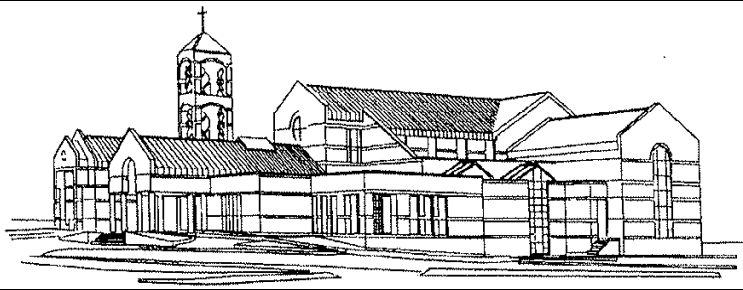


# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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## CHRISTMAS

December 25, 2024



### From the Pastor's Desk

#### 2024 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*"For unto us a child is born" (Isaiah 9:6)*

Dear friends,  
2000 years ago, the angels heralded the good news that Christ, the savior of the human race was born from the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. Christ came to restore our lost dignity and friendship with God our heavenly father. Every Christmas gives us an opportunity to relive the incredible miracle of the first Christmas when the word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The Christmas liturgy recalls how God left the highest heavens to dwell among us in human flesh through the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was born in a stable among the sheep, born in poverty in order to save us from sin and death. We rejoice in this incarnation every day of our lives because it is the apex of divine love for mankind. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). As you approach the crib chanting, "o come let us adore him," I pray that the love and peace that comes from the baby in the manger will abide in your hearts, homes and families. There are many families that are fighting and are torn apart. Many families will not be sitting around the dinner table to celebrate this most wonderful time of the year because of family feuds.

May this season of Christmas be a time of peace, love and reconciliation in every family. May families spend Christmas united in front of the crib with their gaze fixed on Christ the prince of peace.

*Merry Christmas! Buon Natale!*

*From Fr. Eugene, Fr. Paul,*

*Fr. Shaiju and Fr. Ugo*

#### SAVE THE DATE:

#### **PASTA E FAGIOLI CARNIVAL DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISER**

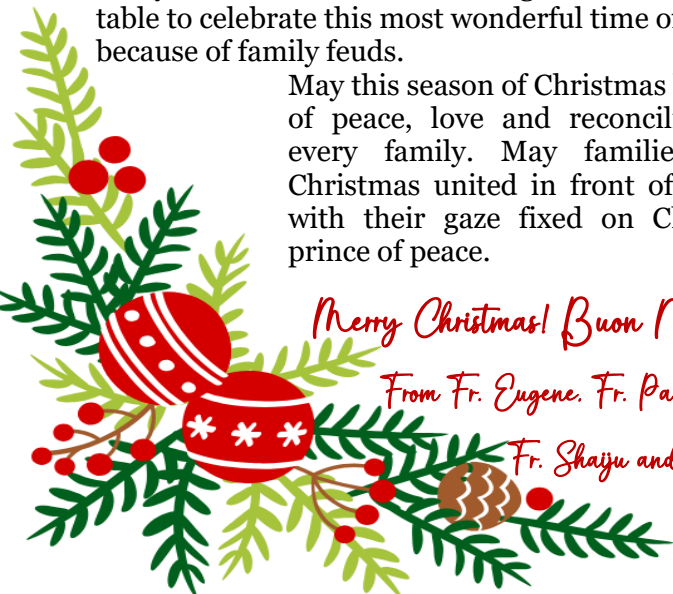
*"I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food." (Mt. 25:35)*  
Our annual *Pasta e Fagioli Carnival Dinner Dance Fundraiser* will be held on **Saturday March 1, 2025** at the Royalton Hospitality Inc, located at 8201 Weston Road, Woodbridge. All proceeds will go to support the children's mission of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception in places such as India and Africa. Please mark your calendars. Tickets are available in the parish office at the cost of \$120 for adults and \$60 for children (under 12).



