

19⁰⁰ ◦ In thanksgiving for all lives saved from abortion and euthanasia

✚ Henryka and Feliks Alwas

FRIDAY December 29

8⁰⁰ ◦ In thanksgiving for graces received and for Mary's continued protection and health for Janusz and Zofia Siwicki

19⁰⁰ ✚ Jan Pawel Poleszuk

◦ For God's protection and gifts of the Holy Spirit for Gabriela and Weronika Strama, and Jessica and Ewa Kolpak

SATURDAY December 30

8⁰⁰ ✚ Marianna Bialy

17⁰⁰ ✚ Alfred Szramek

19⁰⁰ ✚ Antoni and Halina Szelest

SUNDAY December 31

8⁰⁰ ✚ Genowefa and Mieczyslaw Lewicki

9³⁰ ✚ Andrew Gut

11⁰⁰ ◦ For Parishioners and Benefactors

13⁰⁰ ✚ Maria, Jozef, Stanislaw Koziel; Otolia and Henryk Bartosiewicz

14³⁰ ◦ For God's blessing for members of Domus Ecclesiae

19⁰⁰ ✚ Henryk Skwarko

Please inform the parish office of any errors in the spelling of the above names.