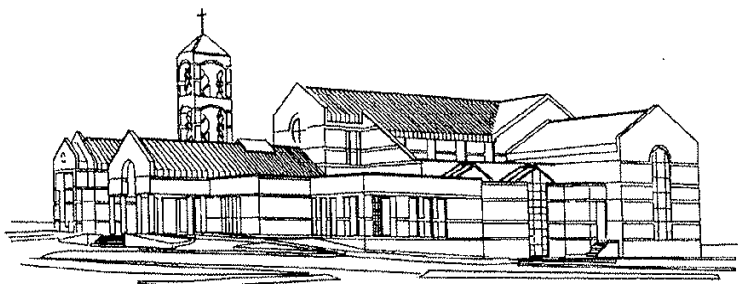


# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH/NEW YEAR 2025 December 29, 2024 & JANUARY 1, 2025



### *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear parishioners,

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth, that is, the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We also celebrate the feast of all families because the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. This feast shows us that God chose to be born in a family in order to consecrate and sanctify the family. Jesus grew up in a family and his parents taught him Jewish laws and customs within the family. In today's gospel, Saint Luke tells us that when Jesus was twelve years old, his parents brought him to the temple to participate in the annual celebration of the Jewish feast of Passover (Luke 2,41-52). The gospel shows us very clearly the educative aspect of the family. The second Vatican council describes the family as the domestic church (LG #11). This means that it is in the context of the family that we first learn who God is and to prayerfully seek His will for us. The family is the *locus par excellence* where we learn to pray, to love, to forgive and to respect people and differences. The purpose of this feast within the Octave of Christmas is to encourage every family to model their lives on the example of the Holy Family. There is no doubt that no family can be as perfect and holy as the Holy Family, but every family must strive to become a holy family. In the Holy Family, the child Jesus was obedient to his parents; He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient (Lc 2,51). He never gave them attitude, never answered back and did his chores. Therefore, children, I exhort you to honour your father and mother (Ex 20:12). In the Holy Family, Joseph, the father and husband, was a provider and protector of his family. He worked as a carpenter to put food on the table for his family and put a roof over their heads. As a protector, he escaped with his family to Egypt when Herod wanted to kill the child (Matt. 2:13-23). Therefore, I exhort all fathers to be providers and protectors of their family. In the Holy family, the Blessed Mother was a caring, nurturing, prayerful and faithful mother and wife. Therefore, I exhort all mothers and wives to be caring and nurturing and pray for their families. Always remember that family is gold. There is

no perfect family. Therefore, love and cherish your family and create memories with your family that will last a lifetime. May God bless all families.



### **HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2025!**

As we wave goodbye to 2024 and usher in the New Year 2025, I would like to wish each one of you a very happy and prosperous New Year. As you cross over to the New Year, it is my prayer that the Lord may drive far away from your life the fears and worries, the setbacks and anxieties of 2024 and may he grant you peace, love, joy, good health, and all your heart's desires. **Happy New Year! Buon Anno!**

### **INACTIVE PARISHIONERS, COME HOME!**

Last Christmas, we celebrated with great joy the Solemnity of the Nativity of Christ the Lord and our church was packed. I was super thrilled and elated to see many of our parishioners who used to attend Holy Mass regularly but became inactive since the Covid-19 pandemic. I would like to remind them that Immaculate Conception Parish remains a place of worship and encounter with God. As they must have noticed on Christmas Day, our church doors are still wide open for public worship and they are more than welcome in the house of their heavenly father. I am happy to inform them that the Good News is still good, because Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Our liturgical celebrations here at Immaculate Conception parish are still Christo-centric, our homilies are soul searching and uplifting, and God is still working miracles in the lives of our parishioners. As your pastor, I extend a personal and cordial invitation to ALL who have drifted away from the parish to prayerfully consider coming home. Come back to your church; come back to Immaculate Conception Parish. Accept my invitation to return to church and rediscover the truth, wonder and mystery of the Catholic faith. We want you back. We've missed you so much, and our parish is not the same without you. We love you. We miss you. Welcome home.

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Eugene Chianain

## Upcoming Baptisms

Our parish is delighted to welcome the following child to the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism:



*Adam Jose Imre  
Daphne Estelina Rispoli  
Matthew Aiello*

Congratulations to their parents and godparents.

## ShareLife Campaign Update

The 2024 ShareLife campaign will close on December 31, 2024, and we have not yet reached our goal of \$100,000. I encourage you to continue supporting ShareLife with its over 42 funded agencies that provide a lifeline to the elderly, children with special needs and mental health, the poor, needy, refugees and most vulnerable members of our community. Thank you for your generosity.

## Jubilee 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."* **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.**

### Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the **faith** you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of **charity** enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed **hope** for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation

of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

## Weekly Mass Intentions

### Monday December 30

7pm	Margaret Jegasothy
8pm	Rocco Musolino

### Tuesday December 31

5pm	English Thanksgiving Mass
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### Wednesday January 1

#### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8am	Italian Mass
9:30am	English Mass
11am	Italian Mass
12:30pm	English Mass
<b>NB: No 7pm Mass.</b>	

### Thursday January 2

#### St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen

7pm	
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### Friday January 3

7pm	Carmelite Missionary Sisters
8pm	Amelia Alessio

## Parish Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed on Wednesday January 1, 2025.

*L'ufficio parrocchiale rimarrà chiuso mercoledì 1 gennaio, 2025.*

## Giubileo 2025

*La Chiesa cattolica in tutto il mondo celebra l'anno giubilare nel 2025. Il tema del Giubileo è "Pellegrini di speranza". 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.***

### Preghiera del Giubileo

*Padre che sei nei cieli, la **fede** che ci hai donato nel tuo figlio Gesù Cristo, nostro fratello, e la fiamma di **carità** effusa nei nostri cuori dallo Spirito Santo, ridestino in noi, la beata **speranza** per l'avvento del tuo Regno.*

*La tua grazia ci trasformi in coltivatori operosi dei semi evangelici che lievitano l'umanità e il cosmo, nell'attesa fiduciosa dei cieli nuovi e della terra nuova, quando vinte le potenze del Male, si manifesterà per sempre la tua gloria.*

*La grazia del Giubileo ravnivi in noi **Pellegrini di Speranza**, l'anelito verso i beni celesti e riversi sul mondo intero la gioia e la pace del nostro Redentore.*

*A te Dio benedetto in eterno sia lode e gloria nei secoli. Amen*