#### **JOIN THE PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE WITH FR. EUGENE CHIANAIN, CFIC**

I will be leading a pilgrimage to **ITALY-SWITZERLAND-FRANCE** from July 19-30, 2025. During this holy journey, we shall visit St Peter's Basilica and the Vatican museums including Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, and the Colosseum in Rome. Then we shall drive to Assisi to visit the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi, then to Venice by boat to the resting place of St Anthony of Padua and from Padua to Milan to visit the Milan Cathedral, one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in the world. On July 25, we shall attend the Bicentenary celebration of Blessed Luigi Monti, founder of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. From Milan we will drive to Mount Rigi, Switzerland and enjoy panoramic views of the Swiss Alps and surrounding lakes. Then we shall drive to France and visit the Eiffel Tower and take a Seine River Cruise to see Paris. On July 30th we will fly back to Toronto. **The cost of the pilgrimage is \$5,500.** If you are interested, call the parish office or contact Johnson Chakkalakal at 647-540-7909 or [canada@magiholidays.com](mailto:canada@magiholidays.com)

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Eugene Chianain



## Thank you!

Heartfelt thank you all volunteers, the parish staff and members of all parish groups and ministries for their contribution in making our Christmas celebrations a great success. A special thank you to Mario Beltrame, Alberto Casciato, Pietro Nicastro, Esterina Rossi, Isabella Barletta, Mirella Colaricci, Grace Colaricci, Carm Battaglia, Angie Di Pede, Saveria DiBratto and all volunteers who helped decorate the church and the sanctuary for Christmas; to Rose & Ray Di Donato for donating the Christmas tree and everyone who contributed towards purchasing poinsettias for the sanctuary.

## Safe Travels! *Buon viaggio!*

Fr. Eugene will be leaving for his vacation to visit his family in Africa on December 28, 2024. Let us keep him in our prayers!

*P. Eugene partirà per la sua vacanza in Africa per visitare la sua famiglia il 28 dicembre, 2024. Ricordiamolo nelle nostre preghiere.*

## Second Collection

During all the Christmas Masses there will be a second collection for the needs of our church.

*Durante tutte le messe di Natale ci sarà una seconda colletta per i bisogni della nostra chiesa*

## Parish Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed on Wednesday December 25, 2024, Thursday December 26, 2024 and Wednesday January 1, 2025.

*L'ufficio parrocchiale rimarrà chiuso mercoledì 25 dicembre, 2024, giovedì 26 dicembre, 2024 e mercoledì 1 gennaio, 2025.*

## Congratulations!

Heartfelt congratulations to the jubilarians of the Carmelite Missionary Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus: **Sr. Giovanna Micallef – 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee, Sr. M. Sylvia Spiteri – 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee, Sr. M. Elizabeth de Guzman – 25<sup>th</sup> jubilee and Sr. M. Milagros dela Pena – 25<sup>th</sup> jubilee.** They will be celebrating with a Thanksgiving Mass on **Saturday December 28, 2024 at 2pm** at Immaculate Conception Parish.

## Jubilee Year 2025

The Catholic Church worldwide is celebrating a special Jubilee Year in 2025. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope". In the words of Pope Francis: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." The Holy Father opened the Jubilee Year on December 24, 2024, with the official opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and continuing until January 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Holy Door. **In the Archdiocese of Toronto, we will open the Jubilee Year with a Solemn Opening Mass taking place on Sunday, December 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica.** All are invited to join in this special celebration. Please note that the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to the Eucharist from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. May this Holy Year provide a grace-filled opportunity to nurture the seeds of faith for you and your loved ones, immersing ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope into a year-long journey of prayer, witness and service drawing on the example of Jesus, our Lord.

*La Chiesa cattolica in tutto il mondo celebra l'anno giubilare nel 2025. Il tema del Giubileo è "Pellegrini di speranza". Il Santo Padre ha aperto l'Anno Giubilare il 24 dicembre 2024, con l'apertura ufficiale della Porta Santa della Basilica di San Pietro che proseguirà fino al 6 gennaio 2026, Solennità dell'Epifania, con la chiusura della Porta Santa. **Nell'Arcidiocesi di Toronto, una messa solenne di apertura dell'anno giubilare avrà luogo domenica 29 dicembre 2024 alle ore 17,00 presso la Cattedrale di San Michele.** Tutti sono invitati a partecipare. Possa questo Anno Santo offrirci un'opportunità di coltivare i semi della fede, immergendoci come pellegrini di speranza.*

## 2025 NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

**Thanksgiving Mass**

**Santa Messa di Ringraziamento**

**Tuesday December 31, 2024**

5:00pm: English

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**Solennità di Maria, Madre di Dio**

**Wednesday January 1, 2025**

8:00am: Italian

9:30am: English

11:00am: Italian

12:30pm: English

**NB. No 7:00pm Mass**

