

St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

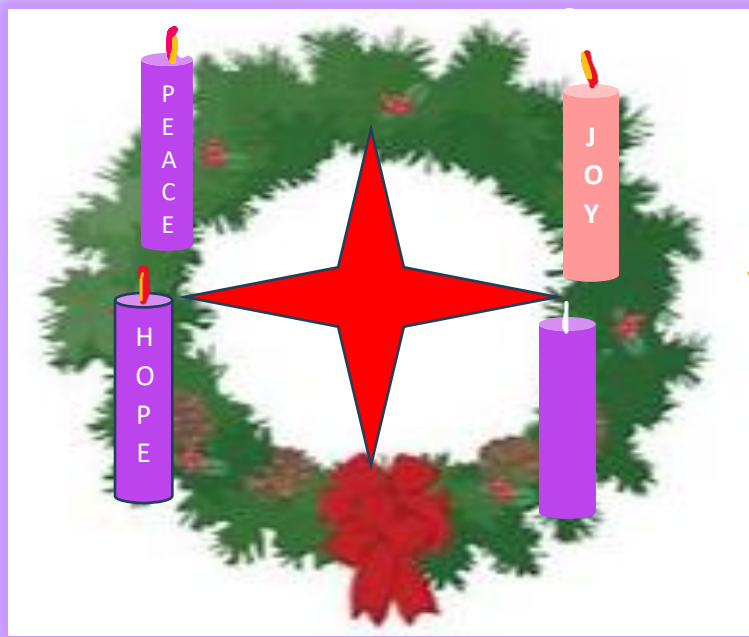
Email: stjohn23do@archtoronto.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



PARISH BULLETIN | GAUDETE SUNDAY | 14December2025

2025 ADVENT



*"Are you the one who is to come,
or are we to wait for another."*

Matthew 11:2

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. John of the Cross Dec 14th

Pray for us.

**"Never give up prayer, and should
you find dryness and difficulty,
persevere in it."**



“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice; Indeed, the Lord is near.” *Philippians 4.4*

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice; Indeed, the Lord is near.”

This is the entrance antiphon in all the Masses celebrated this third Sunday of Advent; it is a call to rejoice. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin verb **Gaudere**; “to rejoice.” The Church is calling on her sons and daughters to be joyful. The question then can be asked; why be joyful?

In Exodus chapter 33, when the Lord, in his great generosity summoned Moses, his friend into his presence, Moses was there for forty days and nights. Towards the end of the visitation, Moses pleaded with God to show him his face; ***“Lord, show me your glory.”*** The Lord responded, ***“I will make all my goodness pass before you, ... but ... you cannot see my face; for no man shall see me, and live.”***

At Christmas, this privilege that was denied Moses was granted to humanity for in the face of Baby Jesus we see the Face of God. This is why; we should rejoice as we prepare to encounter God’s greatest gift; Christ our Saviour.

God loves us and this is expressed by Isaiah, the prophet in the first reading. Isaiah reveals to us, that even creation rejoices in its maker. Isaiah encourages us to uplift the weak, those whose knees are feeble; those whose hearts are fearful; ***“Say to them; be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.”***

Yes, this is the cause of our unhindered joy; God is in our midst, in the person of Christ Jesus. Jesus in the Gospel reading today, affirms that he is the fulfillment of God’s promise. This is, in answer, to his John the Baptist’s question; ***“Are you the One who is to come, or should we wait for another?”***

Jesus replied, ***“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind received their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.”***

Jesus revealed to John, the Baptist, that he is the fulfillment Isaiah 35:1-6; ***“Behold your God will come ... He will come and save you ... the eyes of the blind will be opened”***

The One who has come among us, to save us, is God. May we find Joy, a new, in this realization.

In the opening prayer of today’s Mass we asked, ***“that we may attain the joys of so great a salvation and celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.”*** May, Christ bless you with his peace that we may be always joyful.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice.”



SEASON OF ADVENT



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

II. THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' INFANCY AND HIDDEN LIFE

The preparations

522 The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "First Covenant".¹⁹⁵ He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.

523. St. John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way.^{[196](#)} "Prophet of the Most High", John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last.^{[197](#)} He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being "the friend of the bridegroom", whom he points out as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world".^{[198](#)} Going before Jesus "in the spirit and power of Elijah", John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.^{[199](#)}

524 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 Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.²⁰⁰ By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."²⁰¹

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 13-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass + The Parishioners

Dec 14- Sun 9:00AM +A Kamalraj

12:15 PM + Richard McNeilly

5:30 PM + Alfred & Ethelda Puncion

Dec 15 -Mon,7:00PM + Edgar Sunga

Dec 16-Tue. 9:00 AM + Adelaida Reyes Tanchico

Dec 17 -Wed, 7:00 PM + Linda Kabigting

Dec 18 -Thu, 9:00 AM + Bienvenido Macaraeg

Dec 19 -Fri. 7:00 PM + Mercedes & Leonardo Sr Alon

Dec 20-Sat.9:00AM Thanksgiving of Nelja Alzate

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention

Dec 13-Dec 19, 2025

Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Gemma Cabungcal

Virgin Mary- Healing of Mary Ylagan

WORD OF THE WEEK

“GAUDETE”

It is a Latin word which means "rejoice".

