



# OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30am - 4:00pm  
3055 Bloor St W, Etobicoke ON M8X 1C6  
416-231-6016 [office@sorrows.ca](mailto:office@sorrows.ca) [www.sorrows.ca](http://www.sorrows.ca)

## Mass Schedule

Weekdays (Monday-Saturday): 9:00am  
Saturday Vigil: 5:15pm  
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am\*, 11:00am, 12:30pm \*Children's Liturgy of the Word (ages 4-10 yrs.)

## Reconciliation

Monday: 7:00pm - 8:30pm  
Saturday: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

December 3, 2023

Fr. Chris Cauchi, Pastor

Gordon D. Mansell, M. Mus, Music Director

Call the office for info on:

### Sacrament of Baptism

Families must be registered, regularly attending Mass, supporting the good works of the church and involved in parish life. Parents are invited to attend a baptism preparation session offered on the third week of the month.

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

This program is for adults interested in joining the Catholic Church.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Parishioners must be registered and regularly attending Mass. Please contact us one year prior to your requested wedding date.

### Pastoral References

You must be a registered parishioner, attending Sunday Mass regularly, participating in the sacramental and pastoral life of the Church community, be serving in a parish ministry (e.g. lector, catechist) on an on going basis, and be in good canonical standing within the Church.

Society of St Vincent de Paul — OLS  
647-770-4805

### Our Lady of Sorrows School

[www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)

### Archdiocese of Toronto

[www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

### Catholic Cemeteries

[www.catholic-cemeteries.com](http://www.catholic-cemeteries.com)

## First Sunday of Advent

“Advent invites us to prepare ourselves for Christmas, welcoming Jesus without fear. If we open wide the doors of our life, everything takes on a new light and our family, work, suffering, health, friendship, become opportunities to discover His consoling presence.” - Pope Francis



### Reflection Questions:

- What are some specific things I can do to improve my prayer life during Advent?
- How can I be more generous through acts of charity, cultivating a spirit of compassion as I prepare to welcome Jesus?
- What actions can I take to make a true difference in the lives of others; to spread joy and love to those around me?

**Preparing for Christmas** Advent is a season in the Church's life intended to renew the experience of waiting, and longing, for the Messiah. Though Christ has already come into the world, the Church invites us to renew our desire for the Lord more deeply into our lives, and to renew our desire for Christ's triumphant second coming into the world.

Advent is the time in which we prepare for Christmas, the memorial of Jesus Christ being born into the world. Preparations can be practical -- like decorating a tree or stringing lights -- but they're also intended to be spiritual.

During Advent, we're invited to enter more frequently into prayer and reflection, into Scripture, and into the sacramental life of the Church - all to prepare for celebrating Christmas.

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Advent comes from the Latin ad+venire, which means, essentially “To come toward.” Advent is the season of arrival: The arrival of Christ in our hearts, in the world, and into God’s extraordinary plan for our salvation.

We invite you to visit <https://adventconspiracy.org> as a good resource to prepare for the season of Advent and to watch the first session Worship Fully, a short 6—minute reflection on preparing ourselves during Advent and choosing to make Christmas what it should be; a joyous celebration of Jesus’ birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us: <https://youtu.be/CTaM1J33Atk>

We will share links to a new video in the bulletin each week of Advent, leading up to Christmas.

**Second Collection this weekend: Christmas Gifts for the Poor** – Your support of this special collection benefits two important charities in our community: *Canadian Food for Children* and the *OLS Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul*. Please make any cheques payable to *Our Lady of Sorrows*.



**Altar Server Awards – Congratulations!** Each year, altar servers from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto are selected for a special recognition for their dedication and display of leadership. OLS Parish is pleased to congratulate ***Ella Chouinard*** and ***Sophia Lero***, OLS altar servers, who received their award on Saturday, Nov. 25th from Bishop Camilleri. Please join us in thanking these wonderful recipients. Congratulations!

We welcome all young girls and boys who have received their First Holy Communion (and older) to participate in this important leadership ministry! To learn more, please talk to Lucy after Sunday Mass or email: [Lucy@sorrows.ca](mailto:Lucy@sorrows.ca)

**Communion and Liberation Concert** - Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:00 pm in the church. All are welcome!

