



# Holy Name of Jesus Parish

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For more information, please visit our website

[www.holynameparish.ca](http://www.holynameparish.ca)

See our special Mass times on page 3

## CHRISTMASTIME: DECEMBER 25, 2023 TO JANUARY 1, 2024



### Merry Christmas!

After we've spent four weeks contemplating our great need for God, the reality that meets us at Christmas is an indescribable gift: The Father has answered our prayers, sending his Son as one like ourselves, immersing himself in human life and speaking words we can understand. No wonder we say "Merry Christmas!"

It's good to remember the medieval origins of this very word: "Christ's Mass," where we begin our celebration of this season that lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

**Did You Know?** The birthplace of Jesus—Bethlehem—means "house of bread." Many ancient commentators interpreted this as pre-figuring the Eucharist. Jesus came to earth in the "house of bread" and comes to us in the form of Living Bread every time we receive Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

By Amy Welborn, from Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

Image: "Bethlehem" by Jorge Cocco Santángelo



### December 31st—Feast of the Holy Family

Happiness is not something we are given, but rather, something that results from the way we live. Happiness is a gift that comes from within; it comes from a life of generous giving of self. May the coming year bring our families happiness through giving of ourselves, of our time to one another in gratitude for the great gift of each other!



### January 1st—Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

For Catholics, December 25 is only the beginning. Our celebration continues as other

feasts shed their own unique light on the gift of Jesus.

January 1 is both the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and a day of prayer for world peace. We can deepen our celebration of the New Year by our prayer that our families and our world be open to the peace Jesus offers.



### January 3rd—Solemnity of The Most Holy Name of Jesus

In the musical, *West Side Story*, a young man falls in love with a girl and sings about the meaning of her name "Maria" has for him: "Say it loud and there's music playing; say it soft and it's almost like

praying." The name of someone we love carries within it the meaning that person has for us.

"Jesus" is the name given to the Lord by the angel in a dream to Joseph and at the Annunciation to Mary. It means "Savior." Devotion to the name of Jesus was popularized by the Franciscan St. Bernardine of Siena who created the "IHS" logo to represent the name of Jesus. He was also responsible for the addition of the name "Jesus" to the Hail Mary. The old Vesper hymn for this feast, *Jesu Dulcis Memoria*, captures the tender devotion and regard every Christian should have toward the name of Jesus.

The name of Jesus reminds us of all the ways Jesus is part of our life today. In fact, the "Jesus Prayer" has become very popular as a contemplative prayer in our time. Saying the name of Jesus slowly over and over is not "almost like praying," it is praying... personally and profoundly at levels deeper than words. And it is a path of prayer open to all of us. (S. Joseph Krempa, *Captured Fire*)

## The Twelve Days of Christmas Concert



**January 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM** at Holy Name of Jesus Parish. Come experience the fullness of Christmas with a concert of beautiful choral and organ music. Join MOTET Chamber Choir in celebrating this most wonderful time of year. Admission by donation (\$15-\$25 suggested for those able; any amount gratefully received). All ages warmly welcomed. [www.motet.ca](http://www.motet.ca)

**PHONE CALLERS MEETING:** On **January 4, 2024 at 6:30pm** in the Parish Hall, there will be a meeting led by Bob Buckingham for all volunteer phone callers who have signed up to make phone calls for our Parish Volunteer Program. Scripts will be handed out, questions will be answered, and pizza will be provided. Can you call 5-10 parishioners the week of January 15th to 20th? Speak to Kristin after mass or email [kristin@holynameparish.ca](mailto:kristin@holynameparish.ca).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all who completed the **Jesus Prayer 33 Challenge** on December 21 inspired by Fr. Mykhailo's talk at our Parish Mission. The challenge was to pray the Jesus Prayer—*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on me, a sinner* 33 times, once a day, for 40 days. To be notified of the next prayer challenge, join our parish email list at [www.holynameparish.ca/emailsingup](http://www.holynameparish.ca/emailsingup)

### ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

If you're a practising Catholic over 18 who missed the sacrament of Confirmation, you may attend classes at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish on January 17, 24, and 31 at 7pm-8:30pm to prepare for the Sacrament at Pentecost. To register, call 604-224-4344 or email [bwatanabe@rcav.org](mailto:bwatanabe@rcav.org). The \$30 fee is covered for parishioners of Holy Name who speak with Msgr. Smith first.

**2024 DONATION ENVELOPES** are now available for pick-up in the vestibule at the north entrance.



**DONATE TO WEEKLY COLLECTION OR SECOND COLLECTION:** Scan this QR code to make your donation online or visit [www.holynameparish.ca/donate](http://www.holynameparish.ca/donate)

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Thanks to your warm welcome, steady support, and encouragement I look forward for my first Christmas with you at Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

One of the duties— and privileges of a pastor— is praying both with and for his parishioners. You may be sure that I will be doing that as we celebrate Christmas, the Holy Family, and Mary mother of God in the coming days. After Christmas I will be spending some time at Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon, a perfect place for prayer and reflection.

In asking God to bless you all, I must particularly express my gratitude for the way in so many of you have generously eased our concerns about parish finances. We head into 2024 with a bright future together.

*Msgr. Gregory Smith*

**OFFICE CLOSURES:** The parish office will be closed December 25 & 26, and December 29 to January 2. In emergencies, please call Msgr. Smith's cellphone at **604-657-3715** (parish voicemail will not be checked regularly) or Fr. Jose's cellphone at **672-272-5284**.

**2023 DONATIONS:** All donations for 2023 including Project Advance **must be received** by the parish by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, in order for the donor to receive a tax receipt for 2023. This is a requirement of the Canada Revenue Agency.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday, January 1 — Sunday, January 7, 2024**

**(† Deceased)**

Monday.....Holy Name Parish  
Tuesday.....Ong Bun Tau †  
Wednesday.....Neil Austin  
Thursday.....Marilou Chibber †  
Friday.....Gregory Yuen †  
Saturday 9:00am.....Rosa & Federico Labis †  
Saturday 5:00pm.....Holy Name Parish  
Sunday 9:00am.....David Chiu †  
Sunday 11:00am.....Tazal Azim †

# FOUR HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FROM DEC. 24 TO JAN. 1

*Choose one from each block:*

## **4th Sunday of Advent**

December 23: 5:00 pm  
*(anticipated Mass)*

December 24: 9:00 am

December 24: 11:00 am

## **Christmas Masses**

December 24: 5:00 pm  
*(caroling at 4:30 pm)*

December 24: 10:00 pm  
*(caroling at 9:30pm)*

December 25: 9:00 am

December 25: 11:00 am

## **Holy Family Sunday**

December 30: 5:00 pm  
*(anticipated Mass)*

December 31: 9:00 am

December 31: 11:00 am

## **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

December 31: 5:00 pm  
*(anticipated Mass)*

January 1: 10:00 am

*Note: There is only one morning Mass  
on New Year's Day.*

# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

## Week of December 31, 2023



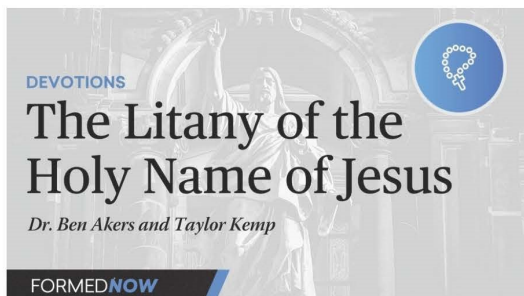
### New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



### The Holy Family

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



### Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.