



Our Lady of Grace Parish

Dedicated September 17, 1983

15347 Yonge St., Aurora, Ontario L4G 1N7

website: olgraceau.archtoronto.org

telephone: (905) 727-4594

email: olgraceau@archtoronto.org

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. John Bertão, Pastor

Fr. Rony Grayda, Associate Pastor

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 4 pm

Weekends & Statutory Holidays: Closed

WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE OF PRAYER.

We are thankful for your visit. Do you plan on returning? Have you considered becoming a member? If so, please take a registration form with you and return it to the parish office. One of our parish staff will contact you, or you may contact us if you wish.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5 pm;

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, and 7 pm

Weekday Masses

Monday – Friday: 8 am

(followed by Adoration & Rosary)

Saturday & Holidays: 9 am

First Friday Adoration

Starts at 6 pm with Benediction

at 6:45 pm and Mass at 7 pm

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 pm – 4:30 pm

or by appointment

Baptism

Families must be registered with envelopes for a minimum of one year and regularly attending Mass. A baptism preparation session is a prerequisite for both parents and godparents. Please contact the office for more information.

Marriage

12 months advanced notice required before a date can be confirmed.

Preparation course is a prerequisite.



*Our Lady of Grace,
pray for us!*

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PARISH

Pre-authorized giving (PAG) is an easy way of supporting the parish. 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 by the parish office.

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

(905) 727-1211

HOLY ORDERS/RELIGIOUS LIFE

(416) 968-0997

www.vocationstoronto.ca

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

www.catholic-cemeteries.com

PASTORAL REFERENCES

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MASS INTENTIONS		
Mon., May 11 th	8am	+ Bernice Pownley
Tue., May 12 th	8am	+ Raymond Hould
Wed., May 13 th	8am	(SI) Josheph Bae
Thu., May 14 th	8am	(SI) Bob & Anne Shiley
Fri., May 15 th	8am	+ Feyona Mah, mother of Fr. Eric Mah
Sat., May 16 th	9am	(SI) Da Silva Family, + Fr. Soldado Paranas, + Mary Chauvin, + Valentina Mariani, + Humberto Cardenas, + Fr. Jose Kuriedath, + Paul Brochu
	5pm	+ Vivian Jan Mc Donnell
Sun., May 17 th	8am	+ Thomas & Lilly Pingyin
	10am	+ Carmine Frijio
	12 noon	"Populo" for the intentions of our parish families
	7pm	+ Nelly Remorosa



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

No matter our age, gender, or nationality, we ALL came from a mom. Is your mom still on this earth? Pray for her. Is your mom in Eternity? Pray WITH her that she may be in eternal rest with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

**A Special Prayer
"SANCTA MARIA"**

Holy Mary, comfort the miserable, help the faint-hearted, cheer those who weep. Pray for the people, be the advocate of the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God, bless ALL who say YES to being a mother, Amen.



Pope Leo XIV's May Prayer Intention

That everyone might have food
"Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food."



Irmã Lúcia dos Santos

(22 March 1907 - 13 February 2005)

"There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary".

Explore the flyer on Sr. Lucia dos Santos on our parish website:

<https://olgraceau.archtoronto.org>

From the Pastor's Desk

We welcome to our parish office team, Mrs. Joan Fonseca who will be working part days with Mrs. Maria Sarracini as the first point of contact either on the telephone or face-to-face to help you with any requests you may have for a Mass, religious item, or general information. Mrs. Rachael Da Silva will be more focused on office administration that has increased over the years.

Communications from the Archdiocese of Toronto

1. For ways to Celebrate the Special Jubilee Year of St. Francis, please visit:

<https://www.archtoronto.org> - **St. Francis Jubilee**

2. For His Eminence, Frank Cardinal Leo's Easter Message, please visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/>

3. Help Not Harm: Take Action to Support Bill C-218 - Write your Member of Parliament Today!

<https://www.helpnotharmcanada.ca/>



Baby Bottle Campaign – May 9th /10th

Help Mums and their Babies Choose Life!

