

St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

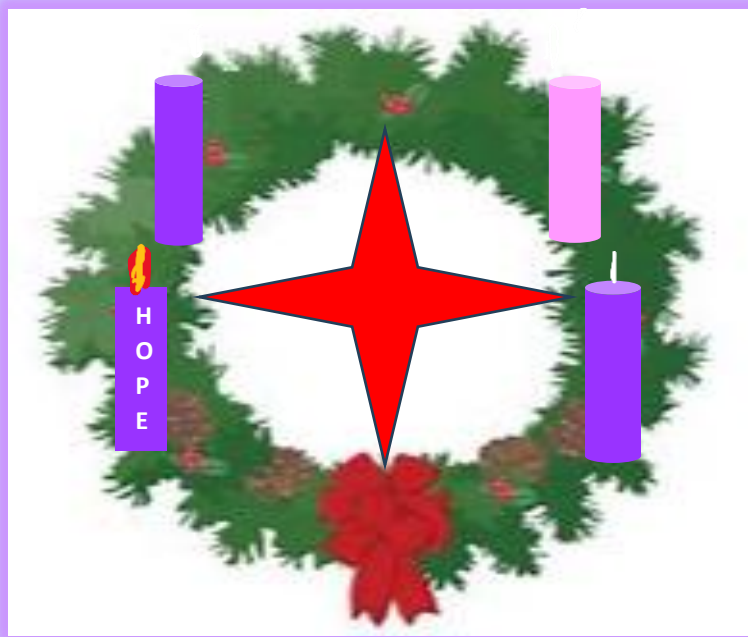
Email: stjohn23do@archtoronto.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



PARISH BULLETIN | 1st Sunday of Advent | 30 November 2025

2025 ADVENT



"Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

Matthew 24:42

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 2026 is in the months of August and September 2025

First Holy Communion – for Grade 2 & up
registration for 2026 is in the months of August and September 2025

Wedding – Talk to Fr. David after any of the Sunday Masses

Anyone who wants to become

Catholic – Talk to Fr. David after any of the Sunday Masses

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

Bl. Charles de Foucauld Dec 1st

Pray for us.

"My God, if you exist, let me come to know you."



***“Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know
on what day your Lord is coming.”*** *Matthew 24.42*

“O come, O come Emmanuel.”

Today we begin the year of the Church 2025 - 2026, with the period of Advent. It's a time of preparation and a time of “joyful expectation,” in wait to celebrate Christmas.

Each year the Church exalts us to awaken and contemplate anew the mystery of the love of God. Traditionally the book of Prophet Isaiah is mainly chosen to alert us to the messianic age.

In the 1st Reading today, as Israel thirsts for God, Prophet Isaiah, son of Amos foresees in a vision, the days of the Messiah;

“In those days ... the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above all hills; all Nations shall be streamed to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’” **Isaiah 2:1-3**

Ever since the fall of our first parents, Adam and Eve, God did not abandon us. Out of love, he pursues 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 through prophets, until, in the time for his choosing, he sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary, with the message that would be the 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” *“As in the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage until the day Noah entered the Ark and the floods came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.”* **Matthew 24:37-39**

The call is to keep awake, to be alert to participate yet again and celebrate the time of our visitation. God comes and lives physically among us. This is a privilege we cannot ignore; It is God's doing, to re-establish his relationship with us.

Let us open our eyes of faith to see God, who is always present and active in our lives. Let us allow ourselves to be molded into sons and daughters of God through Christ Jesus! Then we will be in joy, in the worship of him, Our Creator and Father, inviting all with the words of the responsorial psalm of today; ***“Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.”***



SEASON OF ADVENT



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Advent

“Come, Lord Jesus,”

2855 The final doxology, "For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever," takes up again, by inclusion, the first three petitions to our Father: the glorification of his name, the coming of his reign, and the power of his saving will. But these prayers are now proclaimed as adoration and thanksgiving, as in the liturgy of heaven.^{[176](#)} The ruler of this world has mendaciously attributed to himself the three titles of kingship, power, and glory.^{[177](#)} Christ, the Lord, restores them to his Father and our Father, until he hands over the kingdom to him when the mystery of salvation will be brought to its completion and God will be all in all.^{[178](#)}

1040. The Last Judgment will come when Christ returns in glory. Only the Father knows the day and the hour; only he determines the moment of its coming. Then through his Son Jesus Christ he will pronounce the final word on all history. We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvellous ways by which his Providence led everything towards its final end. the Last Judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures and that God's love is stronger than death. [626](#)

