



Our Lady of Grace *Roman Catholic Church*

Dedicated September 17, 1983

15347 Yonge St. Aurora, Ontario L4G 1N7

web: olgraceau.archtoronto.org

telephone: 905-727-4594

email: olgraceau@archtoronto.org

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. John Bertão, Pastor
Fr. Donatello Iocco, Associate Pastor
Deacon Doug McManaman
Deacon Pat Colangelo

PARISH STAFF

Rachael Da Silva, Administrative Assistant
Maria Young, Part-time Parish Secretary
J.R. Lagman, Custodian

OUR SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Sunday Masses

Saturday vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon, 7:00 pm

Weekday Masses

Monday – Friday 8:00 am
Saturday & Holidays 9:00 am

First Friday Adoration

5:00 pm - 6:45 pm followed by Mass at 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 – 4:30 pm or by appointment

Baptism

Families must be registered and regularly attending Mass. Parents and godparents must also attend a baptism preparation session before the baptism date. Please contact the office for Baptism registration forms.

Marriage

12 months advanced notice required before a date can be confirmed.
Preparation course is a prerequisite.

Do you feel called to Holy Orders or Religious Life?

Contact 416-968-0997 or vocationstoronto.ca.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Weekends & Statutory Holidays: Closed

WELCOME AND REGISTRATION

If you are making Our Lady of Grace your parish, please register by completing a registration form found near both entrances of the church or on the shelves by the parish office. If you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office at 905-727-4594. Also, kindly contact the office if you move or have added new members to your family that have not been registered.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)

Have you considered an easier way of supporting the parish? PAG is a convenient way: you decide how much and we will charge your account the amount you are comfortable with on the 20th of each month. You can change the amount at any time by contacting the parish office. How much? For example, if you currently give \$12/week that would be around \$52/month; and if you give \$25/week that would be around \$108/month. Kindly consider this convenient way of supporting our parish. The PAG form (blue) may be found near both entrances of the church or on the shelves by the parish office.

PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Spirit	905-713-6813
Light of Christ	905-727-5400
Our Lady of Grace	905-727-5631
St. Jerome	905-727-6593
St. Joseph	905-727-5782
St. Maximilian Kolbe H.S.	905-727-5652
Cardinal Carter H.S.	905-727-2455
York Catholic District School Board	905-727-1211

PASTORAL REFERENCES


To receive a pastoral reference, you must be a registered parishioner, attending Sunday Mass regularly, and participating in the sacramental and pastoral life of the Church community, be serving in a parish ministry (e.g. lector, catechist) on an ongoing basis, and be in good canonical standing within the Church.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES www.catholic-cemeteries.com

EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon., Mar. 3 rd	8am	+ Giuseppe & Maria Giannotti
Tue., Mar. 4 th	8am	+ Rado Krevs
Wed., Mar. 5 th	8am 7pm	* Ash Wednesday Masses *
Thu., Mar. 6 th	8am	(SI) Christine Catania
Fri., Mar. 7 th	8am 7pm	(SI) Helen Rowe (SI) Fideira Da Silva, + Christine Jill Aguila, + Souls in Purgatory
Sat., Mar. 8 th	9am 5pm	+ Ermelinda & Silvino Rodrigues, + Karl Klement, + Mario Billones, + Bill Bennett, + Souls in Purgatory + Colem Whelan
Sun., Mar. 9 th	8am 10am 12pm 7pm	+ Jose Francisco (SI) Laura Du "Populo" for the intentions of our parish families + Eda De Luca


IMPORTANT DATES	
Wed., Mar. 5 th	Ash Wednesday
Wed., Mar. 19 th	Feast of St. Joseph
Tue., Apr. 8 th & Wed., Apr. 9 th	Confessions for First Holy Communion & Confirmation children (with parents) & Parish
Sat./Sun., Apr. 12 th /13 th	Palm Sunday
Thu., Apr. 17 th	Holy Thursday
Fri., Apr. 18 th	Good Friday
Sat., Apr. 19 th	Easter Vigil
Sun., Apr. 20 th	Easter Sunday
Sat., May 3 rd	First Communion Masses
Mon., Apr. 28 th to Thu., May 1 st	Confirmation Rehearsals
Mon., May 5 th to Thu., May 8 th	Confirmation Masses




2024 Tax Receipts
The 2024 tax receipts were mailed out mid-February. Thank you for your generous support.

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking His mercy." - Pope Francis

Lighting a Candle 'Gift' Cards
Lighting a candle for someone? Please help yourself to a 'gift' card that you can give/send to the individual you lit the candle for. They are located by the candle stands.



