

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

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## **Pastoral Team**

**Pastor:** Rev. Mark Achilles Villanueva

**Deacons:** Deacon Gerry Steyn, Deacon Michael Ho, Deacon Roman Lim

**Administrative Assistant:** Cecilia Vaz

**Assistants:** Clifford Jumapit, Benjamin Alcantara

**Volunteer Asisstants:** Marina Taguicana, Agnes Lim



## The Nativity of the Lord

## MASS INTENTION

SATURDAY (December 24)

5:00 PM For the Parish Community

7:00 PM For the Parish Community

9:00 PM For the Parish Community

11:00 PM For the Parish Community

SUNDAY (December 25)

7:30 AM For the Parish Community

9:00 AM For the Parish Community

11:00 AM For the Parish Community

12:30 PM For the Parish Community

MONDAY (December 26)

9:00 AM +Urbano Delpino, +Milagros & Juanita Umali, +Evelyn & Ruel Macalaguim

TUESDAY (December 27)

7:30 AM Open

WEDNESDAY (December 28)

7:00 PM +Henry Valere, +Teodora, Conrado, Cecilio Nicomedez, +Michela Guinci

THURSDAY (December 29)

7:30 AM +Albert Martin

FRIDAY (December 30)

7:00 PM Thanksgiving to the Infant Jesus, For the Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY (December 31)

9:00 AM +Lilian Fernandes, Thanksgiving of Arbie, Caridad Sarmiento and family

5:00 PM +Peter & Paul D'Mello,

+Peter & Priscilla D'Souza, Deceased members of the D'Mello Family, +Joseph D'Mello, +John & Ann Braganza

If you wish to offer a Mass for yourself or your loved one, please call the parish office, or approach the parish desk, or use the form on our parish website. If you require a Mass Card, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS HAS COME UPON US!

We have watched, waited, wondered, and welcomed Christ as the season of Advent unfolded for all of us and now, we are gathered as a community to celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We have also observed nine evenings of Masses and throughout those nine evenings we were exhorted to keep before our eyes the image of Mary and Joseph as they journeyed from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

We see in their journey our own journey too, as individuals and as part of a given community, we call the church. The journey, which they undertook is the same journey that we are all encourage to undertake - the birth the Christ in our hearts.

Throughout that journey, Mary and Joseph carried the Word of God. We can easily imagine how difficult and challenging that journey must have been for both of them, but their hearts were filled with wonderment and joy. There were moments when they talked, there were also moments when they were lost in their own thoughts... but both were so open to the grace of God and ready to respond with great generosity of spirit. For Mary, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word.' For Joseph, 'Do not be afraid to take Mary as his wife'...and without hesitation did as the angel has directed him.

And now, their hearts are filled but not closed...their hearts became channels of grace to others as well... soon, they will welcome with loving arms, learned men and poor peasants alike...and gladly shared with them the blessing of the Christ Child. May we, too, be filled with God and be a channel of blessing this Christmas.

## SUNDAY OFFERING

Offertory	\$ 4,614.16
Building Fund	\$ 1,610.00
Liturgical Fund	\$ 55.00
Mass Stipend	\$ 730.00
Candle Revenue	\$ 315.05
Empanada	\$ 410.00
Wedding	\$ 500.00
Flowers	\$ 455.00
Christmas Novena	\$ 598.00
Confirmation	\$ 100.00
Refrigeration	\$ 350.00
ShareLife	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ 9,937.21

## THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING

Our dear fellow Parishioners, as the year 2022 is about to end, please ensure that we have your correct information in our parish database. If you have changed your status or your address, all the more you need to do so in case we need to send you your Tax Receipt. We hope that we will soon be able to close the book and issue the Tax Receipts so you can file your Tax Declaration sooner rather than later.

If you are intending your donation to be counted for 2022, please inform the parish no later than the second week of January. Once our book is closed, all funds received will be counted towards your 2023 Donation. Your attention regarding this matter is most appreciated.

There are several ways of supporting your parish and other charitable works, you can use the traditional Donation Envelope, or you can arrange a Pre-Authorized Form of Giving, or using your Credit Card. For Credit Card donation, you can set it up as one-time or recurring using the Donate Now Link on our parish website.

Should you require a Box of Donation Envelopes, please ask Cliff or Ben at the parish desk.

## VARIOUS FORMS OF SERVICE

Our Parish community is deeply grateful for the many volunteers that we have. If you wish to be actively involved and helped form community, there are ministries and forms of service that our parish hope to have.

