

St. John XXIII Parish

150 Gateway Blvd., Don Mills, ON M3C 3E2

Website: <https://stjohn23do.archtoronto.org>

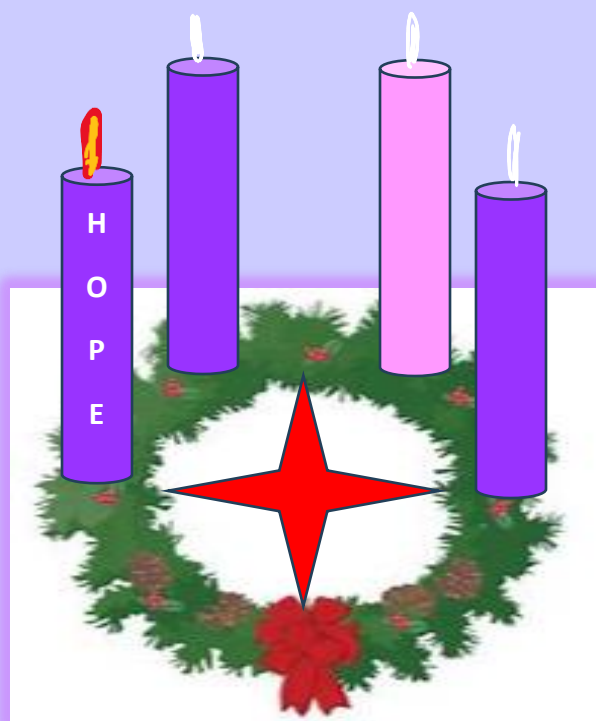
Email: stjohn23do@archtoronto.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



PARISH BULLETIN | 1st Sunday of Advent | 01 December 2024

2024 ADVENT



KEEP AWAKE AND BE ALERT

Welcome New Parishioners!

Please introduce yourself and your family to me before or after the mass to welcome you to our parish community.

All parishioners are encouraged to register in our community and participate in the church activities. We are here to support each other and grow in our relationship with God and with our neighbors.

For Registration form, ask anyone of the Ushers or Call the office.

Your Pastor,

Fr. David



Saturday Vigil Mass – 5:15pm

Sunday Mass –9am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm

Weekdays:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 7pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday – 9am

Baptism- every Saturday of the month.

Preparation class is required. Talk to Fr. David after any of the Sunday masses.

Confession every Saturday at 4pm or by appointment.

Confirmation - for Grade 7 & up
registration for 2025 is in the months of September and October 2024

First Holy Communion – for Grade 2 & up
registration for 2025 is on October and November 2024

Wedding – call the office for appointment

Anyone who wants to become

Catholic – call the office for appointment

Parish School-

St. John XXIII Catholic School

175 Grenoble Dr. North York, ON M3C 3E7

Tel. 416-393-5348

Archdiocese of Toronto-

Tel. 416-934-0606 *www.archtoronto.org

St. Ambrose Dec 7th

Pray for us.

“It is a better thing to save souls for the Lord than to save treasures.”



Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21.36

Today we begin the year of the Church 2024 -2025, with the period of Advent; a time of preparation, a time of "joyful expectation," in wait to celebrate Christmas; God revealed to humanity in his Son, Christ Jesus.

Each year the Church exalts us to awake, be attentive and contemplate anew the mystery of the Love of God. Traditionally the book of Prophet Isaiah is chosen mainly to alert us, to the prophesied Messianic age to come. This year we first hear from Prophet Jeremiah and the message is the same; The fulfillment of the Promise given to the People of God.

The days are surely coming, say the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ... In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness. Jeremiah 33:14-16

Ever since the fall of our first Parents, Adam and Eve, God did not abandon us. Out of Love, He has for us, He pursued us and at his chosen time, called Abraham to prepare for his physical presence in our human history. He prepared humanity through Israel, he spoke to humanity through His Prophets, until, in the time for his choosing he sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary, with the Message that would bring all to Fulfillment;

"You will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be Great and will be called Son of the Most High God. The Lord will give him the throne of his ancestor David." Luke 1:31-32

Today the Gospel Reading exalts us "to keep awake!"

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap ... Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength ... to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:34-35

The call is to be alert to participate anew in celebration of the time of our visitation. God comes and lives physically among us. This is a privilege we cannot ignore or afford to miss; It is of God's doing and an unfathomable blessing to those who believe.

In Exodus Chapter 33, Moses, whom God called "my intimate friend," pleads with God to him his glory; "Do let me see your glory," (vs 18) God replied, ***"I will make all my beauty pass before you and, in your presence, I will pronounce my name ... But my face you cannot see, for no man sees me and still lives."***

In advent we prepare to see you the Face of God, in the Face of Infant Jesus. This is the Privilege beyond every comprehension.

