

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

3914 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 1L7 Telephone: 416-239-1259

Email: olpeace@archtoronto.org Website: www.olpeace.archtoronto.org

OUR MISSION

*"Guided by the love of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ, we the parish community of **Our Lady of Peace** come together embracing diversity and unity, to celebrate the Sacraments, to study the Word of God, and to provide unwavering support for one another. Through dynamic liturgical celebrations, meaningful fellowship, and continuous education, we strive to nurture each person's unique relationship with God and empower them to live out their faith in the world."*

Our Pastor:

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha

Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 3

Office Administrators:

Teresa McNamara &

Rosanne Colavecchia

Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 0

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Baptisms,

Weddings & Funerals:

Please contact the Parish Office.



Holy Mass

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday to Friday

9:00 a.m.

Confessions:

Saturday

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Adoration & Benediction

First Friday

following 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Our catholic faith has been passed down from generation to generation. Please ensure our faith lives on for generations to come by remembering your parish in your Will.

The Road to Happiness

Today is a day to rejoice! This very liturgy we're celebrating is an occasion of joy! Joy and rejoicing are themes that run throughout today's prayers and Scripture readings. The advent wreath's rose candle, lit for the first time today, is meant to reflect joy. For good reason, the Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called "Gaudete" or "Rejoice" Sunday.

This joy, however, is not something experienced by all of us, because so many people today lead fundamentally unhappy lives. The World Health Organization has identified depression as the most widespread disease around the globe today. In the words of the philosopher Thoreau, many of us lead "lives of quiet desperation." But why is this? What is it that inhibits us from experiencing joy? What is the cause of our unhappiness?

Perhaps some have fallen for the seduction of modern marketing. We are daily bombarded by advertisements which imply that we will be happy only if we have or experience this, that, or the other. But this, of course, is a great deception. If we pursue happiness in the things of this world, we will either become disillusioned and jaded, develop an unquenchable thirst for more and more, or bury ourselves under a mountain of debt- a situation which only compounds our unhappiness.

Another reason we become unhappy is that we expect other people to make us happy. We've bought into our culture's "Myth of Romantic Love," which would have us believe that there is someone out there- Mr. Or Mrs. Right- who is destined to satisfy all of our needs, that we may live happily ever after. But no human being can ever satisfy all our needs. To expect this is to set ourselves up for disappointment and place an unrealistic and unfair burden on someone else's shoulders. It's also the root cause of many divorces.

Another cause of unhappiness is that the world around us can seem like a pretty bleak and forbidding place. The daily news is filled with reports of war, poverty, violence, hatred, and injustice, and one can conclude that there is precious little happiness to be found as we wander through this "vale of tears." We might even think that it's unrealistic or even irresponsible to be happy in the face of such suffering. As Walter Cronkite once said, "If you think things seem to be going well, you had better have your television set repaired."

Deep down, however, every one of us wants to be happy. It's true that our world is filled with hardship, sorrow, disappointment, and confusion. Nevertheless, we expect it to be fair and for it all to make sense. We expect to experience satisfaction and fulfillment in this life, and we feel cheated if we don't. We believe that we have a right to happiness in this life, and that the world is obliged to give it to us.

One priest writes that he has posted on his bathroom mirror a card that reads: "You are looking at the face of the person who is responsible for your own

happiness." Or, as he puts it in another way, "happiness is an inside job." This is his way of reminding himself that authentic happiness is hinged upon the choices we make. If we make the right choices, doing the best we can to align our will with God's, we'll find ourselves on the right track. If we make poor choices, seeking happiness in all the wrong places, we will never truly find what it is we're looking for. In other words, happiness is a by-product of living in the Lord. It's something we need to work for and strive after; we shouldn't expect it simply to fall into our lap. We may need to change our behavior, re-ordering our lives in a healthy way. We may need to change the way we think- about ourselves, about others, about the circumstances that shape our life.

Yet happiness is not simply a prize we can win; it's also a grace we have to choose to accept. Our desire for happiness, the path that leads to happiness, the strength to follow it, and happiness itself, are all offered to us by God as a gift of love. Indeed, happiness is a sign that God is active and fruitful in our life.

