

Our Lady Of Peace Parish

14th December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)

3914 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 1L7

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Office Hours Monday to Friday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Our Pastor

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha

Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 3

Office Administrator

Teresa McNamara

tmcnamara@archtoronto.org

Tel: 416-239-1259 Ext 0

Youth Minister

Arnold Samson

asamson@archtoronto.org



Holy Mass

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

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

Tuesday to Friday

9:00 a.m.

Confession

Saturday

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

Adoration & Benediction

First Friday

following 9:00 a.m. Mass

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Please contact the Parish Office.

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.

St. Elizabeth Catholic School
5 Redcar Ave, Etobicoke, ON M9B 1J8
(416) 393-5278

<https://www.tcdsb.org/o/stelizabeth>

Our Lady of Peace Catholic School
70 Mattice Ave, Etobicoke, ON M9B 1T6
(416) 393-5253

<https://www.tcdsb.org/o/ourladyofpeace>

Our Lady of Peace Pray for Us

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.

Rejoice, for the Lord Is Truly Near

This Third Sunday of Advent brings a sudden brightness into our waiting. The deep violet of the season is softened by rose; the candle of joy is lit. The ancient antiphon gives us our theme: "Rejoice in the Lord always!" Today, the Church reminds us that God is faithful, God is coming, and God is already at work among us.

The first reading from Isaiah offers a vivid vision of hope: deserted places bursting into bloom, weak hands strengthened, fearful hearts encouraged. Isaiah speaks to a people living in exile and promises a second Exodus — a joyful return home, where "sorrow and sighing will flee away." It is more than poetry. It is God's assurance: "I have not forgotten you. I will come and save you."

The Old Testament is filled with longing, like Nathaniel Hawthorne's unfinished play — where everyone spoke of the main character who never appeared. Israel dreamed, prayed, and waited for the Messiah. In Jesus, that long-awaited promise finally stepped onto the stage of history.

In the second reading, St. James urges us: "Be patient... the coming of the Lord is near." Advent is not passive waiting. Like a farmer who prepares the soil and trusts the rain, we act, we pray, we love — believing that God is doing far more beneath the surface than we can yet see. Many of us are waiting for healing, for reconciliation, for direction, for peace. Even when the outcome is hidden, James reminds us: The Judge stands at the door. The Lord is nearer than we imagine.

The Gospel shows us that even the bold John the Baptist wrestled with uncertainty. From prison he sends his disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" That question is deeply human. When we suffer, when plans collapse, when God seems silent — we too wonder. Jesus does not scold John for his doubt. Instead, He sends a gentle and powerful answer: "Go and tell John what you hear and see." The blind see. The lame walk. The poor receive good news.

Jesus points not to arguments but to transformed lives. The Messiah is recognized by what happens when He is present. And sometimes, faith deepens through doubt. We learn, with John, to trust not our expectations, but God's surprising and merciful ways. Jesus not only answers John's question — He gives him a mission. John's disciples must return and share the news. Likewise, we are sent: "Go and tell others what you hear and see."

In these days before Christmas: Speak encouragement. Offer mercy. Heal rather than criticize. Lift those who are bowed down. St. Teresa of Avila reminds us: "Christ has no body now but yours... Yours are the hands by which He blesses." This is our vocation. We are not spectators. We are witnesses of joy.

If John the Baptist could doubt, then so can we. Faith is not the absence of questions; it is the willingness to stay open, to keep listening, to trust the answer that God gives. In moments of confusion or trial: Hold to Scripture. Stay close to the Church. Trust the Holy Spirit's light. Disillusionment can become the doorway to deeper faith. God may come in ways we do not expect — but He always comes in love.

On Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice not because life is easy, but because God is faithful. Advent is like a long sunrise. Christ is the dawn that is breaking into our world. Wherever there is desert or dryness in our lives, God desires to bring life and joy. May our waiting be patient, our hands strong, our eyes open to grace. And may we have the courage to proclaim by word and action: "The Lord has come. The Lord is coming. The Lord is near." ***Gaudete! Rejoice!***

Advent Retreat & Reconciliation

As we prepare to enter the Jubilee Year celebrating the **75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Peace Parish**, you are warmly invited to a special **Advent Retreat**—a time to pause, pray, and open our hearts to the Lord who comes to renew us. Led by **Sr. Carmela Chetcuti**, this retreat will help us *honor our past, embrace God's grace in the present, and ignite hope for the future.*

Schedule:

Saturday, Dec 13

- 5:00 pm – Holy Mass
- 5:30–6:00 pm – Talk

Sunday, Dec 14

- 10:00 am – Holy Mass
- 10:30–11:00 am – Talk
- 11:30 am – Holy Mass
- 12:00–12:30 pm – Talk

Monday, Dec 15

- 7:00 pm – Holy Mass and Talk
- 8:00– 9:00pm - Reconciliation

Tuesday, Dec 16

- 7:00 pm – Mass & Healing Service
- 8:00-9:00 pm - Reconciliation



Let us come together as a parish family to welcome the grace of this season.

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, CMI

Mass Intentions

Saturday 13th December - 5:00pm

†Antionietta & †Alessandro Mazzucco *Requested by the Family*

Sunday 14th December 2025

10:00am

Special Intentions for Susan Monaco

†Eugene & †Catherine McBride *Requested by the Doplaga Family*

†Edward Trainor & †Paula Kelly *Requested by Lisa Trainor*

11:30am

Thanksgiving (50th Wedding Anniversary) for Alan & Celia Galvez

Monday 15th December - 7:00pm Advent Retreat Mass

Deceased Family & Friends of the Casalino Family

Tuesday 16th December - 7:00pm Advent Retreat Mass

Deceased Family & Friends of the Castellino Family

Wednesday 17th December - 9:00am

Special Intentions of Eva Bavcevic *Requested by Bavcevic Family*

Jacques Holly Dai *Requested by Farah Dai*

Thursday 18th December - 9:00am

Deceased Family & Friends of the Bastedo Family

Friday 19th December - 9:00am

Deceased Family & Friends of the Cardoza Family

EDGE Night! December 19th, 2025

What is EDGE?

The EDGE program is a dedicated Ministry for youth in **grades 6-8**, centered around exploring & participating in the Catholic Faith in a friendly and judgement-free space alongside their peers.

It's also a chance to encounter Christ in unique ways; by sharing in this ministry together, we aim to grow closer as a youth community.

Available to all students in Grades 6-8

In the Parish Hall from 6-9pm

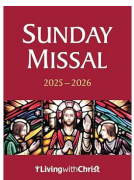
Registration required: sign up available on arrival (parental consent required) Questions? Email: asamson@archtoronto.org



Our Lady of Peace Little Gift Shoppe!

Looking for something special? We have rosaries, miraculous medals, baptismal garments, Confirmation & First Holy Communion Cards and lots of adorable religious treasures — all lovingly blessed by Fr. Biju.

Open Hours • Sunday after 11.30 Mass • Wednesdays, 2:-4:30pm



The 2025-2026 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.

Please Come and Join Sister Carmela

After the 11:30am Mass

Advent Retreat Talk

In the Parish Hall

Coffee, Tea & Refreshments served

Supporting Women at the Shelter This Christmas



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who have supported our "Christmas Tree of Hope" outreach. Your kindness is helping us bring light, dignity, and joy to the women at Elisa House, our local shelter.

On **Friday, December 19th**, our parish community will gather to prepare and serve a warm Christmas dinner for the women who call Elisa House home. As part of this act of love, we are also hoping to provide each woman with a **\$50 Walmart gift card**.

If you were not able to participate earlier but would still like to contribute, we warmly welcome your support. Gift cards or donations of \$50 may be brought to the **parish office** at your convenience.

Thank you for your generosity, compassion, and willingness to make this season brighter for our sisters in need.

With gratitude,

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha

Christmas Poinsettias

As we prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas, we invite you to help fill our sanctuary with the beauty of poinsettias.

Medium or large plants—traditional colours or any festive favourite—are all warmly welcomed.

Please bring your donations to the church on or before Sunday, December 21st.

Thank you



2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory Envelopes for the year 2026 are conveniently placed on the table at the rear of the church. Upon collecting your 2026 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 2026 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 2026, 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



Our Lady Queen of Peace, Pray for us



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