We are in need, for example, of Ministers of Hospitality and Welcome. Part of this ministry involves ushering and gathering the gifts on Sunday.

We are also looking for volunteers who can lead our Children's Sunday Liturgy of the Word. If we have enough volunteers as we had pre-Covid time, we will be able to offer this service to our young people in all the Weekend Masses (Saturday and Sunday).

It is also our fervent prayer that we will be able to restore our children and youth choir. Music is an indispensable ministry in every Liturgical Celebration. Of course, our existing choirs are also looking for more adults (men and women) to participate. Remember the saying: "She who sings well, prays twice." If you think you do not sing well, don't worry, practice makes perfect.

We are grateful that three gentlemen have responded to the invitation to form the nucleus for our Social Ministry. We hope that more of you will be involved in this way. There are so many needs and challenges in our community. We need people who can identify these needs, liase with groups in the Archdiocese, in our society, and bring these to our parish community.

These are just some of the forms of service - we are only limited by our lack of imagination. Come, let us serve the Lord with joy and gratitude.

## FAITH FORMATION FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Calling all clergy, lay pastoral associates and other parish ministry staff and volunteers with a heart for young families to join our training day to learn more about running the Early Catholic Family Life (ECFL) program. No experience necessary, no previous training necessary.

ECFL is an 8-session, 2-hour program for parishes to engage and connect young families (with children 0-6 years old) and to foster a culture of faith in the home in the earliest stages of family life.

What does ECFL do?

1. Helps parents become intentional in passing down their faith to their children
  2. Meets families where they are at
  3. Fills the gap between Baptism and First Holy Communion
  4. Connects Catholic parents with their peers
  5. Strengthens community
  6. Connects young families with the parish
- Feel free to read a testimonial from the archdiocesan blog, watch the introductory video ([bit.ly/ECFLIntroVideo](http://bit.ly/ECFLIntroVideo)) and visit our website to learn more about our pilot project to expand this ministry, made possible by generous donors through the Family of Faith campaign ([www.archtoronto.org/ecfl](http://www.archtoronto.org/ecfl)).

The training will take place at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (4th Floor, 1155 Yonge Street, Toronto) on Saturday, January 14, 2023 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and will involve presentations, hands-on learning, and discussion groups. Light breakfast and lunch are provided. Free underground parking is available. This training day is offered through the Saint Monica Institute for Education and Evangelization and conducted by the Office of Formation and Discipleship. Register: <https://bit.ly/ECFLT-RegisterJan2023> by January 9, 2023.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IS  
EXPOSED IN OUR CHURCH  
MONDAY 6 PM TO 7 PM  
FROM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY, 12  
NOON TO 7 PM

## SHARE LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS

Here's a statistic that may surprise you: according to a recent Ipsos poll, nearly half of Canadians prefer to receive a charitable gift over a traditional gift. That's because the feeling of giving hope to those in need can't be matched by anything in a box.

Giving to ShareLife on behalf of a friend or family member honours the true spirit of Christmas by supporting the lifesaving work of Catholic agencies. Your loved one will receive a card or e-card featuring your special message. They will know your gift to them is making a tangible difference in the life of a vulnerable person in their community.

And what a difference you will be making together. Here is what your gift makes possible:

\$50 covers the cost of an emergency hamper of diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, and food for a young mother and her baby.

\$80 enables a Deaf child to receive eight weeks of American Sign Language instruction.

\$120 allows a teen who has suffered the death of a parent to take part in an eight-week group counselling program.

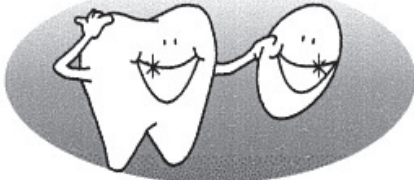
\$240 provides comprehensive training for four volunteers to assist isolated and homebound seniors.

Here's one more stat: nearly half of Canadians also buy their gifts the week before Christmas. But don't worry. If you give online by December 23 and choose to have your loved one notified by email, we will ensure they receive their personalized e-card in time for Christmas.

As you prepare to celebrate Christmas, we thank you for your generous support.

PS Remember: until December 31, your gift to ShareLife will be matched by an anonymous donor up to \$1 million. That means the impact of your gift is doubled!

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IS A PRIEST ON CALL AT THE  
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