

Pastor's Christmas Greeting

Christmas is a time of reflection, a time to ponder the extraordinary gift of God's love manifested in the form of a humble child born in Bethlehem. This divine gift calls us to emulate the qualities of compassion, kindness, and selflessness in our own lives.

Reflecting on the past year, and even more so since I inherited the role of Pastor in July, I continue to be filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the spirit of generosity that has come to define our parish community. Your dedication, faith, and generosity have been a true blessing to the parish and to the Church. The many vibrant ministries (too many to list) and those dedicated to them in a spirit of service, truly reflects the presence of Christ in each one of you who make up our faith community. The fruit of the witness you give is evident in the continued growth of our congregation and the programmes offered here at St. Benedict's, your spiritual home.

As we enter this Christmas season, perhaps we can take a moment to reflect on the words Pope Benedict XVI delivered at an address some years ago. They are words I return to each year at this time: in fact, these words are more of a challenge. He said, What the celebration of Christmas proposes to us, *"is to let ourselves be totally transformed by the One who took on our flesh."*

Together, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us renew our commitment to building our parish community, one that reflects a people who have been genuinely transformed by the One who took on our flesh.

On behalf of myself and the Salesian Community, may the Christmas season fill your homes with warmth, your hearts with joy, and your lives with the blessings of peace and love. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, happiness, and the continued grace of our Lord.

Fr. Sean McEwen, SDB



Salesian Community Left-Right: Fr. Enzo Trigatti, Fr. Branden Gordon, Fr. Sean McEwen, Fr. John Puntino, Fr. Iguintz Calixte.
Top-Bottom: Fr. Frank Kelly, Fr. Joseph Ho, Fr. Drago Gačnik (Hamilton)

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St Benedict Parish



stbenedictparishetobicoke

Schedule for Parish Office Closures, Christmas Masses & Eucharistic Adoration during Christmas

Sunday December 24

Adoration Chapel Closed

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 12 midnight

With Carol sing-along 30 minutes prior to each Mass

Monday December 25

Christmas Day Masses

8:00 am, 9:30 am Italian in church,

9:30 am English in hall, 11:00 am, 12:45 pm

Adoration Chapel: opens 2:00 pm

Parish Office: Closed

Tuesday December 26

Parish Office: Closed

Sunday December 31

Feast of the Holy Family Masses

8:00 am, 9:30 am Italian in church,

9:30 am English in hall, 11:00 am, 12:45 pm

Mary, Mother of God Eve

Mass: 5:00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration: 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Friday December 29

Parish Office: Closes at 12:00 pm

Monday January 1

Mary, Mother of God Masses

8:00 am, 9:30 am Italian in church,

9:30 am English in hall, 11:00 am, 12:45 pm

Adoration Chapel: opens 2:00 pm

Parish Office: Closed

Sunday January 7

Epiphany Masses:

8:00 am, 9:30 am Italian in church,

9:30 am English in hall, 11:00 am, 12:45 pm

Adoration Chapel: opens 2:00 pm

Monday January 8

Baptism of the Lord Mass: 8:00 am

Parish Office: Open Regular Hours



Securities as a Charitable Gift Option

One of the most financially sound ways to support the Archdiocese of Toronto is with the gift of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds). When you donate stocks, mutual funds and other publicly traded securities to a registered charity, you pay no capital gains tax and receive a tax receipt for the full amount of the gift.

It means a great tax break for you and more significant support of your Parish and various archdiocesan charities such as ShareLife, St. Augustine's Seminary, The Shepherds' Trust, and many others.

To donate securities, click this link:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/social-justice--outreach/development-and-sharelife/home/gifts-of-securities/> to download:

**How to Gift Securities Info Sheet
Letter of Direction**

**For more information, contact our office at
development@archtoronto.org**

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

To request a mass intention, contact Susan:
speresso@stbenedicts.ca/416-743-3830 X0

Monday, December 25

8:00am Mae & Ken Sutton by Sutton family
9:30am Annie & Amedeo Amato by Louisa (Ital/Ch)
9:30am Deceased members of Chicorili family by Kromar family (Eng/Hall)
11:00am Living Intention for Pasquale Reda by Di Felice family
12:45pm Ollie Holowaty by family

Tuesday, December 26

8:00am Leticia Montellano by family
7:30pm Ebisan Oteri by Farah-Martine Dai

Wednesday, December 27

8:00am Giuseppe Rubino by Olga

Thursday, December 28

8:00am Fr. Ryszard Cyman by Marcelli family

Friday, December 29

8:00am Adelia Avoledo by Marisa & Aldo D'Andrea

Saturday, December 30

8:00am Lewis McLellan by Betty
5:00pm Deceased members of the Colavecchia family by Maria Colavecchia

Sunday, December 31

8:00am Jess Philip Fernandez Gocotano by Fernandez & Gocotano Families
9:30am For the People (Ital/Ch)
9:30am For the People (Eng/Hall)
11:00pm Living Intention for Mary LeBlanc by Lourdes Crabtree
12:45pm Pastor's Intention

FRIARS STUDENT WRITING CONTEST 2024

November 8, 2023 - January 15, 2024



THE CATHOLIC REGISTER



**"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
... AND YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF."**
LUKE 10:27

The theme and resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are prepared and published by Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (Vatican) and Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

Focus Question for the Writing Contest (Essay) 2024
Luke 10:27 is taken from the parable of the Good Samaritan which carries a message of love, compassion, humility, mercy, and a culture of encounter for reconciliation and healing.
How are you personally challenged to live this parable? And, in what ways can the churches work together to give witness to this good news in your city? Conclude your essay with a prayer, expressing hope for love in action, especially for those most wounded and in need of the healing of God from the disciples of Jesus.

Contest Rules:

- The Essay should focus on the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from the Gospel of Luke 10:27, "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself." Please read Luke 10:25-37 for a full insight of the parable.
- The contestants should consult resources of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 @ <https://rb.gy/wajo2> and submit a 450- 500-word essay that answers the given focus question.
- The contestants must be 13-19 years of age, and currently enrolled in an Ontario Secondary School or equivalent program.
- The essay must be submitted on or before Monday, January 15, 2024, by 2:00 p.m. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Entries must include contestants full name, email address, phone number and name of their School/School Board on the front page of their essay.

Entries are to be submitted @ <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>. For any enquiries contact at ecumenical@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 x: 527.

Selection of the winners:

All submissions will be read by a panel including professional journalists and the Director of the Office for Promoting Christian Unity, Archdiocese of Toronto, and judged on overall merit.



1st Place:
Samsung Galaxy S23 128GB -
Phantom Black



2nd Place:
Apple AirPods Pro
(2nd generation)



3rd Place:
Sonos One (2nd Gen)
Smart Speaker

2024 SUNDAY ENVELOPES AVAILABLE & SORTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Please pick up your boxed set as soon as possible in the Church.

Do NOT use these new envelopes until the New Year. In January 2024, ALL remaining envelopes from 2023 and prior years should be DISCARDED. Please contact the parish office, if your boxed set is not available and if you wish to receive one or if you have never been registered and wish to do so. Finally, your co-operation in writing your donation amount clearly on the envelope each week is greatly appreciated by the volunteers who record donations.

SUNDAY MISSAL

2023-2024



Living with Christ

LIVING WITH CHRIST SUNDAY MISSALS ON SALE

IN THE PARISH OFFICE

(limited quantity left)

COST: \$5.50

Last Week's Collection

**Sunday Offering
(envelopes & loose only):
\$7,169**

**Thank you for your
ongoing generous
support!**



**The tax deadline
is almost here!
Donate and save.**