Let us then open the eyes in Faith to see God, who comes and lives among us. Let us allow ourselves to be molded into His Sons and Daughters through Christ Jesus! And let us ask him to fill our hearts with his joy, so that we may worship him, our Creator and Father, illumined by the privilege we are all immersed into;

"Philip, have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say 'show us the Father'? ... Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe because of the works themselves." John 14:8-11



The season of Advent



Compendium of the CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

“Jesus Christ was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the Virgin Mary”

85. Why did the Son of God become man?⁴⁵⁶⁻⁴⁶⁰
For us men and for our salvation, the Son of God became incarnate in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He did so to reconcile us sinners with God, to have us learn of God’s infinite love, to be our model of holiness and to make us “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4).

86. What does the word “Incarnation” mean?^{461-463, 483}
The Church calls the mystery of the wonderful union of the divine and human natures in the one divine Person of the Word the “Incarnation”. To bring about our salvation the Son of God was made “flesh” (John 1:14) and became truly man. Faith in the Incarnation is a distinctive sign of the Christian faith.

87. In what way is Jesus Christ true God and true man?^{464-467, 469}
Jesus is inseparably true God and true man in the unity of his divine Person. As the Son of God, who is “begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father,” he was made true man, our brother, without ceasing to be God, our Lord.

88. What does the Council of Chalcedon (in the year 451) teach in this regard?⁴⁶⁷
The Council of Chalcedon teaches us to confess “one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, perfect in his humanity, true God and true man, composed of rational soul and body, consubstantial with the Father by his divinity, and consubstantial with us by his humanity, ‘like us in all things but sin’ (Hebrews 4:15), begotten from the Father before all ages as to his divinity, and in these last days, for us and for our salvation, born of Mary, the Virgin and Mother of God, as to his humanity.”

89. How does the Church set forth the Mystery of the Incarnation?^{464-470, 479-481}
The Church confesses that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, with two natures, a divine nature and a human nature, not confused with each other but united in the Person of the Word. Therefore, in the humanity of Jesus all things - his miracles, his suffering, and his death - must be attributed to his divine Person which acts by means of his assumed human nature.

https://www.vatican.va/archive/compendium_ccc/documents/archive_2005_compendium

MASS INTENTIONS

- Nov 30-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass
+Lerma & Isagani Ayala
- Dec 01- Sun 9:00AM + The Parishioners
12:15 PM + Lily Madrid Gutierrez
5:30 PM Rosita Dacanay
- Dec 02 -Mon,7:00PM + Dolly Gonzalves
- Dec 03-Tue, 9:00 AM + Rosita Dacanay
- Dec 04 -Wed, 7:00 PM + Bernadette Reid
- Dec 05 -Thu, 9:00 AM + Seri Jacques Sukhabut
- Dec 06 -Fri, 7PM Thanksgiving-Johann/Sharon Fam
- Dec 07- Sat, 9:00 AM + Seri Jacques Sukhabut

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention – Nov 30-Dec 01, 2024

- Sanctuary--- Healing of Nelia Alzate
- Virgin Mary- Healing of Mary Ylagan
- Chapel ---- Healing of Nelia Alzate

WORD OF THE WEEK
“ADVENT”

-it is the beginning of the Catholic Church Liturgical Year. Dec 2024-Nov2025 is Year C.

Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). www.USSB.org

Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention – December 2024 – FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

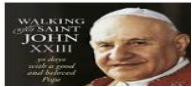
“We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.”



The season of Advent



Our Patron Saint...



“Never hesitate to hold out your hand; never hesitate to accept the outstretched hand of another.” Pope John XXIII

St. Ambrose Dec 7th

Ambrose was born into the aristocracy in Trier, Germany, about 340, and served the powerful Roman Empire. As governor, he intervened in a dispute over the election of the bishop of Milan. Although he was only a catechumen, the laity elected him as bishop. He hesitated at first, but later was baptized and ordained. Ambrose became a remarkable preacher and teacher of the faith. His most famous student was Augustine of Hippo, whom he baptized. Ambrose died in 397. In 1298 he was declared one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church (with Jerome, Augustine and Gregory I).

Living with Christ, Dec 2024 edition

PARISH DEVOTIONS

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion

-every Saturday before the 9am Mass

Recitation of the Holy Rosary

-before the Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

-Every 1st Friday at 6:00pm communal

Parish Ministries & Programs

- Eucharistic Extraordinary Ministers
- Lectors—Proclaimers of God’s words
- Altar Servers & Sacristans
- Ushers
- Catholic Women’s League
- Intercessory Prayer Group
- Legion of Mary
- Icon of Our Lady
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Seniors Breakfast Club

If you are interested to join, please email us at stjohn23do@archtoronto.org and we will direct you to the person leading these groups.

What unites us, is much greater than what divides us.” St. John XXIII

IN THE NEWS !!!



Pope Francis meets with a delegation from the University of Naples Federico II. (VATICAN MEDIA Divisione Foto)

Pope to healthcare workers: Your job goes beyond curing symptoms

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-11/pope-francis-italian-destists-curing-illnesses-tenderness.html>



POPE FRANCIS ELEVATES ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS

Sunday, October 06, 2024



INVITATION FROM ARCHBISHOP LEO TO LAUNCH THE ORDINARY YEAR OF JUBILEE – DECEMBER 29, 2024

Friday, November 29, 2024



CCCB PRESENTS "JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT" VIDEO SERIES

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/>

****click the link above to read the full text of the news****

Announcements!!!

