

Our Lady of Grace Parish

Dedicated September 17, 1983

15347 Yonge St. Aurora, Ontario L4G 1N7 905-727-4594

web: olgraceau.archtoronto.org email: olgraceau@archtoronto.org

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. John Bertão, Pastor

Fr. Rony Grayda, Associate Pastor

ADVENT



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon., Dec. 22 nd	8am	+ Lorne Wall
Tue., Dec. 23 rd	8am	* Available*
Wed., Dec. 24 th	8am	No Intention
Thu., Dec. 25 th		** See Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule**
Fri., Dec. 26 th	9am	+ Romolo Cantera
Sat., Dec. 27 th	9am	(SI) Da Silva family, + Claudette Ramos, + Antonio Carinci, + Giuseppe Belli, + Clorinda Belli, + Bruno Belli, + Maria Darville
	5pm	+ Francesco Di Nardo
Sun., Dec. 28 th	8am	+ Leesa May Barrido
	10am	+ Jim & Rose Froio
	12pm	"Populo" for the intentions of our parish families
	7pm	+ Teresa Raquel Reagan Ortega

Advent Message from Cardinal Leo

To read, please visit <https://www.archtoronto.org>.



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

Mon., Dec. 22 nd	8am	Advent (Note: Dec. 24 th - only Mass; no Adoration & Rosary)
Tue., Dec. 23 rd	8am	
Wed., Dec. 24 th	8am	
Wed., Dec. 24 th	4pm - Children's Mass, 6pm - Family Mass & 8pm - Mass	* Christmas Eve
Thu., Dec. 25 th	8am, 10am & 12noon	* Christmas Day
Fri., Dec. 26 th	9am	* St. Stephen, the 1 st Martyr
Sat., Dec. 27 th	9am	* St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Sat., Dec. 27 th	5pm - Vigil Mass	* Holy Family
Sun., Dec. 28 th	8am, 10am, 12noon & 7pm	
Mon., Dec. 29 th	8am	* Octave of Christmas
Tue., Dec. 30 th	8am	
Wed., Dec. 31 st	8am	
Wed., Dec. 31 st	5pm - Vigil Mass	* Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year)
Thu., Jan. 1 st	8am, 10am & 12noon	
* <u>Office Closed</u> : Wed., Dec. 24 th till Thu., Jan. 1 st & the church will be closed after the morning Mass.		

THE MEANING OF THE FOUR ADVENT CANDLES



1st Candle—Hope

We remember God's promises and look forward with faith, just as the prophets longed for the Messiah.



2nd Candle—Peace

We reflect on the peace Christ brings—peace in our hearts, our homes, and the world.



3rd Candle—Joy

The rose candle invites us to rejoice as Christmas draws near, celebrating the joy of the Gospel.



4th Candle—Love

We honor God's perfect love revealed in Jesus and are called to share that love with others.

Together, these candles guide us in welcoming Christ with a ready, hopeful, and loving heart.

OLG Wednesday Rosary Prayer Group

Every Wednesday afternoon
from 2:30pm to 3:30pm in our
church, Our Lady of Grace.

Come and join us!

Let us offer our heartfelt prayers
and adoration to our Lord Jesus
Christ and Blessed Virgin Mary.





A note from the pastor

Dear friends in Christ, the fathers of the Church remind us that our prayer should be done with joy and with freedom. Each year, we are reminded of the greatest gift that God -the Father- gave the world, the best gift of all: HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON. With all that is happening in the world today, let us ALL pause for a moment, reflect, and thank Our Father for His generous gift of THE SON to redeem the world. I pray that you take some time this Christmas season to stop and simply say, THANK YOU and finish with one Our Father.

Merry Christmas!

- Fr. John

Thank You Mrs. Maria Young!

For personal reasons Mrs. Maria Young has decided to retire. Please join me in wishing her many years of spending more quality time with her family, as well as pursuing other interests that she has in mind. We will be posting the position requirements on our web page in the near future.

Coffee Sundays: There are no Coffee Sundays this month of December. Our Coffee Sundays will once again resume in the New Year, starting Jan. 4th.

