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ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

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StMargaretsMI@archtoronto.org

stmargaretsmi.archtoronto.org

Pastor: Father Roselle Cyrille R. Azares
Deacons: Anthony Ruta P.D.
Timothy Dunlop P.D.
Parish Secretary: Juanita Wootton-Radko
Custodian: Jim Lamers



Oh Come Let us Adore Him



Tuesday December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

12:05 +Henry Lekusz

Requested by Lekusz and Chomik parents

Wednesday December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12:05 +Rade Macut

Requested by Kata Macut

Thursday December 29

12:05 +Gordon Lavigne

Requested by Bill Lavigne

Feast of the Holy Family

Friday December 30

11am - Holy Hour

12:05 noon +Father Hubert Rooney Requested by Dolores Maguire

Saturday December 31

No 10 am Mass today

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Mass – Saturday December 31

5 pm Mass for the people

Sunday – January 1, 2023

9am +Yvette Asselin

Requested by Theresa Gignac

11:30 am Mass for the people



Please remember the following people in your

prayers: Mary McCarthy; Nicole Marchildon; Stephen Roach; Lilah Bates; Shelley Smith; Nadine Adams;

Peter Pattenaude; Bob Kokron; Brenda Bylow; John Jerome

Please pray for recently deceased: Marie Dupuis; Stephen Bradshaw; Bernice Juneau; Linda Dorion;

Thanks Be to God

Christmas is the time for gift-giving. Whether at home or at work or in school, giving gifts during Christmas time is vey important. Parents seek to give what their children have longed to have. There are Christmas parties and exchange of gifts in the work-place. School children exchange gifts.

What does gift-giving mean? With the rise of consumerism there may be a tendency or temptation to look at the monetary value of the gift: What is its worth? How much did it cost? Where did it come from? Do I need it? Do I want it?

But this manner of evaluating gifts robs the gift of its meaning and power. A gift's essence does not rest on the object given.

This is what Swiss theologian Urs Von Balthasar writes in his book Elucidations, where it maintains that a gift is not so much about the object given but more about the giver who wishes to concretize his or her love for the beloved through a gift. Any object given as a gift serves only as a medium through which the giver's love for the beloved is expressed. A gift's purpose and meaning are simple: a gift is sign of the lover or gift-giver's love.

The gift is not the love of the lover or gift-giver but simply a representation of it. What is most important is not the object given, not the gift itself, but the love of the giver. The more the gift itself fades into the background, and the giver's love emphasized, the more effective is the gift.

Traditionally gifts are not opened until Christmas Day itself: if gifts are not so much about the object given but about the giver's love, then it is indeed fitting that gifts be opened on Christmas Day itself.

Because on Christmas Day God's gift pierces the core of all giving. By gifting us not with an object of whatever value but with his very self, God has

indeed gifted us with the giver's love in crystallized form, love in its supreme and divine expression.

Today as we open the gifts given to us, may we focus more on the love for us expressed by the gift-givers through their gifts. And as we are grateful for the gifts received and the love of the givers, may our thanksgiving be anchored in thanksgiving to God who today gave us the greatest gift, his own Love in the person of his only Son.

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Grace and Peace, Fr. R C R A

Sanctuary Lamp

December 26-31

This week the lamp burns for the **Lekusz and Chomik families.**

Give the Gift of Music!



We love to worship together and praise

God through music. Help us celebrate Him in song by donating towards the purchase of new Gather hymnals for St. Margaret's Parish. Any amount is welcome, and for donations of \$45 or more, parishioners wishing to make donations in memory of a loved one can have their name inside the hymnal.

Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will be

CLOSED

from December 26-January 2, 2023.

Regular Office hours resume Tues. January 3, 2023. (Tuesday—Friday 9:30 am-4:00 pm)

2023 Offertory Envelopes

Available for pick-up at the back of the church

2022 - 2023 Sunday Missals

Available at the side entrance to the church for \$6 each

2022 Tax Receipt Reminder

All donations to St. Margaret's parish or the Society for St. Vincent de Paul must be received by **Friday**, **December 30**, **2022** to be included on your 2022 tax receipt. Any gifts received after that date will be shown in the new year. Tax receipts will be mailed out the first week of February 2023.

Thank you for all the ways you generously support our parish.



From St. Margaret's Clergy and Staff

Fr. Roselle, Deacon Tony, Deacon Tim, Juanita, Jim, Katie, Rose

Wishing you.....





The Pope's Prayer Intention for December

For Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations
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committed to human development find people
dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek
out new paths to international cooperation.



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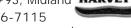
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