



We again light the candles of hope and love. Today, we add the ROSE coloured candle of joy. Prophecy has been fulfilled. The long-awaited Messiah has come. Joy is the mood of all earnest seekers.

Rejoice! Here is your God! As the feast of Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that the Lord is with us even now. Jesus came to give sight and life to the dead. Christ's reign is among us through our deed of love and generosity. Let us not grow weary, but steady our hearts and rejoice, for the Lord is close at hand!

SUNDAY SOCIAL!!!



Next Sunday (**December 21st**), the Knights of Columbus will hold Coffee Sunday in the Hall.

Stay and get together for coffee and a chat. It will take place after the 12noon Mass. All are welcome!

Sacramental Prep

First Communion Prep Class #5 at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, February 22, 2026 at St. Gregory the Great Parish Hall (190 Simcoe St. N.)

Confirmation Prep Class #1 at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday January 11, 2025 in Holy Cross Parish Hall.

RCIA Course

Would you like to become a Catholic, or are you a Catholic who has not been confirmed? Join us at the **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)**. Ask the priest for a registration form.

Christmas Food Drive

"HOLY CROSS FOOD DRIVE"

You can help by donating the following:

ALL CANNED GOODS, POP TABS ONLY

Canned vegetables, meats, rice, canned pasta & fruit, soups & stews, brown beans, oatmeal, cookies, gravy, ketchup, pasta & sauce, instant coffee, hot chocolate, tea, peanut butter, sugar, baby food, boxed stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, boxed milk, tuns & Crackers, cake mix, dishwashing detergent.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATION AT THE STEPS OF THE ALTAR. THANK YOU!

Angel Tree



Thank you to all parishioners who donated towards the Angel Tree this year.

We raised: **\$1,530.00**. It was greatly appreciated!



Holy Cross and St. Gregory's are once again offering a



Program for our youth in grades 6-8. Our next meeting night will be held this

Wednesday, December 17th, from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in St. Gregory's Hall. For more information or to register, please contact our youth minister, Kim Carson at: ymstghc@archtoronto.org

Advent Confessions

In preparation for Christmas, and especially for the worthy reception of the Eucharist, two priests will hear confessions:

December 17 – St. Gregory's Parish

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December 18 – Holy Cross Parish

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Holy Catholic Church wants us to have confession minimally once a year. Thus, in *Catechism of the Catholic Church* number 2042, we read, "The second precept [of the Church] ("You shall confess your sins at least once a year.") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness". Refusing to confess at least once a year, we prevent ourselves from receiving the Eucharist.

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all the parishioners who took the time to stop by our Cookie Bake Sale table and who purchased a Cookie Platter. It was greatly appreciated!

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve:

4:30pm -Holy Cross

7:00pm – St. Gregory's

Christmas Day:

8:00am – St. Gregory's

9:30am – St. Gregory's

12noon – Holy Cross

New Year's Eve:

4:30pm - Holy Cross

10:30 p.m. - St. Gregory's

(11:30 p.m. – 12:15 a.m. Adoration)

New Year's Day:

8:00am – St. Gregory's; 9:30am – St. Gregory's

12noon – Holy Cross

Please remember Holy Cross Parish in your will.

Pope Leo's Intentions for December

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



*The Sanctuary Lamp
burns this week for:*

Earl & Josie Marshall

MASS Intentions

Saturday December 13 Holy Cross

4:30pm †Antonio & Emma Giarrizzo

Sunday December 14 Holy Cross

12-noon For the People of Our Parish

Tuesday December 16

St. Gregory the Great at 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday December 17 Holy Cross

8:30am †Giuseppe Benedetto, †Salvatore Bruno,
†Raymond & †Irene Richard, †Cathy VanderZwet, &
†Armando Oddi

Thursday December 18 Holy Cross

8:30am †Francesca Cappuccitti, †Mario &
†Maria Cassano

Friday December 19:

Confessions at St. Gregory's – 5:45p.m.-6:45 p.m.

Mass St. Gregory the Great at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday December 20 Holy Cross

3:30pm – 4:15 pm Adoration and Confessions

4:30pm Holy Cross For the People of Our Parish

Sunday December 21

St. Gregory the Great at 8:00 a.m.

St. Gregory the Great at 9:30 a.m.

12noon Holy Cross †Earl Marshall

Cardinal Leo's message regarding Bill C-9:

"I encourage you to read the [CCCB Permanent Council's letter](https://bit.ly/CCCBPermanentCouncilsLetter) in full and to stay informed about the discussions surrounding Bill C-9. I also ask that you join me in praying that our elected officials will work collaboratively with religious communities and legal experts to ensure that efforts to curb hatred do not unintentionally [or intentionally] undermine the constitutional freedoms that allow people of all faiths to flourish in our country." (<https://bit.ly/BillC9>)

Come and See – Discernment Weekend

At St. Augustine's Seminary, there is a prayerful and supportive environment for young men ages 18+ to reflect, hear vocation stories from the seminarians and engage in meaningful conversation with seminarians and priests, as well as partaking in social gatherings. Upcoming date: February 27 to March 1, 2026. <https://www.vocationstoronto.ca/comeandsee>

Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year

During this Jubilee Year, St. Gregory's Parish had the honour of being one of the Jubilee Churches in the Eastern Region and welcomed many pilgrims, serving as a place of prayer and reflection. On **Sunday, December 28th** at **9:30 am**, there will be a Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year. All are welcome to attend. There will also be a closing Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on December 28 at 5 pm.



ATTENTION ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH

Please keep your purses with you at all times, especially when you leave your seat for Communion. Thank you!

Christmas Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed from December 19th at 2:00 p.m. and will re-open on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026. If there is an emergency that you need a priest right away, please call St. Gregory's Parish at: 905-723-8141 or email: stgregorythegreat@archtoronto.org

Friars Student Writing Contest 2026

High school students (ages 13-19 years) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to submit a 450–500-word essay and should consult the resources of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 at <https://bit.ly/WPCU2026>. Entries can be submitted by January 12, 2026, at: <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>. For information, please contact: 416-934-3400 x. 527 or ecumenicalandinterfaith@archtoronto.org

Mass Intentions

We are now booking Mass Intentions and the Sanctuary Lamp for 2026. Please call or come to the Office during Office hours. **Please note:** only one Sunday Mass will be available as the other Mass will be for the Parish.

Envelopes

2026 envelopes are still available and are all in alphabetical order. Also, consider signing up for pre-authorized giving.

Mass Books

2026 Missals are available at the back of the Church for a cost of \$5.00

Calendars

2026 calendars are available at the back of the church.

Donations for 2025

Donations must be received in the Parish Office by December 28, 2025, to be receipted for the 2025 taxation year. Any donations received after December 28 will be recorded for the 2026 taxation year.

*Have a good day, a great week and remember to
give yourself the gift of time with Jesus.*

Please remember Holy Cross Parish in your will.