The pro-life organization Aid to Women has been operating in the GTA for over 40 years counselling women who are seeking abortion to choose life



for themselves and their babies. They encourage those women by pledging to support them and their babies the first two years of their child's life with everything from diapers, clothing, car seats, strollers, food and much, much more. Aid to Women will be conducting a Baby Bottle for Life fund raising campaign at Our Lady of Grace Parish at all the weekend Masses on May 9th/10th (Mother's Day weekend). They will be handing out empty baby bottles and asking you to take them home and fill them with coins, bills, and cheques; and return the filled bottles at all the Masses on Father's Day weekend, June 20th/21st. Please support Aid to Women so they can continue their very important ministry and say 'YES' to life.

Four Men Prepare for Priestly Ordination



On Sat., May 9th at 10am at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, the following four men will be ordained to the priesthood to serve the faithful through parish ministry in our archdiocese.

- Rev. Mr. Matteo Bertozzi
- Rev. Mr. Moonjun Alphonse Choi
- Rev. Mr. Matthew Tulio
- Rev. Mr. Victor Valdés

We invite our parish family to pray for these men being ordained. Let us also continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

2nd Collections for this Month

Debt Reduction - May 9th/ 10th

This weekend of May 9th/10th, our 2nd 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.

The Pope's Pastoral Works - May 16th/17th

The Pope's Pastoral Works collection supports funding urgent aid for those affected by war, famine, and disasters. Please give generously.

ShareLife - May 30th/31st

This will be the 3rd ShareLife collection.



CWL - THANK YOU!

The CWL wishes to thank everyone who helped to make our Mother's Day Basket Raffle a huge success! 5 lucky ladies were thrilled with the lovely prize baskets that they won. Congratulations to our winners!

CWL Meeting - Tue. May 12th :

Do you sometimes feel tired or burnt out? Learn about the 7 types of rest our bodies need. Cassandra Brennan - Registered Psychotherapist, Creative Arts Therapist, will be our guest speaker to tell us a bit more about this interesting topic.

Our meeting starts promptly at 7:30pm in the Large Meeting Room. All ladies of the parish are invited. This is one meeting you won't want to miss!

March for Life in Ottawa - Thu., May 14th

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish has arranged for a bus to travel to/from Ottawa. The bus leaves Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish at 6:30am and leaves Ottawa to return home at 4pm. There is no cost for the bus. If any parishioners are interested, please call or email Our Lady of the Annunciation's Parish Office at 905.773.5223 or olachurchrh@gmail.com.



**Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery & Funeral Home
Pre-Planning Seminar – Sat., May 30th**

Planning ahead is a caring gift for your family.

Join us to explore your options.

When: Sat., May 30th at 9am

Location: Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery & Funeral Home, 211 Langstaff Rd E., Thornhill
To attend RSVP by phone at 905.889.7467 ext. 1 or by email at holycrossinquiry@cc-fs.ca.



Tour to England, Ireland, Scotland, and Paris

Featuring a cruise aboard the "Majestic Princess" - Princess Cruises with Fr. John Bertao, Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Aurora and Fr. Peter Choi, Pastor of St. Andre Bessette Parish, Maple
When: July 22 – August 5, 2027 (15 days);
Cost: \$6,190

Includes:

- ♦ air transportation from Toronto (unless specified otherwise), incl. all taxes & surcharges, - single supplement \$2,500.00
- ♦ 3 meals daily while on the ship, breakfast and dinner in London.
- ♦ all sightseeing as per itinerary with English speaking guide - all tips in restaurants & hotels
- ♦ tips to bus drivers and guides on land tours.