Sanctuary Candles sponsored Feb. 13th to Mar. 12th, 2025 for: (SI) Peter Yiu



Mar. 13 th to Apr. 12 th , 2025	+ Aldo Cristofoli
Apr. 13 th to May 12 th , 2025	(SI) Vinluan family
May 13 th to Jun. 12 th , 2025	(SI) Donkers & Blanco families
Jun. 13 th to Jul. 12 th , 2025	(SI) Jack & Ruth Doris
Jul. 13 th to Aug. 12 th , 2025	(SI) Alberto & Louro families
Aug. 13 th to Sep. 12 th , 2025	(SI) Chen family
Sep. 13 th to Oct. 12 th , 2025	+ Deceased members of the Alberto & Louro families
Oct. 13 th to Nov. 12 th , 2025	+ Deceased members of the Da Silva & D'Souza families
Nov. 13 th to Dec. 12 th , 2025	+ Deceased Priests & Bishops

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE
PRESENTED BY JONATHAN TEJERA FOR THE FOCUS BLOG

WHEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE


ABSTINENCE

WHO

CATHOLICS 14+
ARE OBLIGED TO PRACTICE ABSTINENCE


CATHOLICS 18-59
ARE OBLIGED TO FAST

THOSE OUTSIDE THE AGE LIMITS
and those whose state in life (e.g. pregnant women, manual laborers, those who are ill) may be excused from the requirements of fasting and abstinence, but are encouraged to take up some other form of penitence or acts of charity or piety.




Ash Wednesday Mass

On Wed., Mar. 5th, Masses will be celebrated at 8am and 7pm (ashes will be distributed at both Masses).




Stations of the Cross

Each Friday, during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm & Mass at 7pm (the morning 8am Mass, Adoration, and Rosary will continue as usual).



Eucharistic Adoration

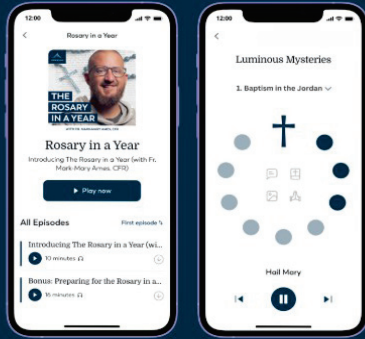
Mon. - Fri., after the 8am Mass, the Rosary will take place during the exposition of the blessed Sacrament until 9am (Eucharistic Adoration also every first Friday of the month from 5pm to 7pm, followed by Benediction & Mass at 7pm).





The Ascension App is the best place to experience the Rosary in a Year Podcast.

The Best Place to Listen to the Rosary in a Year



Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY



Once again, Our Lady of Grace will be running a Bible Study. *The Bible Timeline, The Story of Salvation* is an in-depth study through Ascension Press, which will help you better understand the Bible. It is a 24-week study, divided into 3 eight-week sessions. The cost for all 3 is \$80. The first session is from Apr. 16th to Jun. 4th; the second session will be in the fall of 2025, and the third session will be in the spring of 2026. Please register at the Parish office by Mar. 17th. Payment is cash or cheque, only.

PAG ENVELOPES



Please note: PAG envelopes that were not picked up were mailed out this past week. A special thank you to all those who were able to pick up their envelopes. To all donors, your generosity continues to support parish life and activities. Thank you.

Cardinal Leo Writes to the Federal Government on Issues of Deep Concern

To access the letters, go to the link below <https://www.archtoronto.org>.

CWL Meeting



Our upcoming CWL meeting will be held on Tue., Mar. 11th at 7:30pm in the Large Meeting Room. All women of the parish are welcome to join us, even if you just want to come and check us out! Please consider it - we'll be glad to have you there! If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at olgcwl@gmail.com.

Debt Reduction

On the weekend of Mar. 15th - 16th, our second collection will go towards reducing our parish debt. Please give generously. Your efforts help to support our parish life and community. Thank you for your kindness.

Euchre

Do you know how to play the card game Euchre? Come to the parish hall every Monday from 1pm until 3pm (except for public holidays). Join us for some fun and meet new friends.



Even if you don't know the game, we will teach you. All are welcome.