**ORGANIX – final concert** – Wednesday, Dec 13, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm - featuring organist Bill O’Meara. Free will offerings gratefully accepted. A reception in the parish hall will follow the concert celebrating the close of 18 years of Organix Concerts.

**OLS Christmas Concert** – Sunday, Dec 17, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, Free-will offerings in support of the *Out-of-the-Cold* program administered by All Saints Kingsway. The concert will feature members of the OLS Adult and Junior Choirs with MOSAIC Canadian Vocal Ensemble, a String Quartet and Trumpeter.

**OLS Mental Health Initiative Group** – will host a Christmas Social on Wednesday, Dec. 13th, following the morning Mass and ending at 11:00 am. Let’s embrace the Christmas cheer as we come together for fellowship and community bonding. We offer complimentary coffee and tea for all to enjoy. To make this celebration even more special, we kindly request everyone bring a savoury or sweet dish to share. **Due to limited space, we kindly ask everyone planning to attend to please register for this event!** Please call or text Anne Marie at 416-559-9455 or email her at [Anzures64@hotmail.com](mailto:Anzures64@hotmail.com).

**All Day Advent Confessions at OLS** – Saturday, Dec. 16. Two priests will be available each hour, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. In addition to English-language confessions by all priests, a number of priests are also available to hear confessions in other languages:

9:30 am to 11 am	Fr. Martin Pereira	Fr. Edward Ewczynski * <i>Polish</i>
11 am to 1 pm	Fr. Antoine Badr * <i>French, Italian, Arabic</i>	Fr. Frank Carpinelli * <i>Italian</i>
1 pm to 3 pm	Fr. John Vetere	Fr. Thomas Rosica * <i>French, Italian, Spanish</i>
3 pm to 5 pm	Msgr. Joseph Shiels	Fr. Jan Kolodynski * <i>French, Italian, Polish</i>

\**Languages spoken in addition to English*

**2024 Parish Calendars.** A limited number are still available in the Bloor foyer. The parish supports Catholic Missions in Canada in order to offer these calendars at no cost to parishioners.

**2024 Donation Envelopes** – Pick your box up at church. Starting next weekend, you can **pick up** your 2024 OLS weekly donation envelopes in the church entrance. **NEW this year:** envelopes will not be mailed out to parishioners. You will not have your assigned number from last year; simply pick up a box and begin using your new numbered envelopes beginning on January 1, 2024. This helps OLS save \$8,000 in mailing and production costs.

Please write your name & address on the first few envelopes, and that number will be assigned to you for 2024. Please continue to include your name or address and the amount on the envelope throughout the year, to assist staff in verification.

If you have not used envelopes for your donations before, now's the time to start! We invite you to begin using envelopes to make your charitable donations count in 2024. All donations will be included in a donation receipt for the calendar year. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

**Adopt a Family for Christmas through the Society of St Vincent de Paul.** With the rising costs of just about everything, many of our neighbours who use the services of St Vincent de Paul, can only dream about their children opening presents on Christmas Day. We can change this! Share your Christmas spirit with our neighbours-in-need by adopting one of them. We have singles, seniors and families with teenagers who need your help. At this time, our greatest need is for donations that will go towards food vouchers. You can contribute as family, an office, or on your own. Tax receipts available. Please email [olschristmas@gmail.com](mailto:olschristmas@gmail.com) or call 647-770-4805.

**OLS Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain and France.** *Information and registration meeting – Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 pm in the parish hall.* This pilgrimage, under the spiritual leadership of Fr Chris Cauchi, will be from September 22 to October 5, 2024 (14 days). Please visit <https://bit.ly/46S4T3V> for the detailed itinerary or call Halina at 647-294-4116 for more information.

**ShareLife!** While we have now reached this year's parish goal thanks to the generosity of many, the needs in the community are greater this year than ever. For those who make their donations at year end, your donation will go twice as far this month, to help fund the increased pledge made by ShareLife to address food insecurity. All gifts up to \$500,000 will be matched until Dec. 31!