Travel arrangements by:

International Heritage Tours (www.ihtours.com)

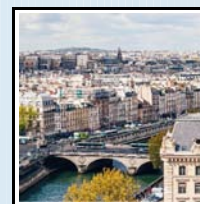
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877.999.8868 or 416.444.6666

Halina - ext. 315/ 647.294.4116/ halina@ihtours.com

Joseph – ext. 330/ joseph@ihtours.com

Alex – ext. 317/ alex@ihtours.com





Message for Mother's Day

10 May 2026

**His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May Jesus and Mary be in your souls.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we welcome this opportunity to pause and give thanks for the women who gave us life, nurtured us, and helped us become who we are. Mothers play a crucial role in our society and our Church. Religiously and spiritually, they contribute so very much to shape our Christian identity (cf. 2 Tim 1:5). We live in a pluralistic, multicultural and complex society where the Christian faith can no longer be assumed or simply inherited from the surrounding culture, where Christian ideals and truths are presented as one among many. In this setting the formation of Christian identity is of paramount importance (Rom. 12:2; *Familiaris Consortio*, 17).

The reality of who we are in Christ is multi-faceted, and at face value many mothers may feel helpless when faced with the onslaught of never-ending influences upon their children. To those mothers I want you to know and remember that long before your child encounters secular social media, harmful trends or ideologies, your child experiences your love, trust, forgiveness, and belonging within your family (*Amoris Laetitia*, 174). These early experiences shape the heart and imagination in ways that make faith intelligible later in life. When a child learns what love is through the patience of a mother, the words of the Scripture about God's love begin to make sense (1 Jn 4:7-11). When a child experiences mercy and reconciliation at home, the message of Christ's forgiveness is no longer abstract (Is 66:13).

While the concept of the *domestic church* expresses a profound truth – it is the place where the faith is first shaped, practiced, and transmitted – many forget that these experiences are formative of identity (LG, 11; CCC 1655-1658). Christian identity is the framework through which a young person begins to interpret the world in the light of faith (*Christifideles Laici*, 8,28). In a secular culture where identity is frequently presented as something fluid or self-created, children are encouraged to define themselves according to personal preference, achievement, or social recognition. Yet the Christian vision of identity is very different, it is far more profound and holistic (*Amoris Laetitia*, 56). At the heart of the Gospel lies the conviction that each person is first and foremost a beloved child of God (Augustine, *Confessions* I,1). Our identity is not invented; it is received as a gift (CCC 1700).

Mothers often become the first witnesses to this truth. When a child is loved not for what he or she accomplishes but simply for who they are, a profound lesson is learned (*Redemptor Hominis*, 10). The child begins to understand that dignity does not depend on success, popularity, or performance. This experience of love prepares the heart to receive the Christian proclamation that



every human person is created in the image of God and redeemed by Christ (Athanasius, *De Incarnatione*, 54).

Our Christian identity helps to navigate the tensions between faith and culture, where Christian values are sometimes misunderstood or dismissed (cf. *Familiaris Consortio*, 17). The formation of Christian identity often happens through example and experience rather than argument and persuasion (Matt 5:16). Children may forget many words, but the memory of a mother who trusted God in difficult moments can remain for a lifetime.

For Christians, the ultimate model of motherhood is found in Mary, Mother of Jesus. Her *Magnificat* recalled her “soul” (*nepesh*), her very being, her very identity. It was her “spirit” (*ruach*), the very core of her being that gave us her *fiat* (Lk 1:38; 46-47). Mary provides a powerful example of how our truest self, indeed our very identity, is found in God’s will, truth and provident plan for us.

On this Mother’s Day, and each day of the year, our gratitude goes far beyond appreciation for the many sacrifices mothers make. We recognize their essential role in helping us discover who we truly are. In a world where identity is very often presented as uncertain or fragmented, mothers provide the first and most enduring witness to the truth that every human life is a gift and that every person is called into a relationship with God. I give thanks to all the mothers in the Archdiocese of Toronto; I pray for you and your families and ask that you continue to pray for me.

Happy and Blessed Mother’s Day to all our mothers.



Message for the March for Life

14 May 2026

**His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May Jesus and Mary be in your souls.

I am writing to you on the occasion of the *March for Life* taking place on 14 May 2026 in Ottawa. The theme of this year's annual march is "Follow Me" (Mt 4:19-20), taken from the Gospel of St. Matthew which recounts Jesus' call to the first disciples. The call of our Lord is ever present in the busyness and chaos of our world; this year's theme reminds us that amidst the cacophony of voices and ideologies vying for our attention, Our Lord's deepest desire is for us to live out of our relationship with him, to freely, joyfully, courageously and generously *follow him*. As faithful profilers from across the country prepare to meet on Parliament Hill, I would like to encourage you and reflect together on the witness we are to bear to the inviolable dignity of human life.