Miraculous Medals, Rosaries & Scapulars

The following items are available at the parish office for a donation of:

- \$7 – Large Miraculous Medal
- \$5 – Medium Miraculous Medal
- \$3 – Small Miraculous Medal



\$5 - Scapular \$5 – Wooden Rosary



Hon. Mark Holland
Minister of Health
Government of Canada
Sent via e-mail

February 14, 2025

Dear Minister Holland,

Be assured of my ongoing prayers for you and all those who are entrusted to serve and strengthen our country.

I reach out today regarding the current consultation taking place regarding advance directives as it relates to euthanasia in Canada (referred to in legal terms as Medical Assistance in Dying – MAID). While the consultation period is about to close, I feel that it is important for you to hear feedback regarding the process and language conveyed in the consultation.

I understand the Government of Canada wishes to solicit views from Canadians on proposals relating to end of life care. However, I must convey both, in my own opinion and from those deeply engaged in end of life issues, that the wording and overall approach of the survey pre-supposes that those responding support euthanasia. We know this is simply not true.

Over the past decade, there has been significant opposition to the legalization of “Medical Assistance in Dying” in Canada. While legislation has been passed, there remains deep concern from many Canadians about the rapid expansion of euthanasia, especially from those living with disabilities, medical professionals and those with deeply rooted beliefs regarding the sanctity of life at every stage to name just a few.

According to Health Canada [data](#), in total, 15,343 Canadians died from euthanasia in 2023. This represents a 15.8% increase over 2022 with more than 1 in every 20 deaths attributed to assisted death in 2023.

The movement towards including advanced directives as another pathway to euthanasia is disturbing. We are encouraging those who have not yet been diagnosed to “schedule” their death based on the fear of what may come. Others may be pressured, even by those in the medical profession, seeing themselves as a burden to their family or caregivers.

Your government is normalizing euthanasia – by extension, those experiencing loneliness, isolation and depression associated with their medical condition are increasingly vulnerable to choosing euthanasia. This is not something our country should be proud of. We should be judged by the care, love and dignity afforded to those who are most vulnerable, especially in moments of despair and suffering. Hastening death is not a breakthrough in healthcare.



I would respectfully request that the government give serious consideration to halting any further expansion of euthanasia in Canada, especially as it relates to advance directives. Future consultation should also take into account all views on end of life care.

I would also ask, as others have for years, that the federal government prioritize palliative care over euthanasia, recognizing the need for quality palliative care to be accessible and available to every Canadian. *Horizons of Hope*, an initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and numerous faith-based partners, is one such example of how we can both educate our community and encourage outreach to the sick and suffering by offering quality palliative care.

I would be happy to meet along with those with expertise in palliative care should you ever wish to discuss this matter in greater detail.

I will continue to keep you and all Members of Parliament close in prayer.

Sincerely,

† Frank Card. Leo

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

cc. Hon. Arif Varani, Attorney General of Canada



Hon. Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Finance
Government of Canada
Sent via e-mail

February 21, 2025

Dear Minister LeBlanc,

Be assured of my prayers for you and all those who have chosen the noble vocation of politics.

I write today to express my deep concern regarding the recent Finance Committee's pre-budget report. The committee proposes to remove advancement of religion as a charitable purpose. More specifically, as recommendation 430 states: *"Amend the Income Tax Act to provide a definition of a charity which would remove the privileged status of 'advancement of religion' as a charitable purpose."*

As you know, religious charities strengthen the very fabric of our nation through their dedicated service, outreach and care. This charitable work is often done to fill gaps in services or funding not provided by government programs. It is not unreasonable to suggest that without the presence of these charities, there would be a crisis of care in communities throughout Canada.

Pope Francis has asked that in 2025, a global Jubilee Holy Year, be focused on the theme: "Pilgrims of Hope". Sadly, our society is consumed with heart-wrenching stories of isolation, loneliness and marginalization all too close to home. Religious charitable organizations are hope personified in our communities, motivated to help others, not because of the beliefs of those who will be served but rather our own desire to provide loving care and compassion – values and virtues so deeply rooted in our religious traditions.

The recommendation itself to strip away official charitable status from these organizations demonstrates a lack of understanding of the critical role religiously-affiliated groups offer in every corner of our nation: urban centres, rural communities and the isolated North. Aside from social service programs, places of worship are spiritual homes for hundreds of thousands of Canadians each week, relying on these havens of hope, peace and prayer to nurture their souls, promote emotional/mental well-being, strengthen their families and provide a social gathering space that reinforces community life.

