

St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

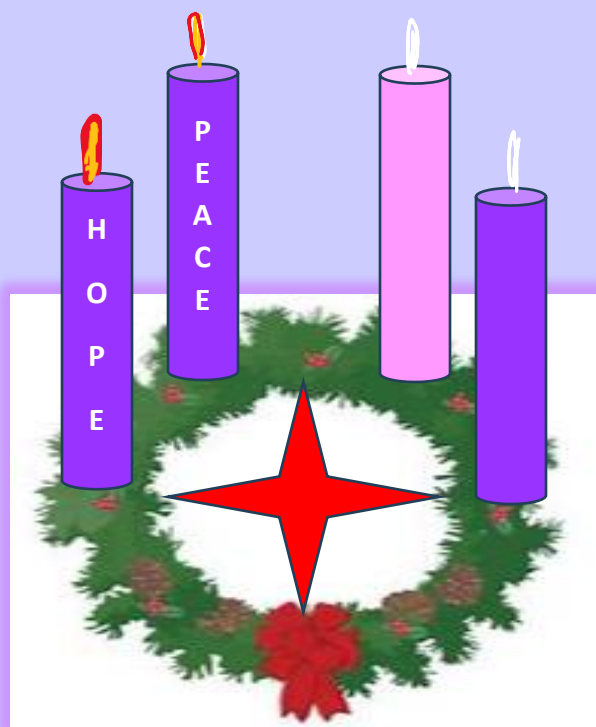
Email: stjohn23do@archtoronto.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



PARISH BULLETIN | 2nd Sunday of Advent | 08 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

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
will be celebrated on December 9th**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec 12th

Pray for us.

**“Do not be afraid, am I not
here with you?”**



John was “the Voice” of the One crying in the Wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord.” *Luke 3.1-6*

Today, we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent. In this time of preparation of the coming of Christ Jesus, the Lord, we have been taught that advent has three dimensions of our encounter with Christ. First, we are reminded of Christ’s coming in our human history in Bethlehem as a baby; second, we acknowledge his coming in our lives, daily, especially in liturgical celebrations we participate in. Finally, we are reminded of his second coming at the end of time.

Last Sunday, in the Gospel Reading, we were alerted with the events of the end of time and were challenged to be vigilant in prayer; **“Be on guard,”** we read, **“so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and worries of this life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. Be alert at all times and pray for strength to stand before the Son of Man.”** The Gospel, ended with a consolation; **“When you see these things happen, stand Erect and raise your heads because “your Redemption is Close at hand.”**

In the Gospel Reading, today, Luke, the Evangelist, takes us back to the events, when the Redemption of God were reaching its apex. St Luke begins by first underlining the reality of these Events of God being not only events of faith but real occurrences in our human history: It was the fifteenth year of the Reign of Emperor Tiberius and Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. For Luke, the emerging of John the Baptist was not by accident, it was a fulfillment of what had been foreseen and foretold by the Prophets; especially by Prophet Isaiah Is. 40:3-5; who prophesied the wondrous manifestation of redeeming presence of God.

John the Baptist was responding to the Heavenly Call. John was **“the Voice” of the One crying in the Wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord.”**

This was the Time which Prophet Baruch had foreseen and foretold in the first reading; a time of hope and jubilation for Jerusalem which lay in ruins and it’s Temple in ashes! This was the day, he prophesied that Jerusalem would arise in joy as she witnessed her sons and daughters, scattered throughout world, gather from west and from east.

This was the day, when the splendor of David’s loyal throne would be restored;

This is the moment when people would vest, not just in beautiful garments but in **“The beauty of the Glory of God.”**

These powerful images intended to manifest the Hope and Joy, the Peace and Consolation, that The Love and Mercy, God would bring. Not only to the descendants of Abraham by blood, but also to those He had revealed Himself to.

John the Baptist, fulfilled concretely “the Pursuit of God, for humanity.” John was assigned a “Mission” to prepare the way for the One who would reveal in fullness the ultimate generosity of God, revealing His Love for us.

The Question then becomes: As God, our Father pursues us today, are we open to his generous Love?

John the Baptist calls us to return to God and challenges us to be generous with our brothers and sisters; **“Anyone with two tunics, must share with the one who has none, and anyone with something to eat must do the same.”**

St. Paul on the other hand, in today’s 2nd reading prays for Love that governs all.



The season of Advent



Compendium of the CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

91. How did the two wills of the incarnate Word cooperate? 475, 482
 Jesus had a divine will and a human will. In his earthly life the Son of God humanly willed all that he had divinely decided with the Father and the Holy Spirit for our salvation. The human will of Christ followed without opposition or reluctance the divine will or, in other words, it was subject to it.