**2023/2024 Sunday Missals - available for purchase in the Bloor foyer book rack - \$7.00 each.** Please put the payment envelope into the collection basket or drop it through the mail slot in the front door of the parish office.

**Archdiocesan Consultation on Pastoral Planning.** Archbishop Francis Leo is inviting the Catholic community to share thoughts and ideas regarding future pastoral planning in the Archdiocese of Toronto. Feedback will help inform a renewed Pastoral Plan to be used in the years ahead. To learn more and complete the short survey by December 15, 2023, please visit: [www.archtoronto.org/consultation](http://www.archtoronto.org/consultation).

**2023 OLS Annual Building Committee Report.** This weekend's bulletin insert (after the advertising page) provides a detailed report of the important work that has been completed to repair the Bell Tower in 2023, along with an overview of the project plans underway for 2024. Your ongoing support towards our "Roof / Maintenance" monthly collection this weekend is appreciated.

<b>Nov 27 to Dec 3</b>		<b>Mass Intentions</b> FOR THE WEEK
<b>Mon.</b>	†Seamus Tierney by Ursula Matthews	
<b>Tues.</b>	†Simplicio Tagle by Manion Family	
<b>Wed.</b>	†Desmond McCann by Christine McCann and Family	
<b>Thurs.</b>	†Rita Antonacci by Family	
<b>Fri.</b>	†Mario & †Norina Bulfon by McCarron/ Bulfon Family	
<b>Sat</b>	†Barbara Hansel Oratowska by Dariusz and Leszek	
<b>Sat. 5:15pm</b>	†Wayne Dusk by Family	
<b>Sun. 8:00am</b>	†Bibiana Dalusong by Eileen Dalusong	
	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Intentions	
	<b>11:00am</b> †Goseco, †Valencia & †Feliciano Families by Linda Feliciano	
	<b>12:30pm</b> †Yong Tjan by Lisa Tjan & Family	



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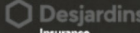
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## OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH Annual Building Committee report – 2023

We are pleased to provide this year-end update of the important building and maintenance projects undertaken at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in 2023 and also share information about what's in the planning stages for 2024.

Similar to any beautiful old house and property, there is always more work than resources and time. The OLS Building Committee takes a thoughtful approach to the long list of possible projects in and around the church buildings and property. Restoration and prevention are the two key filters that help focus which projects need to be prioritized and completed first.



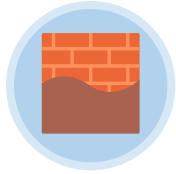
### **2023 Building Committee Priorities**



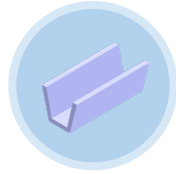
During 2023, the most urgent items focused on waterproofing the parish buildings. Over the years, the elements have caused deterioration and ongoing water damage in the Bell Tower itself as well as to areas in the church building below. As a result, these repairs were prioritized.



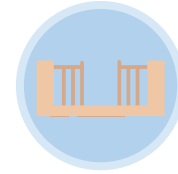
The Bell Tower work in 2023 came under Phase II of the OLS Church Roof & Masonry Project. (Phase I included masonry repair and flat roof replacement at the south end of the Church.) The work completed in 2023 includes:



Repaired the interior damaged masonry



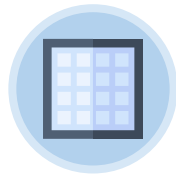
Repaired downspouts and eavestroughs to ensure proper drainage



Replaced the deck of the tower roof floor



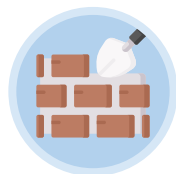
Expanded the size of the hatches to allow for safer access