Our many and life-giving religious charities account for approximately 40% of the more than 73,000 charitable organizations registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) - removing their charitable status would have a devastating impact and send a divisive message to Canadians from your government.

I also convey my profound concern regarding Recommendation 429: *"No longer provide charitable status to anti-abortion organizations."* If this recommendation were to pass, every Catholic Church and Catholic social service agency in Canada would lose its charitable status due to



our “pro-life” approach. These deeply rooted beliefs form the basis of much of our work, from operating hospitals to providing for the vulnerable and marginalized to welcoming the stranger/migrant/refugee and caring for every individual in need – body, mind and soul. It is astonishing to think that a pro-life approach to public living is no longer seen as acceptable in a country that enshrines freedom of religion and belief in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

There are countless groups and associations in our country that enjoy charitable status with views that differ from large segments of the population for any number of reasons. Needless to say, and thoroughly backed up by sociological studies, religious practice continues to provide enormous potential for addressing today's social problems. A government truly at the service of the population must necessarily consider that society, our Canadian society, is made up of innumerable persons and communities who are religious and for whom religion places a most important role in their life and activities. To deny this aspect of living in society by intending to do away, in such a draconian fashion, with the current status for religious and pro-life charitable organizations is utterly deplorable and entirely unacceptable in a democracy that is supposed to celebrate people's religious faith and rights and has always recognized the irreplaceable role of faith, worship and religion in society. We ask that your government respect and acknowledge the fact that religion and its advancement is beneficial to many, many Canadians and that it is a right that no government ought to try to take away as it would very well be an expression of severe overextension of the mandate of elected public office.

I strongly urge the federal government to reject these recommendations and ensure that we remain a country committed to freedom *of* religion as opposed to freedom *from* religion. If you wish to discuss tangible examples of how religious charities are strengthening our country, I would be most pleased to meet with you along with those on the front lines of care, ministry and accompaniment.

In closing, let us not forget the myriad of religious women and men who came before us and the debt of gratitude we owe for their work in establishing hospitals, schools, social service agencies and houses of worship.

Thank you for your careful consideration. I will continue to keep you and all Members of Parliament close in prayer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Cardinal Leo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

cc. Hon Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Opposition, Government of Canada

FAMILY LAWYER
Susan Duggan
 647-923-8062
 dugganlaw.ca

Summers & Smith
 COOLING & HEATING LIMITED
 905-727-2323
 www.summersandsmith.com

Alcalde & Tomory
 Chartered Accountants, LLP
 Sophia Tomory, CPA, CA
 Accounting & Tax Services
 416-456-0089 www.at-ca.ca

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
 FUNERAL SERVICES
 In keeping with your Catholic faith
 www.catholic-cemeteries.com
 Holy Cross Cemetery & Funeral Home 905-889-7467

14800 Yonge Street, Aurora
NOFRILLS
 Joe & Val's

Key Advantage
 KEYADVANTAGE.CA

Tree Valley
 Garden Centre Ltd.
 4431 Stouffville Rd. (W. of McCowan)
 treevalley.ca 905-640-2020

THE HURST BAKERY Inc.
 "A TASTE OF QUALITY"
 15543 Yonge St.
 Units 2 & 3
 905-841-0278

RE/MAX Hallmark York Group
 Realty Ltd. Brokerage
Bruce Spragg, F.R.I.
 Broker
 Children's
 Bruce@BruceSpragg.com Miracle Network
 Direct Line 416-565-8889

The Meadows
 A CARING CHRISTIAN
 COMMUNITY
 905-503-5560 WWW.TMOA.CA

CANADA-WIDE
 Reinforcing Steel
 Welded Wire Mesh
 Estimating & Detailing
 Cash & Carry Sales & Delivery
 Fax 416-291-4507
 Tel 905-888-1777

GLOBAL PET FOODS
 10% off
 with coupon
 14800 Yonge St.
 Aurora Shopping Centre
 905-727-3448

St. John Cemetery
 Serving Parishes
 in the local area
 250 Old Main St North
 905-898-4137 Ext 207

PEACEFUL TRANSITION
 Fully Licensed Funeral Home
 Family owned and operated.
 2-15236 Yonge Street Aurora 905-841-1900
 peacefultransition.ca

Eric McCartney
 Real Estate Broker
 905-727-0075 eric@mccartney.me
 www.McCartney.me
 Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd., Brokerage