92. Did Christ have a true human body? 476-477 Christ assumed a true human body by means of which the invisible God became visible. This is the reason why Christ can be represented and venerated in sacred images.

93. What does the heart of Jesus exemplify? 478 Jesus knew us and loved us with a human heart. His Heart, pierced for our salvation, is the symbol of that infinite love with which he loves the Father and each one of us.

94. What is the meaning of the expression “conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit...”? 484-486 This expression means that the Virgin Mary conceived the eternal Son in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit without the cooperation of a man. The angel told her at the Annunciation that “the Holy Spirit will come upon you” (Luke 1:35).

95. “...Born of the Virgin Mary”: Why is Mary truly the Mother of God? 495, 509 Mary is truly the Mother of God because she is the Mother of Jesus (John 2:1, John 19:25). The One who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and became truly her Son is actually the eternal Son of God the Father. He is God himself.

96. What does the “Immaculate Conception” mean? 487-492, 508 God freely chose Mary from all eternity to be the Mother of his Son. In order to carry out her mission she herself was conceived immaculate. This means that, thanks to the grace of God and in anticipation of the merits of Jesus Christ, Mary was preserved from original sin from the first instant of her conception.

97. How does Mary cooperate in the divine plan of salvation? 493-494, 508-511 By the grace of God Mary was kept free from every personal sin her whole life long. She is the one who is “full of grace” (Luke 1:28), “the all holy”. When the angel announced to her that she would give birth to “the Son of the Most High” (Luke 1:32), she freely gave her consent with “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5). Mary thus gave herself entirely to the person and work of her Son Jesus, espousing wholeheartedly the divine will regarding salvation. [Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

MASS INTENTIONS

- Dec 07-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass
 +Mariano & +Teresa Cayetano
- Dec 08- Sun 9:00AM + Elena & +Gregorio Cabungcal
 12:15 PM + Perfecto & Aurora Edquiban
 5:30 PM + The Parishioners
- Dec 09 -Mon,7:00PM +Consolacion & Rodolfo Rojas
- Dec 10-Tue, 9:00 AM +Miriam Green
- Dec 11 -Wed, 7:00 PM + Francisco Lopez
- Dec 12 -Thu, 9 AM Thanksgiving-MaryAnn & Rene
- Dec 13 -Fri, 7:00 PM +Isaias & Eugenia Porte
- Dec 14- Sat, 9 AM Thanksgiving of Cel Macapagal

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention – Dec07- 13, 2024

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

WORDS OF THE WEEK

“IMMACULATE CONCEPTION”

-it is a dogma of faith that Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin.

No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary’s being conceived without inheriting Original Sin. www.USCCB.org

This year the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on December 9th, 2024 as the 2nd Sunday of Advent falls on Dec. 8th.

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

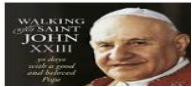
“We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.”



The season of Advent



Our Patron Saint...



"Peace is before all else an interior thing, belonging to the spirit, and its fundamental condition is a loving and filial dependence on the will of God." Pope John XXIII

Our Lady of Guadalupe *Dec 12th*

Today's memorial commemorates the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin in 1531 at Tepeyac, on the outskirts of Mexico City. Our Lady appeared four times, twice to aboriginal convert Juan Diego, with whom she left orders to build church and an imprint of her image on a cloak. This cloak, an object of great veneration, is preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe one of the major pilgrimage centres of North America. Devotion to Our Lady under this title has grown over the centuries and in 1946 Pius XII named her a patron of the Americas.

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 greets the Carmelite Sisters Messengers of the Holy Spirit. (VATICAN MEDIA Divisione Foto)

Pope: Gossip undermines preaching of the Gospel

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-12/pope-francis-carmelite-sisters-messengers-holy-spirit.html>



ELEVATION OF ARCHBISHOP LEO TO COLLEGE OF CARDINALS - WATCH LIVE
Thursday, December 05, 2024

NEWS | ARCHDIOCESAN | NEWS | ARCHBISHOP LEO



INVITATION FROM ARCHBISHOP LEO TO CELEBRATE THE ORDINARY YEAR OF JUBILEE - DECEMBER 29, 2024
Friday, November 29, 2024

NEWS | ARCHDIOCESAN | NEWS | EVENTS | ARCHBISHOP LEO



CCCB PRESENTS "JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT" VIDEO SERIES
Tuesday, November 26, 2024

NEWS | ARCHDIOCESAN | NEWS | FAITH REFLECTIONS AND HOMILIES | ARCHBISHOP LEO

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

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



Announcements!!!