Installed screens on the Bell Tower arches to keep out wildlife

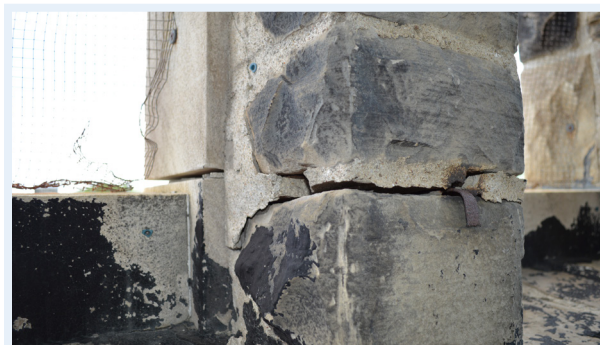


Added copper flashing to Bell Tower windowsills to prevent future deterioration

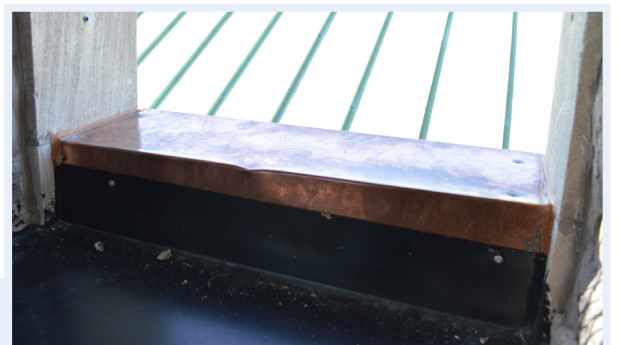


Completed “Pointing” of the exterior masonry at lower levels of the tower; cracked and disintegrated mortar joints were repaired

These before and after pictures illustrate how water, ice and snow have damaged the Bell Tower and eroded the masonry. The repair work completed has fixed the damage and provided a barrier against future problems.



Before



After

Waterproofing of the church and surrounding buildings has also been an important focus of work in 2023:

- Installed a roof drain to prevent pooling of water on the south flat roof,
- Replaced 2 flat roofs on the church that had reached the end of their life span,
- Completed “Parging” (coating applied to the above-grade portion of the foundation walls to defend against damage) and “Pointing” (repaired the cracked and disintegrated lower-level brick mortar joints) on the Running Room commercial building, the rectory/office building and the church.

### **2024 Building Committee Priorities**

For 2024, the main priority and areas of focus will continue to be the waterproofing of the parish buildings and work that relates to ongoing safety and security items.

With the continued support of parishioners, we are working towards completing the Church Roof / Masonry Project in 2024. The remaining items in the project include:

- repair flashing, gutters & stone caps around the church,
- copper roof repairs related to the snow guards,
- replacement of copper roof over front entrance,
- replacement of the exterior design feature at the top of the Bell Tower,
- replacement of the cross on top of the Bell Tower,
- masonry repair at higher elevations,
- treatment of the eroded limestone at the NE Bloor entrance.

In addition, painting and caulking the exterior of the stained-glass windows at the higher elevation is on the list for 2024. Many of the exterior lower windows were painted and caulked in 2022. Repairs to some outer glass of the stained-glass windows is also required.

With regards to safety and security, the following projects are being prioritized for 2024:

- replacement of the double wooden doors at the NE Bloor entrance (currently letting in rain & snow),
- replacement of the rectory front door (costs will be partially covered by a government security grant),
- repair of the patio stones in the piazza and some uneven sidewalks around the property.

In the coming months, the OLS Building Committee will continue to create detailed plans for the scope of work and timing and will solicit multiple quotes which will be reviewed by the Finance Council. Please continue to watch for the monthly maintenance updates in the last bulletin of each month for ongoing costing details, as well as the annual Financial Report to Parishioners (March/April).

The maintenance and repair projects completed in 2023 were funded in large part through your ongoing generous donations to the Roof / Maintenance collections over the past years.

OLS relies on your contributions as an important source of funding in order to complete the work planned for 2024. We are committed to being good stewards of your donations in order to keep our parish home in good repair so OLS can continue to be a place where our spiritual lives can thrive. During 2024, we will take up a dedicated 2nd collection each month towards the goal of completing the Roof Project. Thank you for your ongoing generous giving to the monthly OLS Maintenance fund.

Also, as the parish buildings age, some of the key operating systems in the church are coming to the end of their useful life. We are assessing these key systems -- the HVAC and sound systems, for example -- and will take time to review the scope and options to determine future funding needs.

If you have any question or comments, please contact Dolores Kwapien at [dolores@sorrows.ca](mailto:dolores@sorrows.ca) or 647-933-6212.