Roadhouse & Rose
 FUNERAL HOME
 Playter Chapel | Family Owned & Operated
 Traditional Funerals & Simple Cremation Services
 Proud to offer a 10% discount to all parish members
 157 Main St., Newmarket | 905-895-6631
 www.roadhouseandrose.com

Home hardware
 building centre
 Windows & Doors
 Kitchen & Bath
 Installed Sales
 Lumber, Paint, Housewares
 & All Your Hardware Needs
 289 Wellington St. E. 905-727-4751

Mark J. Stewart
 Barrister & Solicitor
 905-836-0088
 www.markstewartlaw.ca

BB Renovation
 Leo & Michael
 905-960-6823
 busybeesreno@gmail.com

Roadhouse & Rose
 FUNERAL HOME
 Playter Chapel | Family Owned & Operated
 Traditional Funerals & Simple Cremation Services
 Proud to offer a 10% discount to all parish members
 157 Main St., Newmarket | 905-895-6631
 www.roadhouseandrose.com

William Reid, Barrister & Solicitor
 Criminal and Regulatory Law
 30 years of defending
 416.949.2694 ReidLaw.net

THE PERFECT SPOT TO ADVERTISE
 YOUR BUSINESS!

 TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL 1-800-268-2637

VILLANOVA
 COLLEGE
 An Independent Catholic School
 in the Augustinian Tradition
 Grades 4 through 12
 Contact Admissions
 www.villanovacollege.org
 2480 15th Sideroad ~ King City

Bob's Plumbing Service
 EST. 1972
 Residential • Commercial • Industrial
 905-727-3210
 www.bobsplumbing.ca

Shopping Locally Saves Gas

Taylor Funeral Home
 Newmarket Chapel
 Jason C. Ladd, Managing Funeral Director
 Teresa Soncin, Pre-Planning Director
 10% Discount to all Parishioners
 524 Davis Drive, Newmarket
 www.taylorfh.ca 905-898-2100

FINANCIAL PLANNER
Monica Ly, CFP, CLU, CHS
 416-953-8877
 cmfinancialgroup.com

THE PERFECT SPOT TO ADVERTISE
 YOUR BUSINESS!

 TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL 1-800-268-2637

DR. NORMAN ORSCHEL
DR. LYNDA HYSHKA
 All Aspects of General Dentistry
 Surgical Placement of Dental Implants
 Our Family Caring for Yours
 Let Us Make You Smile
 We Cater To Cowards!
 Suite 211, 126 Wellington St. W, Wellington Square Plaza
 905-727-0193 reception@AuroraDentists.ca

Four Seasons Tree Care
 a DAVEY company
 Pruning • Removals
 Plant Health Care • Planting
 Fertilization • Soil Amendments
 Arborist Reports • Consultations
 Anti-desiccant • Skoot
 416-410-8770
 Science, Service & Satisfaction Since 1983
 www.FourSeasonsTreeCare.com

THOMPSON Funeral Home
 Cremation, Burial & Memorial Services
 Pre-arranged Funeral
 530 Industrial Parkway S.
 905 727 5421
 www.thompsonfh-aurora.com
 10% off on all new pre-arranged funeral contracts
 Proud to be part of Service Corporation International (Canada) Limited

Mondo Del Cafe
 Espresso Bar & Pastry
 265 Edward St, Unit 7
 647-405-8624
 Mon-Fri 8:00am - 7:00pm
 Sat & Sun 10:00am - 8:00pm

Auto • Home • Life • Business
Richard Gong, Agent
 905-727-6333
 richardgong.com **Desjardins Insurance**

VandenBosche JEWELLERS
 15263 Yonge St. 905-841-3760
 VandenboscheJewellers.com

Vienna Furniture Refinishing
 o/b Morra Custom Upholstery Ltd.
 17 Mary Street, Aurora
 905 841-8444
ANTHONY DE GUZMAN
 Property Manager
 905-727-1102
 www.ryisproperties.ca
RYIS PROPERTIES INC.

AURORA OVERHEAD DOOR INC.
 Garage Doors / Electric Openers
 40 Industrial Pkwy. S. 905-727-1382
Remember...
 Let our advertisers know you saw their ad here.

Desjardins Insurance
 Desjardins Insurance refers to Certas Home and Auto Insurance Company, underwriter of automobile and property insurance or Desjardins Financial Security Life Assurance Company, underwriter of life insurance and living benefits products.