- ✚ **2025 Donations Envelope are 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 to take 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



Advent Practices and Prayers

Over the centuries people have developed customs which help us to live according to the spirit of this season. You may want to try one or more of these in your home.

- *Advent wreath.* A wreath of evergreens with four candles is prepared. One candle is lighted on the first Sunday, and one more on each of the following Sundays.
- *Jesse tree.* A branch or large plant is decorated with symbols of Christ's ancestors. As each is prepared and hung, the story of this person is told.
- *Advent calendar.* We may make a calendar to mark the days as we move gradually to the celebration of our saviour's coming.
- *Cards.* When buying and sending Christmas cards, we make sure they reflect the meaning of the feast. It is the birth of Christ (not of Santa, reindeer, puppies, or snowmen) that we are celebrating.
- *Decorations.* Our home decorations may include a cross of lights in the window or near the tree.
- *Gifts.* Instead of being caught up in a whirl of spending, consider giving presents that you yourself make, knit, sew, cook, draw, write or construct. Give a book that will lead a person to reflect a little more. Make a donation to a worthy cause in someone's name. Write, call or visit someone who is sick or shut in.
- *Preparing the crib.* During the last few days before Christmas, we may prepare the crib in a place of honour in our home. It remains empty; the figures are not placed in it until Christmas comes.

Spiritual Renewal

Advent is a time for renewing our lives as followers of Jesus. We are invited to "make straight the way of the Lord" in our hearts and in our lives. Here are some practical suggestions for you and your family to consider:

Prayer: Why not try to begin or improve your prayer as individuals and as a family? Each of us could begin and end the day in prayer. As a family, we could pray together at least once a day. Try to pray grace before and after meals. Read the daily gospel reading and pray about it.

We may use these prayers during Advent:

- *The Lord's prayer*, especially: "May your kingdom come" and "your will be done".
- *Canticle of Zechariah* (Luke 1.68-79). We praise God for sending Jesus to save us.
- *Ps. 25* and *Ps. 85* are used often in the liturgy of this season.
- *Glory to the Father ...* We offer this prayer of praise to the Trinity living in our hearts.
- *Hail, Mary.* Based in part on Luke 1.28 and 42, this prayer ends with a petition for all people.

Eucharist: As well as taking part in the Sunday celebration, why not try to go to Mass more often during Advent? If someone is sick at home, arrange to have communion brought several times during this season.

Penance celebrations: In preparation for Christmas, it is good to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. A penance celebration is usually held in each parish and community to help us reflect on our life and come to repentance. We may celebrate the sacrament at the same celebration or at a later time.

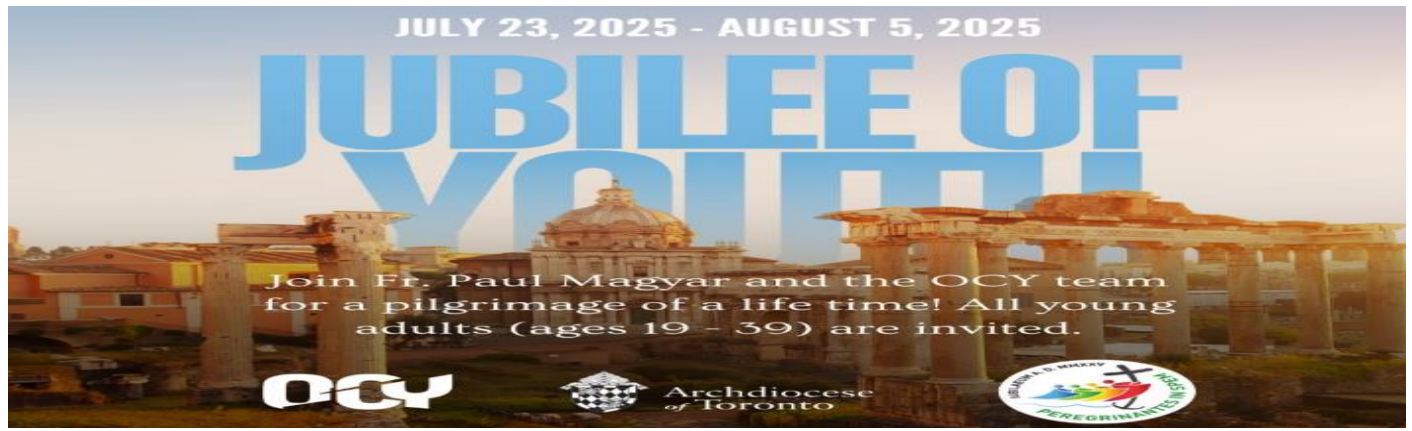
<https://www.cccb.ca/document/advent-hope-and-joy/>



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.

