

HOLY NAME PARISH

GOUGH AND DANFORTH (at Pape Subway)

Rectory: 71 Gough Ave. Toronto, Ont. M4K 3N9

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Pastor: Reverend Eric Rodrigues

In Residence: Rev. Yaw Acheampong

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Pamela Cobham

Director of Music: Peter Smith peter.smith1@hotmail.ca 416-989-3542

ADVENT





Dear parishioners,

With Christmas approaching this week, it might seem odd to consider another saint. Yet, for many centuries, December 25th has also included the celebration of an early 4th century martyr of the Church, St. Anastasia. Not many details about her life are known, but she was venerated as a saint soon after her death. She was a faithful Christian, and as was so common in those early centuries, she was persecuted and eventually killed for her faith (on December 25th).

A tradition that developed in Rome in the early centuries was to celebrate 3 Masses on Christmas Day. The first Mass, at midnight, was celebrated at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the most important church in the world dedicated to Our Lady. How fitting, since she is the one most intimately connected to the Birth of the Saviour. The third Mass, during the day, was celebrated at St. Peter's Basilica with the Pope. Before this, though, there was a second Mass celebrated early in the morning at the basilica of St. Anastasia. What a beautiful experience it would have been: after processing under the night sky from Our Lady's Basilica, pilgrims would arrive at St. Anastasia's basilica for a Mass at dawn. The celebration of the Birth of Jesus would be accompanied by the rising of the sun and the light of the new day.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light," in those words of the Prophet Isaiah, so relevant at Christmas. Moreover, the name Anastasia, in Greek, comes from the word for Resurrection. The Resurrection of Jesus is also considered as the definitive light to overcome all darkness. What a beautiful connection and what amazing symbolism! Jesus came into the world to conquer darkness and bring us eternal life—Christmas, then, points to the Resurrection.

As we begin our Christmas celebrations this week, may the light of Christ arise in our hearts and bring down showers of blessings to us all!

Fr. Eric

January 3rd – Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

Please join us on **Saturday, January 3rd at 9:00am** for a special Mass to celebrate our parish feast day!

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Weekend Snow Clearing

We are looking for parishioners to assist with snow clearing and salting the walkways and steps around our church property. This would only be on weekends, as our custodian John takes care of this during the week. The need would be to have any snow cleared, and the walkways salted, before the Saturday 5:00pm Mass and/or the Sunday 10:00am Mass. The parish has a snow-thrower, shovel, and ice-melter that can be used.

Over the next few weekends, there will be a sign-up sheet by the entrance of the church. Please put down your contact info, as well as the weekend dates when you will not be available during the winter months (December-March). A schedule will then be put together. Groups are most welcome to sign up. High school students could certainly use this work for their volunteer hours. You can also contact the parish office directly.

Thank you for your generosity in assisting our wonderful parish!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. December 22nd

12:05 pm: **For the Intentions of Kateri Ryan**

Tues. December 23rd

12:05 pm: **Manuel De Sousa +**

Wed. December 24th

12:05 pm:

Fri. December 26th

12:05 pm: **In Thanksgiving for Mila Benedicto 70th Birthday**

Sat. December 27th

9:00 am:

5:00 pm: **Maria Diniz Pereira +**

Sun. December 28th

12:00 pm: **Antonetta Pereira +**

Egidio Mussio +

Conception Maggie Mathias +

SANCTUARY LAMP

is lit this week

For the Healing of Kenise Kilbride

requested by Sue & Ron Keeble

ALTAR DECORATORS NEEDED

for Tuesday, December 23rd at 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
(please enter through Gough Ave. ramp entrance to the church)

Please come and help beautify our Church for the Christmas celebrations. "Many hands make light work!" There is work for all: men, women and children. Thank you, The Sacristans

DECEMBER 21, 2025



The real blessing at Christmas is to recognize that Christ lives within us. The God that we have learned about from Jesus is a God of our lived experience. We experience God and God's love for us by experiencing the love of those around us. For many of us, the Christmas season is the time when we are most likely to be surrounded by those whom we love.

Therefore, it should be the time when we, more than ever, experience the God whom we have come to know and love. Our hope and our prayer is that we will all be blessed this Christmas by finding the Christ who dwells in us all.



Merry Christmas from Holy Name Parish Staff

***Reverend Eric Rodrigues
Pastor***

***Reverend Yaw Acheampong
In Residence***

***Pamela Cobham
Parish Secretary***

***Peter Smith
Director of Music***

***Elly Kaas
Bookkeeper***

***John Biason
Caretaker***

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