

# *St. Theresa's Parish Shrine of the Little Flower*

2559 Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1M 1M1

Phone: 416-261-7498 • Fax: 416-261-2901

Email: [st-theresa@rogers.com](mailto:st-theresa@rogers.com) • Website: <https://sttheresassc.archtoronto.org>

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Simon de Gale  
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Peter Lovrick  
Secretary: Maria Ciela Sarmiento

*prepare the way...*



# ADVENT



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Tuesday, December 21

#### Saint John of the Cross

7:00 pm For the Unborn (*Sanctity of Life*)

✠ Shirley Baker (*Daphne King*)

### Wednesday, December 22

7:00 pm ✠ Anna Hoeck (*Jolanta & Zibby Paszel*)

✠ Basilisa Wong (*Zenaida Tare*)

### Thursday, December 23

7:00 pm ✠ Jasmin Ilumba (*Josie Chang & Family*)

✠ Renato Bedaña (*Orquiola Family*)

### Friday, December 24

5:00 pm **Christmas Eve Mass**

10:00 pm **Christmas Eve Mass**

### Saturday, December 25

#### The Nativity of the Lord

10 am Christmas Day

12 pm Christmas Day

### Sunday, December 26

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

10:00 am ✠ Robert & Margaret Simpson

(*Frank & Margaret Brewster*)

12:00 pm ✠ Thomas Hashim (*May Tiongson & Family*)

## Advent Prayer

### Week 4: Peace

Light 3 purple candles & 1 pink  
& 1 white candle in the centre



*Jesus, be born in our hearts today and fill us with your love. As we light these candles, we celebrate your birth. You came into a world of darkness and sin to save us. Because of you, we are now called children of the light. Help us to live lives worthy of your love. Amen.*

## Prayers for Peace

Lord, I invite your peace to rule my heart! As I end this year and reflect on the many gifts you have given me; let my heart be encouraged with the truth that you are a good God. I thank you for sending your Son to die for me. I thank you for the peace I have through you. May my words and actions be ones that glorify you. Amen.



## New Year's Mass Schedule



Friday Dec. 31, 2021 <i>Office closed at noon</i>	<b>Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>	5:00 PM
Saturday Jan. 1, 2022 <i>Office is closed</i>	<b>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>	10:00 AM
Sunday Jan. 2, 2022 <i>Office is closed</i>	<b>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b>	10:00 AM
		12:00 PM



## Let Us Pray

### For Our Sick

Marianne Wilson, Helen Mckechnie Linda Rodgers, Leticia Tan Ching, Hal McCullough, Valerie Trutwein, Anton & Bobby Melchers, Rosie Jane Rocha, Frederick Lopez, Danny & Pamela Dupley, Adam Jane Villalon, Madeleine Franco, Sophy McDonald, Gail MacEachern, Jolanta Mirkowski-Paszal, Rene Romero, Jane Frias Eigo, Elizabeth Callaghan, James Halder, Phyllis Randolph, Karlos Ebcas

## **PRE-REGISTER FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES. SEATS ARE LIMITED!**

Registration through Eventbrite:

<https://bit.ly/STP-Events>

call the parish office during office hours for assistance.

To attend Mass online, click:

<https://bit.ly/STP-Livestream>

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 🎄 There will be **NO 5:00 PM Mass** on **Saturday, December 25th** and **January 1st**.
- 🎄 There will be **NO 7:00 PM Mass** on **Friday, December 31st**.
- 🎄 **January 1st** (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) is a **holy day of obligation**.
- 🎄 **The Parish office will be CLOSED on December 27, 28, 2021 and Jan. 3, 2022** in observance of Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day falling on the weekend.

### First Reading

Micah 5:1-4: *The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.*

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19: *A prayer for God's salvation*

### Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10: *Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.*

### Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45: *Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.*

## Background on the Gospel Reading

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

## 2022 Donation Envelopes are available for pick up at the back of church



Make sure to take the box that has your name on it. **Please remember: DO NOT USE these envelopes before**

**January 1, 2022.**

For those who would like to enroll in the **PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)**, please call the parish office for details or download the [PAG Enrollment Form](#).

Thank you for your constant generosity & support to our parish throughout the years.

## Thank You for your generous support to the parish!



**Regular Offertory: \$2,393.00**

### Sponsors of this week's livestreaming of Mass

**Margaret David**

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## A Huge Thank You!

A huge thank you from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for your most generous donations for our outreach to our neighbours in need at Christmas time. Thanks to your kindness and support even in these difficult times, we have been able to send grocery vouchers or gift cards to over 85 households needing assistance. Thank you!!

We wish you all a truly blessed Christmas season and good health and happiness in 2022.

## CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in January 2022 & supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905-624-4422.

Starting January 2022, the parish ebulletin will be sent to you through our website. We ask you to please SIGN-UP. Visit the parish website, click on CONTACT US, then SIGN UP and select PARISH BULLETIN, and SUBSCRIBE.

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