Gifts and gift-giving are very much on people's minds right now. As Christians, we're anticipating our celebration of the gift of Jesus. And it is through Jesus, with Jesus, and in Jesus, that the gift of happiness and joy is offered to us and found by us. This Christmas let's begin to claim this joy for ourselves.



The loving community of Our Lady of Peace parish is thrilled to welcome with open hearts and arms

Keenan Reuel Dias
&
Lyra Rose Elena Windrím

May your baptism be the start of a life filled with faith, love, and God's presence.



Christmas
Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Mass 5pm

Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas Day Masses 10am & 11.30am

Tuesday, December 31st

New Year's Eve Mass 5pm

Wednesday, January 1st

New Year's Day Mass 10am



Mass Intentions

Saturday December 14th 5pm

- †Eva Longo Requested by Luca & Celebre Families
- †Audrey & †Cecil Fields Requested Sarah Hamil-Smith
- †Anna & †Giovanni Fasciano Requested by Fasciano Family

Sunday December 15th

10am

- †Marjorie Melnik Requested by Helena Bartosik
- †Ida & †Luigi Giorno Requested by Michelle Giorno
- Special Intentions of Josie Snaith Requested by Geraldine Frost
- †Massimo Pellegrino Requested by Josie & John Pellegrino

11:30am

- †Luiza Pinto Requested by Pinto Family
- †Jeffery Mangerano Requested by Pellegrino Family
- †Francesco Mangerano Requested by Pellegrino Family

Monday December 16th - No Mass

Tuesday December 17th 9am

- Special Intentions of Michelle Giorno
- For Healing - Viesha Ploski Requested by Anna (her Sister)

Wednesday December 18th 9am

- †Helen Burns Requested by Jim Bannon
- For Healing – Agnes Podbielski Requested by her parents

Thursday December 19th 9am

- Special Intentions Richard Grubb Requested by Jim Bannon

Friday December 20th 9am

- †Stefanie & †Stefan Papuga Requested by Sitarz Family

Christmas Concert

JOIN US TODAY

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

Doors open at 4 pm, starts at 4.15pm (approx.)



Please join us for Traditional Christmas Carols & Hymns in the church, performed by the Our Lady of Peace Choir

Attendance is free, but there will be a freewill collection.



Christmas Flowers

As the joyful season of Christmas approaches, to make our sanctuary truly special, we are seeking your generosity in donating flowers for Christmas decorations. We welcome poinsettias, both big and medium size, in traditional Christmas colors or any that you feel would add a special touch to our decorations. Please bring your flower donations to the church on or before Monday December 23rd.

Your generosity will contribute to the shared spirit of Christmas in our parish, and we look forward to celebrating this joyous season with you.

2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES



Offertory Envelopes for the year 2025 are conveniently placed on the table at the rear of the church. Upon collecting your 2025 envelopes, please complete the card sticking out from the box, furnishing your full name, address, telephone number, and email address and leave it in the container provided.

To prevent any confusion, kindly refrain from using the 2025 envelopes until the beginning of the New Year.

Take a moment to inscribe your name and address on the envelopes for the initial weeks of 2025, offering an additional way to verify your contact details. We encourage you to include the donation amount on your envelope, providing valuable assistance to the counters.

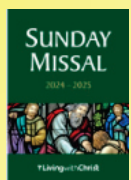
If you currently do not use donation envelopes, we urge you to consider adopting them or explore the option of enrolling in a monthly-preauthorized giving plan. (PAG) Both approaches contribute to the financial stability of your parish while ensuring you receive a beneficial tax receipt annually.

Your ongoing support is deeply appreciated, thank you!



ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

We will be continuing our regular training sessions with our new & experienced Altar Servers. If your child is interested in joining the Altar Servers, For any questions, please contact Arnold at asamson@archtoronto.org



The 2024-2025 Sunday Missals

Are ready for you at the back of the church. Please consider a minimum \$5.00 donation

Recycle bins are located near the church exit doors, if you'd like to discard your Sunday Missals from past years.

Our Lady of Peace, Pray for Us



Advent Reconciliation Schedule

Tuesday December 17th	after 9am Mass
Wednesday December 18th	after 9am Mass
Thursday December 19th	after 9am Mass
Friday December 20th	after 9am Mass
Saturday December 21st	3.30pm-4.45pm



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