- ✚ **2025 Donations Envelope are now ready for pick up;**
- ✚ **Calling all Confirmation Candidates the 2nd session is on Saturday December 14 at 11am;**
- ✚ **Parents of all First Holy Communion Candidates, please email the office to schedule your child for Test 1;**
- ✚ **New to the Parish? Please register, fill up a Parish Registration Form and submit to the Office or to Fr. David.**



The season of Advent



The Liturgical Season of Advent

How did the celebration of Advent come about?

By Rev. William Saunders

The Liturgical season of Advent marks the time of spiritual preparation by the faithful before Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov 30). It spans four Sundays and four weeks of preparation, although the last week of Advent is usually truncated because of when Christmas falls.

The celebration of Advent has evolved in the spiritual life of the Church. The historical origins of Advent are hard to determine with great precision. In its earliest form, beginning in France, Advent was a period of preparation for the Feast of the Epiphany, a day when converts were baptized; so the Advent preparation was very similar to Lent with an emphasis on prayer and fasting which lasted three weeks and later was expanded to 40 days. In 380, the local Council of Saragossa, Spain, established a three-week fast before Epiphany. Inspired by the Lenten regulations, the local Council of Macon, France, in 581 designated that from Nov. 11 (the Feast of St. Martin of Tours) until Christmas fasting would be required on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Eventually, similar practices spread to England. In Rome, the Advent preparation did not appear until the sixth century, and was viewed as a preparation for Christmas with less of a penitential bent.

The Church gradually more formalized the celebration of Advent. The Gelasian Sacramentary, traditionally attributed to Pope St. Gelasius I (d. 496), was the first to provide Advent liturgies for five Sundays. Later, Pope St. Gregory I (d. 604) enhanced these liturgies composing prayers, antiphons, readings, and responses. Pope St. Gregory VII (d. 1095) later reduced the number of Sundays in Advent to four. Finally, about the ninth century, the Church designated the first Sunday of Advent as the beginning of the Church year.

The Catechism stresses the two-fold meaning of this “coming”: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming” (No.524).

Despite the “sketchy” history behind Advent, the importance of this season remains to focus on the coming of our Lord. (Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming”.)

[To continue reading the article, click this link below:](https://catholiceducation.org/en/culture/the-liturgical-season-of-advent.html#:~:text=In%20its%20earliest%20form%2C%20beginning%20in%20France%2C%20Advent,weeks%20and%20later%20was%20expanded%20to%2040%20days)

<https://catholiceducation.org/en/culture/the-liturgical-season-of-advent.html#:~:text=In%20its%20earliest%20form%2C%20beginning%20in%20France%2C%20Advent,weeks%20and%20later%20was%20expanded%20to%2040%20days>



The season of Advent



ARCHDIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!



ST. MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL

GLORIA! St. Michael's Choir School Christmas Concert at Massey Hall
Saturday, December 14 at 7 p.m.

St. Michael's Choir School presents GLORIA!

A magical blend of secular and sacred choral repertoire to usher in this Christmas season. A Toronto holiday tradition, this is the Choir School's 59th annual Christmas concert, packed with exceptional works including Vivaldi's *Gloria*, *Carol of the Bells* and *The Star Carol*. With close to 300 voices, five choirs consisting of students and alumni taking the stage, this year's programme is sure to be one of the best yet!

Tickets are now available at www.masseyhall.com. Please use Promo Code: STARLIGHT.

For more information, please call 416-397-6367.

OFFICE FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN UNITY & RELIGIOUS RELATIONS WITH JUDAISM

Re: Friars Student Writing Contest 2025 (Nov. 11, 2024–Jan. 13, 2025) "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26)
From: Fr. Luis M. Melo, Director, Office for Promoting Christian Unity & Religious Relations with Judaism

Dear Parish Clergy and Ministry Leaders,

I kindly request your support in promoting the Annual Friars Student Writing Contest within your parish. This is a part of our local commemoration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated globally from January 18 to 25 each year.

This year's resources were drafted by the Monastic Community of Bose in northern Italy and prepared by an international team appointed by the Vatican and World Council of Churches.

We would appreciate visibility be given to the contest by printing the poster and placing it in your church notice board. The poster is available at, <https://bit.ly/3XCGGgo>.

"Of particular importance in the promoting of a grass roots ecumenism is the connection between family, parish, school, different groups, associations, and ecclesial movements." (Ecumenical Directory §65).

Please consider the following in your bulletin/parish website and kindly make an announcement from the pulpit:

Friars Student Writing Contest 2025 (November 11, 2024 - January 13, 2025)
Theme: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26)

High school students aged 13 to 19 from the Catholic School Boards in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event, which honours the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity taking place from January 18 to 25.

Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2025 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions.

Students are encouraged to explore the resources at <https://bit.ly/3zOVHly> to gain insight into the meaning and purpose of the theme. They should also refer to the focus question available on the poster at <https://bit.ly/3XCGGgo>. Entries are to be submitted at <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

Email ecumenical@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 ext. 527 with any questions, or for more information.



The season of Advent