One of the aspects that is striking about the call of Simon (St. Peter) and St. Andrew, and a little later, St. James and St. John, is the immediacy and totality of their initial response. Of course, their discipleship was not perfect, and later we hear how they failed; nevertheless, they answered the call, strived to be loyal and loving. The call of Christ is not a suggestion among many; it is a summons that demands a response of the whole person – mind, heart, and will (Mt 22:37; CCC 142-143). To follow Christ is to entrust one's life to him as the definitive truth about God and fullest revelation of our own humanity (*Gaudium et Spes* 22; Jn 14:6). If we extrapolate from the first disciples (their call, life with Christ, and mission to the world), to our present situation, we quickly see that failures, setbacks, and obstacles are part and parcel of what it means to both live in a pluralistic society and be fully committed to Our Lord and his Gospel.

Furthermore, the call of Christ does not diminish human freedom; it fulfills it (*Veritatis Splendor*, 41; cf. St. Augustine, *Tractates on John*, 41.8). To follow him is not to abandon reason or compassion, but to allow both to be purified and elevated by truth (*Fides et Ratio*, 7). Jesus reveals that authentic freedom is found not in self-assertion detached from truth, but in self-gift rooted in love (*Evangelium Vitae*, 96; CCC 1733). To *follow* our Lord is an invitation to see reality as God sees it – especially the dignity of human life – to banish false gods, self-deception, and live life to its fullest (cf. Jn 10:10).

This has profound implications when considering issues such as abortion, in vitro fertilization (IVF), artificial conception and euthanasia. Each of these reflects a broader cultural tendency to place human control at the centre of life's beginning and end (*Evangelium Vitae*, 22). Abortion asserts a right to decide whether a life is worthy to continue (CCC 2270; *Didache*, 2, 2). IVF, while often motivated by a deep desire for children, treats human life as a product rather than a gift that is received (*Donum Vitae*, II.B.5), and tears asunder the miracle of life (cf. Maximus, *Ambiguum*, 42). Artificial birth control denies a crucial dimension of the very profound meaning of married



sexuality and harms the unity in which the couple is called to nourish as it undermines the total, mutual gift of two persons in its integrity, separating, as it were, the unitive and procreative ends of marriage. Euthanasia (MAID) presents death as a solution to suffering, suggesting that some lives are no longer worth living (*Iura et Bona*, II; CCC 2277).

Our presence at the *March for Life* in Ottawa is a sign that we stand firmly, yet compassionately, for the sacrosanct dignity of every human person from conception to natural death (*Evangelium Vitae*, 57). It is to affirm the fundamental truth that life is not ours to create or destroy at will, but a *sacred trust given to us by God*. This stance is not merely a set of prohibitions; it is a coherent vision of love and true freedom – one that recognizes each human being as willed for his or her own sake and called to live in God (*Gaudium et Spes* 24).

Like the first disciples, we are asked to leave our “nets” – those attachments, assumptions, and cultural comforts – that prevent us from fully embracing the truth (Mk 1:17-18). In a pluralistic society as ours, this may involve standing apart from prevailing norms, sometimes at great personal cost (Rom 12:2). But it also opens the way to a deeper participation in Christ’s mission: to be “fishers of people” (Mt 4:19) drawing others not by coercion, but by the radiant witness of truth lived in love (*Dignitatis Humanae* 1).

In closing, I would like to thank those who participate in this year’s *March for Life*, and the many volunteers and who prophetically witness to the love of God, answering his call, and giving a voice to the weakest in our society. Your determination, advocacy and fidelity are an inspiring example to us all. To those unable to attend, please pray for those who will be in Ottawa. May the Blessed Mother protect you under her mantle on May 14 and through her powerful, maternal intercession may you stand firm in your courage and conviction as you give witness to the lifegiving love of God. Be assured of my prayers and support.

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