

St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

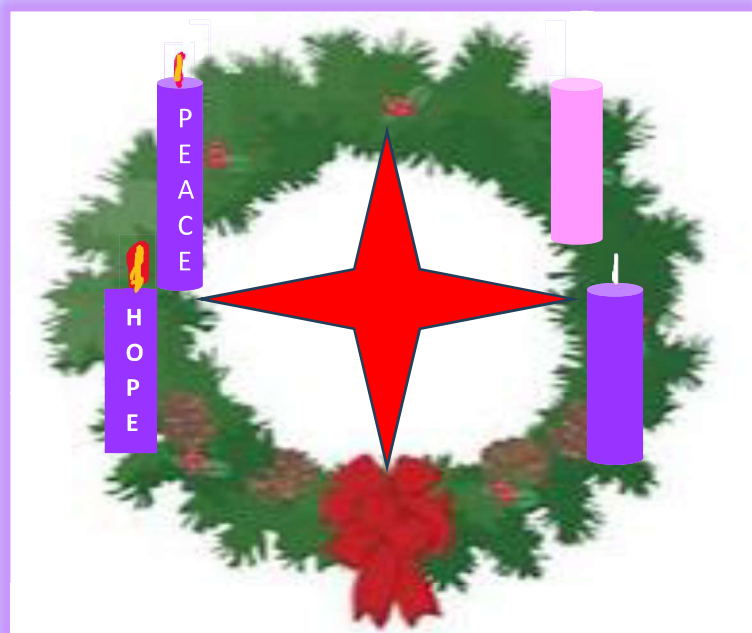
Email: stjohn23do@archtoronto.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



PARISH BULLETIN | 2nd Sunday of Advent | 07December 2025

2025 ADVENT



*"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."* Matthew 3:3

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

St. Ambrose Dec 7th Pray for us.

**"It is a better thing to save souls for the
Lord than to save treasures."**

**Letter of Frank Cardinal Leo regarding his support
of the Dec 4th letter of CCCB to PM Carney.**

...read in page 6



“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his Path straight.” Isaiah 40.3

People are already warmed up to the quick approaching Christmas; lights are up, and I bet many are busy looking for that gift which will manifest their Love and appreciation for the ones they love. Well, shopping and gifts are important but moments of reflection on who and what we are celebrating can also built us. Gifts manifests love and Christmas celebrates love. At Christmas, we shall be God’s Instruments of this Love.

In the First Reading this Sunday, Prophet Isaiah is addressing Israel, the chosen People, the beloved of the Lord. He reminded them of truth that hurt; They had forgotten God who loved them; ***“You have forgotten the Lord your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth.”*** Isaiah pointed out to Israel the consequence of Life without God; Israel had decayed into a lifeless stump of a Tree.

But Isaiah had a Message of Hope for his People; God was going to intervene; ***“A Shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of this root.”***

The King to arise, through God’s intervention, would not be ordinary, for; ***“the spirit of the Lord would rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel, knowledge and Fear of God.”***

This King, envisioned by Isaiah, would bring the world as known back to Eden; A paradise, as it was at Creation; ***“The Wolf shall dwell with the Lamb, and leopard with a kid, the calf with the Lion and a little child will lead them! The cow and the bear shall feed together and their young shall lie together! The Lion shall eat the straw like an ox and a child shall put this hand in the snake’s den and they shall not be hurt!”*** There will be the perfect harmony again, between God and His Creation: A return to Paradise; ***“For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.”***

The Gospel Reading today, reveals that the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy had come. John the Baptist was Prophet Elijah that had come back to life. He was, ***“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his Path straight.”*** John the Baptist called his contemporaries to prepare for the coming of the Lord; ***“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,”*** he challenged them. He announced a Baptism of water as a sign of repentance!

Brothers and Sisters, we are the new people of God, born of the water and the Holy Spirit. In Baptism we received the Life of God becoming his adopted sons and daughters. In this privilege, as sons and daughters in Christ Jesus, we are destined for the Kingdom with the Father!

John the Baptist warns against the comfort of entitlement. The old Israel, felt entitled as sons and daughters of Abraham, to be heirs of the promise. This led many, like the Pharisees and Sadducees, to an arrogance; A pride that ended up in self-worship. John the Baptist called them “brood of vipers!” “Evil people!” He challenged them to “bear Fruits that befit their repentance.”