Miraculous Medals, Rosaries & Scapulars

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



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



\$7 - Wooden Rosary



\$5 - Scapular

St. Vincent de Paul Jesse Tree Program 2025



We are so thankful for the generosity of our parishioners who have already contributed to the Jesse Tree in support of Rose of Sharon (Newmarket) and Good Shepherd Ministries (Toronto). Your gifts are helping families and individuals in need to experience the joy and hope of Christ this Christmas.

If you haven't yet had a chance to participate, there is still time! Tags remain on the Jesse Tree in the upper narthex until Christmas, and donations can be dropped off anytime during the week.

Let us continue to open our hearts and share Christ's light and love with those who need it most.

ShareLife: Doubling the Impact

Your gift will double in value! From now until year end, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000. With your loving support, ShareLife-funded agencies are helping the most vulnerable in our community and around the world. Please donate online via the ShareLife website at <https://sharelife.org/donate/> or place a cheque in the ShareLife envelope at the church.



Dan Smith Music Collection

Dan Smith, our 8:00 & 10:00am Cantor music leader has the ***Dan Smith Advent Christmas Album.***

18 arrangements of classical Advent and Christmas Hymns.

Come, Divine Messiah; Come, O Come, Emmanuel; Joy to the World; Silent Night (with children's music video); and more. The popular Catholic school favourite "Take a walk to Christmas" can be found on his 3 Volume ***The Dan Smith Children's Collection.***

His music is available on many formats: YouTube, Spotify, Apple music, and others. Links to Dan's music and information can be found at his website dansmithmusic.ca.





Message for Advent
30 November 2025
His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to you in anticipation of the upcoming **season of Advent**, a blessed time of waiting, expectation, and preparation for the coming of Christ and for the annual celebration of his Birth. As Pilgrims of Hope our Advent observances recall and solidify our hope in the loving mercy of God and in his abiding presence in our lives and in the life of the Church. We prayerfully recognize that Christ's coming - to Bethlehem, in the Eucharist, and at the end of time in glory - fulfills the deepest human desire for reconciliation (cf. St. Bernard of Clairvaux, *Adventu Domini*, Sermo V). To experience Advent during the Jubilee Holy Year is to allow the mystery of God's mercy to shape our waiting, so that we prepare not just for Christmas day and its beautiful celebrations and festivities, but for the fullness of life that Christ brings both now and at the end of time.

The Advent cry of the prophets - "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down" (*Is* 64:1) - expresses our longing for liberation and peace. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us: "When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming" (CCC 524). Similarly, our Jubilee observances also call for renewal and restoration, where debts are forgiven, prisoners are freed, and relationships are restored (cf. *Lev* 25:8-17). During this Holy Year, our longing becomes a lived experience, as we engage in spiritual works and works of charity, justice and mercy, symbolizing the passage from sin to grace, from fear to trust, from self-enclosure to communion with God and neighbour.



Each candle on the Advent wreath marks not only the weeks before Christmas but the stages of salvation history, thereby reminding us of the sacredness of time within God's plan. With the passage of time, we are called to cultivate hope, faith, joy in our hearts, to consider anew how we live as we engage in the jubilee practices of sacramental confession, holy communion, pilgrimage, prayer, and assistance to the needy. During this Year of the Lord's favour, our Advent waiting becomes active discipleship where our faith and hope are not just "informative" but "performative" as Pope Benedict XVI wrote a number of years ago (cf. *Spe Salvi*, 2).

Dear friends, as we mark the beginning of the new liturgical year, we cannot help but reflect on the passage of time and indeed on the fullness of time (cf. *Gal* 4:1-8). As we look forward to the fullness of God's promise, I invite you to take this sacred time to (i) rediscover the freshness of the Gospel by dedicating a few minutes each day in prayerfully reading a passage or two of the Word of God; (ii) let us be courageous and let go of any resentment we harbor towards others; (iii) let us be men and women of communion and forgiveness, always ready and active in bringing about unity among us, in our relationships, home and community. In doing so, we will note that our heart is opening more and more and making room for Christ to dwell therein. In this holy season of Advent, the Church waits not only for the birth of the Child Jesus in Bethlehem but for the rebirth of the human heart today - a true jubilee of grace, where hope becomes joy and waiting becomes mission. Wishing you all a blessed Advent season guided and accompanied by the powerful and maternal mediation of Our Lady of Advent.

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