

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

300 Ansley Grove Road, Woodbridge, ON, L4L 3W4

T: 905 856-2205 F: 905 850-5589

<https://immaculateconceptionwo.archtoronto.org>

icparish@rogers.com



THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

September 14, 2025

Message from Fr. Shaiju

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Last Sunday, we heard the Lord say, "Take up your cross and follow me." Carrying our cross with Christ brings freedom, removes complaints, and marks the beginning of true discipleship.

The cross was once considered as a symbol of shame and suffering. Yet, the Exaltation of the Cross reassures us that not a single drop of our tears goes unseen. As we bear our personal difficulties, the weight of shame, the pain inflicted unjustly, or the silent grief of unwanted memories, the glorified Cross stands with us and Jesus whispers gently to our souls: "I am with you in carrying your cross."

When we unite our suffering with His, our crosses become ladders to heaven. Then the Cross no longer crushes us but it lifts us, teaching that love is stronger than hatred, mercy is greater than judgment, and life is more powerful than death. To exalt the Cross is to exalt the love that hung upon it. It is choosing forgiveness when hurt, faith when discouraged, and hope when life feels dark. When we embrace our crosses with Christ, they no longer end in sorrow but open the way to new life.

Therefore, my dear friends, let us never look at the Cross with fear, but with courage and gratitude, for it is the sign that we are loved beyond measure. May our daily tasks make us stronger, deepen our faith and humble in serving our brothers and sisters who find hard to carry the daily burdens. May you have a blessed week ahead.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr. Shaiju Ponmalakunnel

Cari fratelli e sorelle,

Oggi celebriamo la Festa dell'Esaltazione della Croce. Domenica scorsa abbiamo ascoltato il Signore dire: "Prendi la tua croce e seguimi." Portare la nostra croce con Cristo porta libertà, allontana le lamentele e segna l'inizio della vera sequela.

La croce un tempo era considerata un simbolo di vergogna e di sofferenza. Eppure, l'Esaltazione della Croce ci rassicura che neppure una sola lacrima va perduta. Quando portiamo le nostre difficoltà personali, il peso della vergogna, il dolore ingiustamente inflitto o il silenzioso lutto dei ricordi indesiderati, la Croce glorificata rimane con noi, e Gesù sussurra dolcemente alle nostre anime: "Sono con te nel portare la tua croce."

Quando uniamo le nostre sofferenze alle Sue, le nostre croci diventano scale verso il cielo. Allora la Croce non ci schiaccia più, ma ci solleva, insegnandoci che l'amore è più forte dell'odio, la misericordia è più grande del giudizio e la vita è più potente della morte. Esaltare la Croce significa esaltare l'amore che vi è appeso. Significa scegliere il perdono quando siamo feriti, la fede quando siamo scoraggiati e la speranza quando la vita sembra oscura. Quando abbracciamo le nostre croci con Cristo, esse non finiscono più nel dolore, ma si aprono alla vita nuova.

Perciò, cari amici, non guardiamo mai alla Croce con paura, ma con coraggio e gratitudine, perché è il segno che siamo amati senza misura. Le nostre fatiche quotidiane ci rendano più forti, approfondiscano la nostra fede e ci rendano umili nel servire i nostri fratelli e sorelle che fanno fatica a portare i pesi di ogni giorno. Vi auguro una settimana benedetta.

*Vi auguro una buona settimana,
P. Shaiju Ponmalakunnel*

This Weekend's Marriages



Annalisa Longo & Anthony Stabile

Rosary Apostolate

The Rosary Apostolate in the schools is seeking volunteers who have a great devotion to the Mother of God and who are willing to visit our elementary schools to pray the Rosary with the children once a week from October to May. Training and screening will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Rose at 905-856-6035.

"One Hour With Jesus" Eucharistic Adoration

You are invited to join us for our monthly "One Hour with Jesus" Eucharistic Adoration on **Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 7:30pm.**

Feast of Blessed Luigi Monti

On **Monday September 22, 2025** we will celebrate the feast of Blessed Luigi Maria Monti, founder of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception with a bilingual Mass at 7:00pm.

Pilgrimage to Europe

Fr. Eugene will be leading a pilgrimage to Europe from May 11 – May 22, 2026, visiting Fatima, Lourdes, Avila, Madrid, Loyola, Zaragoza, Monserrat, Barcelona and more. Please contact the Parish office for more information.

Padre Eugenio guiderà un pellegrinaggio in Europa dall'11 al 22 maggio 2026, visitando Fatima, Lourdes, Avila, Madrid, Loyola, Saragozza, Monserrat, Barcellona e altre località. Per ulteriori informazioni, contattare l'ufficio parrocchiale.

Registration for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process through which interested unbaptized adults and older children (catechumens) are introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and become members of the Catholic Church. The OCIA pro-gram is a time of reflection, prayer, study, and discernment leading to the celebration of becoming full members at the Easter Vigil. During the Easter Vigil, catechumens are baptized, confirmed, and participate in the Eucharist for the first time. If you are interested in the OCIA program, please contact the parish office.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday September 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

7pm	Giuseppe Muto
8pm	

Tuesday September 16 St. Cornelius

7pm	Maria Micelotta
8pm	

Wednesday September 17

7pm	Giovanni Prospero
8pm	Francesco Barone

Thursday September 18

7pm

Friday September 19

7pm	Gaetana Cestra
8pm	Gianni Petrozza

2026 First Holy Communion Dates

- Saturday May 23, 2026 at 11:00am –
St. Catherine & Others
- Saturday May 23, 2026 at 1:00pm –
St. John Bosco
- Saturday May 23, 2026 at 3:00pm –
St. Gabriel
- Sunday May 24, 2026 at 2:30pm –
Immaculate Conception

Registrations are now open. A fee of **\$50.00 (cash or cheque only)** will be applied to cover the expenses. A copy of the Baptismal certificate of the candidate is required at the time of registration. Incomplete registration forms will not be accepted. Forms can be returned to the parish office during office hours.

2026 Confirmation Dates

- Thursday April 16, 2026 at 7:00pm –
Immaculate Conception
- Friday April 17, 2026 at 7:00pm –
St. John Bosco
- Thursday April 23, 2026 at 7:00pm –
St. Gabriel
- Friday April 24, 2026 at 7:00pm –
St. Catherine & Others

Registrations are now open. A fee of **\$60.00 (cash or cheque only)** will be applied to cover the expenses. A copy of the Baptismal certificate of the candidate is required at the time of registration. Incomplete registration forms will not be accepted. Forms can be returned to the parish office during office hours.