Many of us are witnesses to many Advents and maybe we consider this “just another one.” We can be tempted to be comfortable that we have done enough. The question then becomes; Can a son or a daughter do enough, when, the One beaconing is the Creator and the Loving Father?

The time of bearing Fruits is now; John the Baptist tells us; ***“For the ax is already laid at the root of the tree!”*** May the Lord intervene in our lives and strengthen our Love, Faith and Hope.



SEASON OF ADVENT



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

I. What is This Sacrament Called?

1423 It is called the sacrament of conversion because it makes sacramentally present Jesus' call to conversion, the first step in returning to the Father⁵ from whom one has strayed by sin.

It is called the sacrament of Penance, since it consecrates the Christian sinner's personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction.

1424. It is called the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. In a profound sense it is also a "confession" - acknowledgment and praise - of the holiness of God and of his mercy toward sinful man. It is called the sacrament of forgiveness, since by the priest's sacramental absolution God grants the penitent "pardon and peace."⁶

It is called the sacrament of Reconciliation, because it imparts to the sinner the love of God who reconciles: "Be reconciled to God."⁷ He who lives by God's merciful love is ready to respond to the Lord's call: "Go; first be reconciled to your brother."⁸

II. Why a Sacrament of Reconciliation after Baptism?

1425 "YOU were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."⁹ One must appreciate the magnitude of the gift God has given us in the sacraments of Christian initiation in order to grasp the degree to which sin is excluded for him who has "put on Christ."¹⁰ But the apostle John also says: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."¹¹ and the Lord himself taught us to pray: "Forgive us our trespasses,"¹² linking our forgiveness of one another's offenses to the forgiveness of our sins that God will grant us.

1426 Conversion to Christ, the new birth of Baptism, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Body and Blood of Christ received as food have made us "holy and without blemish," just as the Church herself, the Bride of Christ, is "holy and without blemish."¹³ Nevertheless the new life received in Christian initiation has not abolished the frailty and weakness of human nature, nor the inclination to sin that tradition calls concupiscence, which remains in the baptized such that with the help of the grace of Christ they may prove themselves in the struggle of Christian life.¹⁴ This is the struggle of conversion directed toward holiness and eternal life to which the Lord never ceases to call us.¹⁵

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 06-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass + Reynaldo Pinon

Dec 07- Sun 9:00AM +Gregorio & Elena Cabungcal

12:15 PM + Ruby Socorro Baringuel

5:30 PM + The Parishioners

Dec 08 -Mon,7:00PM + George Chen

+ Teodora Jardio

Dec 09-Tue, 9:00 AM + Consolacion Rojas

Intention of Carina for Carliy Estonis

Dec 10 -Wed, 7:00 PM + Gregorio & Celestina

+ Ruperto Frilles

Dec 11 -Thu, 9:00 AM + A. Kamal Raj

Dec 12 -Fri, 7:00 PM + Francesca & Pietro Gulli

Dec 13-Sat,9:00AM + Ofelia Monzod

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention – Dec 06-Dec 12, 2025

Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Cora de Villa

Virgin Mary- Thanksgiving of Cora de Villa

WORD OF THE WEEK

“REPENTANCE”

Repentance, from the perspective of the Roman Catholic Church, is a fundamental concept in the Christian faith that involves acknowledging one's sins, feeling genuine sorrow for them, and turning away from sinful behaviors with the intention of seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

-Elements of repentance:

- * Recognition of Sin
- * Contrition
- * Confession
- * Amendment of Life
- * Penance
- * Reconciliation
- * Closing Thoughts

To read more...click the link [What is Repentance?](#)

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...



"It is now for the Catholic Church to bend herself to her work with calmness and generosity. It is for you to observe her with renewed and friendly attention." 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 bishop. He hesitated at first. 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 December 2025 edition

IN THE NEWS !!!



Pope Leo: 'In the poor, the Lord continues to speak to us'

Click the link to read [Pope Leo: 'In the poor, the Lord continues to speak to us' - Vatican News](#)



IN LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL, CARDINAL LEO AFFIRMS CONCERNS OF CANADIAN BISHOPS RE BILL C-9

Friday, December 05, 2025



CANADIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS WRITE TO PRIME MINISTER RE: PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Thursday, December 04, 2025



CARDINAL LEO'S MESSAGE FOR ADVENT

Thursday, November 20, 2025

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

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



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

Announcements!!!