1041 The message of the Last Judgment calls men to conversion while God is still giving them "the acceptable time, . . . the day of salvation."⁶²⁷ It inspires a holy fear of God and commits them to the justice of the Kingdom of God. It proclaims the "blessed hope" of the Lord's return, when he will come "to be glorified in his saints, and to be marvelled at in all who have believed."⁶²⁸

To read more click this link. [Catechism of the Catholic Church - IntraText](#)

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 29-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass + Randy Goertzen

Nov 30- Sun 9:00AM + Ricardo Balatbat

12:15 PM + The Parishioners

5:30 PM +Deceased Members Abordo Family

Dec 01 -Mon,7:00PM Intention of Christina Miguel

+ Marilou de Leon Hernandez

Dec 02-Tue, 9:00 AM + Lily Madrid Gutierrez

Healing of Dr. Mario & Perla Andres

Dec 03 -Wed, 7:00 PM + Glicerio delos Santos

Dec 04 -Thu, 9:00 AM + A. Kamal Rai

+ Ronald Macaraeg

Dec 05 -Fri, 7:00 PM + Sherman Loney

+ Segundina Nunez David

Dec 06-Sat,9:00AM +Mercedes & Leonardo Sr Alon

Healing of Dr. Mario & Perla Andres

[illegible]

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention – Nov 29-Dec 05, 2025

Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Hayde

Virgin Mary- + Leoncio & Conchita Ayala

WORD OF THE WEEK

“ADVENT”

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.

-it is the beginning of the Catholic Church Liturgical Year. Dec 2025-Nov2026 is Year A.

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 (1k 21:34-36). www.USSB.org

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention - December 2025 - 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."



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

Bl. Charles de Foucauld Dec 1st

Bl. Charles de Foucauld was born in Strasbourg, France on Sept. 25, 1858. His father was in the military. Orphaned at the age of six, he and his sister Marie were raised by their grandfather. Charles joined the military, becoming an officer. When his grandfather died, Charles lost his faith.

Charles was discharged from the military for misconduct. At the age of 28, he regained his faith. After a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he decided to become a Trappist monk. He spent seven years as a Trappist monk, first in France and then in Syria. After deciding this was no longer God's will, he was released from his vows. He became a servant for a convent of Poor Clares and began studying for the priesthood. He was ordained in 1901 at the age of 43. He wished to work with the poor and abandoned. In an attempt to begin a religious order, he wrote a Rule for it to follow. However, he found few followers.

On Dec. 1, 1916, he was killed by a band of marauders who surrounded his house. Twenty years after his death religious orders began to form following his rule. The Little Brothers of Jesus, Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the Little Sisters of Jesus all follow the Rule written by Bl. Charles de Foucauld. An Association of diocesan priest known as Jesus Caritas also follow the spirituality of Bl. Charles de Foucauld.

He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2005. He is the patron of saint of diocesan priests. <https://catholicfaithpatronsaints.com/prayers-quotes-and-quotes-bl-charles->

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 in Türkiye: Let us build bridges of fraternity and peace

[Click to read the article: Pope in Türkiye: Let us build bridges of fraternity and peace - Vatican News](#)



YOUNG ADULTS GATHER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL ON 40TH WORLD YOUTH DAY
Wednesday, November 26, 2025



FOSTERING DIALOGUE AT THE CANADIAN BLACK CLERGIES & ALLIES PRAYER BREAKFAST
Tuesday, November 18, 2025



CARDINAL LEO'S MESSAGE FOR ADVENT
Thursday, November 20, 2025

[NEWS](#) [ARCHDIOCESAN](#) [NEWS](#) [CARDINAL LEO](#)

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

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

Announcements!!!

Registered Parishioners, if you have changes in your address, please email the office to update your information;

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.



SEASON OF ADVENT



≈ Did you know??? ≈

Why the color of Advent is purple?

Like the priest vestment is purple; The Altar cloth is purple; the 3 candles in the advent wreath are purple. Also, you will notice there is no flowers or plants in the altar and during the Mass, the Gloria or the Glory to God in the highest is not sung during Advent either.

Answer: All of these things are signs of the penitential nature of Advent and a reminder that, during Advent, the Christmas season hasn't started yet. Purple is the color of penance, preparation, and sacrifice, and the season was known as a "little Lent". That's why the penitential color of purple makes an appearance during Advent. During Advent, our thoughts, even on Sunday, are supposed to be on preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ, both at Christmas and at the Second Coming.