Why do we light a rose/pink candle on the third week of Advent?

The Catholic Church uses the color rose to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday. Gaudete Sunday's counterpart in Lent is Laetare Sunday, another break in penance to rejoice in hope as we approach Easter. During both days, a priest will usually wear rose vestments.

To read more...click the link [What is Gaudete Sunday? Learn why the Third Sunday of Advent is special](#)

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...



"Do not walk through time without leaving worthy evidence of your passage." Pope John XXIII

St. John of the Cross Dec 14th

John was born in 1542 at Fontiveros, Spain. He entered the Carmelite community and was ordained in 1567. With the great Carmelite mystic, Teresa of Avila, he worked for the reformation of his order, and helped found the reformed ('Disalced') Carmelites. During his life, he suffered much, enduring imprisonment, humiliation and ill-treatment. His writings are both classics of spirituality and of Spanish literature. His best-known works are *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *The Dark Night of the Soul*, and *The Living Flame of Love*. He died in 1591, was canonized in 1726 and proclaimed Doctor of the Church in 1926. *Living with Christ December 2025 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: Intelligence agencies must serve peace and never lose sight of human dignity

[Pope: Intelligence agencies must serve peace and never lose sight of human dignity - Vatican News](#)



CARDINAL LEO AFFIRMS CONCERNS OF CANADIAN BISHOPS RE: BILL C-9
Friday, December 05, 2025



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




2025 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Friday, December 12, 2025


<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??? ≈

Who is the cousin of Jesus who prepare the way of His ministry?

Answer: John the Baptist is the cousin of Jesus. John was the son of Zachariah and Elizabeth who was a cousin of Mary. He is known as the precursor to Jesus.

What are the words of Jesus about John the Baptist as described in today's Gospel?

Answer:

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist;" [Matthew 11:11](#)

Was John the Baptist prophesied in the Old Testament?

Answer:

Yes. In Isaiah 40:3-5, Isaiah prophesied, "A voice cries out, 'Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God!' which is understood to refer to John the Baptist.

Also in Malachi 3:1, "I will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to his Temple.

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](#)

JOY

The Advent theme of joy is celebrated during the third week, known as Gaudete Sunday, a Latin term meaning "rejoice." Joy is central to Advent, as it reflects the excitement and gratitude for the coming of Jesus, who brings salvation to the world. This joy isn't merely happiness—it's a profound, resilient gladness rooted in God's love and promises.

What is the importance of joy during Advent?

In Luke 2:10, the angel announces Jesus' birth to the shepherds, saying, *"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."* This message captures the joy of Advent: God's promise fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

Lighting the pink candle for joy symbolizes a break from the season's penitential tone, inviting us to celebrate the blessings of Christ's coming. Advent joy calls us to pause and appreciate the presence of God in our lives, looking forward to the fullness of joy that Christmas brings. It's an invitation to reflect this joy through kindness, gratitude, and worship, radiating the light of Christ to those around us.

To read more.... [Click the link below from Ascension.com](#)
[What Are the 4 Advent Themes? – Ascension](#)



SEASON OF ADVENT





9 December 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,
May Jesus and Mary be in your hearts.

I am reaching out to you as we immerse ourselves in the Advent journey culminating in the celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

As you know, we will soon reach the conclusion of the Holy Year for the Catholic Church worldwide. This tradition dates back to the year 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII announced the first Jubilee, also referred to as a “Holy Year”.

Last December, we officially launched the Year of Jubilee in our archdiocese. I also had the opportunity, along with our Auxiliary Bishops to celebrate the Jubilee through regional celebrations at parishes identified as special Jubilee pilgrimage churches. I sincerely thank these parishes for welcoming pilgrims throughout the Holy Year, serving as places of prayer, welcome, reflection, and reconciliation.

I wish to extend a warm invitation to the faithful of the archdiocese to join with me for the closing Mass for the Holy Year of Jubilee on **Sunday 28 December 2025 at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica at 5:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available with numerous priests present from 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.** All are most welcome.

Likewise, there will be celebrations for the closure of the Holy Year locally and regionally at the designated pilgrimage parish churches.

The theme for this Jubilee Year has been “Pilgrims of Hope”. We have enjoyed a tremendous outpouring of blessings at the local and archdiocesan level during this past year. We gathered in large numbers at the Martyrs’ Shrine, a holy and historic place of worship in our archdiocese while globally, more than 100 pilgrims came together for a special pilgrimage to Rome in November, entering the Holy Doors of the four basilicas, bringing with us the prayers and intentions of our archdiocesan family. I know that many parishes, schools, lay movements, clergy, and consecrated persons also organized special Jubilee Year celebrations, speakers, events and social outreach activities to bring the gift of hope to those in our midst. I have also been particularly moved by the large numbers of pilgrims celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

I am eternally grateful for the fruits of our labour and pray that this Jubilee Year has stirred and nurtured the seeds of faith within each one of us and sparked a joy and love for our Lord and our faith that will continue beyond a designated year, accompanying us in our daily spiritual journey.

Hoping to see you on December 28th and please know of my gratitude for your efforts to bring hope and the face of Jesus to all those whom you encounter each day.

Yours sincerely in Jesus with Mary,

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto | 1155 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1W2



SEASON OF ADVENT