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



Parents and First Holy Communion Candidates, please email the office to schedule for Test 1;



Third Confirmation Session on Saturday December 14th at 11am, candidates and parents please come on time.



SEASON OF ADVENT



≈ Did you know??? ≈

What is the Advent Wreath for?

Answer: The Catholic Advent wreath is a cherished tradition observed during the weeks leading up to Christmas. The Advent wreath serves as a spiritual compass for our journey in preparation toward the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. The Candles represent Jesus' coming as the light in the darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings us a little more light in the darkness. The four candles symbolize: hope, peace, joy and love and a white candle is sometimes lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. The wreath is a circle of evergreen to symbolize the passing of time and eternal life. The shape of the wreath, with no beginning and no end, reflects the complete and endless love that Jesus has for us. During the Advent Season, we eagerly anticipate the coming of Jesus and the promise of eternal life with Him in heaven. Three candles are purple, and lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle is rose/ pink, and lit on the third Sunday of Advent. The traditional color of Advent, purple represents a time of prayer, penance, sacrifice (like giving something up for Lent), and spiritual reflection, in preparation for the Coming of the Christ Child. Purple is also the color of royalty and Christ's sovereignty. The Candles are lit on sequential Sundays through Advent.

1st Candle which is purple represents **HOPE**

2nd Candle also purple represents **PEACE**

3rd Candle which is Rose/Pink represents **JOY**

4th Candle which is Purple represents **LOVE**

[Click this to learn more.. advent-wreath-tradition-and-prayer-services.pdf](#)

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

PEACE

The Advent theme of peace centers on the tranquility and wholeness that Jesus brings to the world. Celebrated during the second week of Advent, peace reminds us that Christ's coming is meant to reconcile humanity with God and with one another. In Scripture, peace is more than just the absence of conflict—it's a deep, lasting harmony rooted in God's presence.

What is the importance of peace during Advent?

Isaiah 9:6 foretells Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," whose kingdom will bring justice and peace to all who follow him. This is a common [Scripture verse to read during Advent](#).

As we light the second Advent candle, we reflect on the ways Jesus calls us to be peacemakers in our lives, showing kindness, understanding, and forgiveness to others. Advent peace encourages us to let go of our anxieties, trusting in God's love and guidance.

To read more.... Click the link below from [Ascension.com](#)

[What Are the 4 Advent Themes? – Ascension](#)



SEASON OF ADVENT





5 December 2025

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to you today to convey my support of the 4 December [letter](#) to Prime Minister Carney issued by the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) concerning proposed amendments to Bill C-9 and the possible removal of the long-standing “good faith” religious-text defence in the Criminal Code.

As Catholics, we must always firmly reject all forms of hatred and discrimination, and we stand in solidarity with those who suffer from violence, intimidation, or prejudice. Our faith calls us to uphold the dignity of every human person and to contribute to a society marked by justice, peace, and respect for all.

At the same time, the concerns [highlighted](#) by the CCCCBB deserve serious attention. The ability to express and teach our faith freely—without fear that sincere, good-faith proclamation of the Gospel might be misunderstood as unlawful—is a cornerstone of a healthy, democratic Canada. Removing this narrow but important safeguard risks creating uncertainty for clergy, educators, and all people of faith who seek to pass on the teachings of the Church with charity and integrity.

I encourage you to read the [CCCCB Permanent Council’s letter](#) in full and to stay informed about the discussions surrounding Bill C-9. I also ask that you join me in praying that our elected officials will work collaboratively with religious communities and legal experts to ensure that efforts to curb hatred do not unintentionally undermine the constitutional freedoms that allow people of all faiths to flourish in our country.

I am sharing this letter and the communication from the Permanent Council of the CCCCBB with every elected Member of Parliament in the Archdiocese of Toronto so that they are aware of our deep concerns. You are also encouraged to respectfully contact your own Member of Parliament (MP). You can find contact information for your local MP by clicking [here](#).

Let us continue to witness to Christ with confidence, compassion, and truth, trusting always in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Be assured of my continued gratitude and ongoing prayers for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely Yours in Jesus with Mary,

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