[Click this to learn more..Why Do Catholic Priests Wear Purple During Advent?](#)

Why Prepare for Advent?

We prepare for what we value. We clean the house before guests arrive. **"Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."** Luke 12.40

Suggestion to Prepare for Advent:

1. Set Up a Prayer Space
2. Learn About the Season
3. Practice Silence and Prayer
4. Create an Advent Calendar
5. Engage in Acts of Service
6. Reflect on Personal Growth
7. Go to confession

HOPE

The Advent theme of hope is the first focus of the season, setting the tone for a period of anticipation and expectation. This is Advent's first Sunday theme. Rooted in the promises of God, hope during Advent looks forward to both the celebration of Christ's birth and his eventual return.

What is the importance of hope during Advent?

Biblically, hope is a steadfast trust in God's faithfulness, seen in verses like **Jeremiah 29:11**— *"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, give you a future and a hope."* This hope encourages believers to trust in God's plan, even in uncertain times, just as God's people awaited a Savior in times of hardship.

In Advent, hope reminds us that God is with us and has promised a future filled with his presence and peace. Lighting the first Advent candle of hope serves as a reminder of the light that Jesus brings to a world in darkness. Embracing the theme of hope calls us to pray, reflect, and align our hearts with God's promises, looking forward to the joy of Christ's arrival at Christmas and his return at the end of time.

<https://ascensionpress.com/blogs/articles/what-are-the-4-advent-themes>



SEASON OF ADVENT



Cardinal Leo's Message for Advent



Message for Advent
30 November 2025
His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to you in anticipation of the upcoming **season of Advent**, a blessed time of waiting, expectation, and preparation for the coming of Christ and for the annual celebration of his Birth. As Pilgrims of Hope our Advent observances recall and solidify our hope in the loving mercy of God and in his abiding presence in our lives and in the life of the Church. We prayerfully recognize that Christ's coming - to Bethlehem, in the Eucharist, and at the end of time in glory - fulfills the deepest human desire for reconciliation (cf. St. Bernard of Clairvaux, *Adventu Domini*, Sermo V). To experience Advent during the Jubilee Holy Year is to allow the mystery of God's mercy to shape our waiting, so that we prepare not just for Christmas day and its beautiful celebrations and festivities, but for the fullness of life that Christ brings both now and at the end of time.

The Advent cry of the prophets - "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down" (*Is* 64:1) - expresses our longing for liberation and peace. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us: "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" (CCC 524). Similarly, our Jubilee observances also call for renewal and restoration, where debts are forgiven, prisoners are freed, and relationships are restored (cf. *Lev* 25:8-17). During this Holy Year, our longing becomes a lived experience, as we engage in spiritual works and works of charity, justice and mercy, symbolizing the passage from sin to grace, from fear to trust, from self-enclosure to communion with God and neighbour.

Each candle on the Advent wreath marks not only the weeks before Christmas but the stages of salvation history, thereby reminding us of the sacredness of time within God's plan. With the passage of time, we are called to cultivate hope, faith, joy in our hearts, to consider anew how we live as we engage in the jubilee practices of sacramental confession, holy communion, pilgrimage, prayer, and assistance to the needy. During this Year of the Lord's favour, our Advent waiting becomes active discipleship where our faith and hope are not just "informative" but "performative" as Pope Benedict XVI wrote a number of years ago (cf. *Spe Salvi*, 2).

Dear friends, as we mark the beginning of the new liturgical year, we cannot help but reflect on the passage of time and indeed on the fullness of time (cf. *Gal* 4:1-8). As we look forward to the fullness of God's promise, I invite you to take this sacred time to (i) rediscover the freshness of the Gospel by dedicating a few minutes each day in prayerfully reading a passage or two of the Word of God; (ii) let us be courageous and let go of any resentment we harbor towards others; (iii) let us be men and women of communion and forgiveness, always ready and active in bringing about unity among us, in our relationships, home and community. In doing so, we will note that our heart is opening more and more and making room for Christ to dwell therein. In this holy season of Advent, the Church waits not only for the birth of the Child Jesus in Bethlehem but for the rebirth of the human heart today - a true jubilee of grace, where hope becomes joy and waiting becomes mission. Wishing you all a blessed Advent season guided and accompanied by the powerful and maternal mediation of Our Lady of Advent.



SEASON OF ADVENT

