

St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

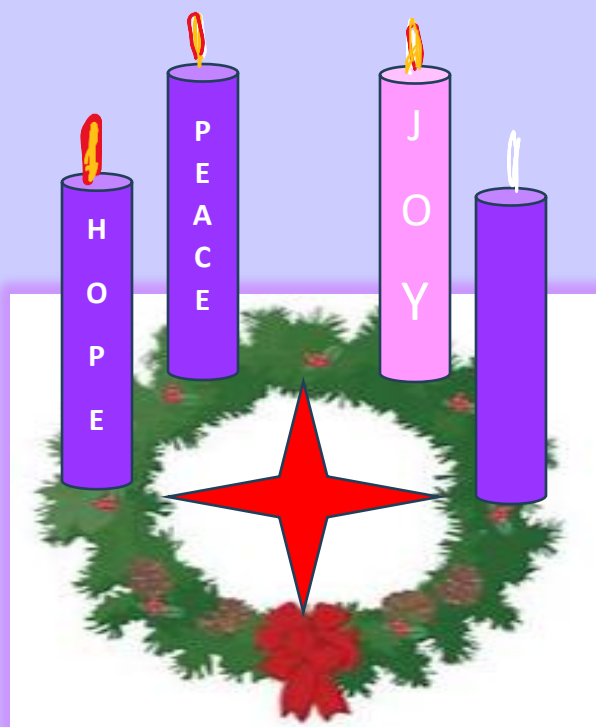
Email: stjohn23do@archtoronto.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



PARISH BULLETIN | 3rd Sunday of Advent | 15 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

Congratulations to Cardinal Francis Leo!

From: St. John XXIII Community

St. Peter Canisius Dec 21st

Pray for us.

“The stronger our desire to serve others, the stronger our love for them will be.”



**“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.”** *Philippians 4.4-5*

This is the Entrance antiphon of all the Masses, this third Sunday of Advent and it is a call to rejoice. This Sunday is known as **Gaudete Sunday**, from the Latin verb **“gaudere;”** to rejoice! The Word of God invites us to his consolation and this is the theme, this Sunday of Advent:

“I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the Joy of my soul” “For he has clothed me with robe of Salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of Justice.”

Brother and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the Will of God for you in Christ Jesus! St Paul reminds the Philippians to be joyful in the Lord. Yes, we are to rejoice, and the question is; why rejoice?

Because God has revealed to us the magnitude of his generosity and love.

In Exodus 33, Moses, the Friend of God, pleaded with Him in the words; ***“Please, Lord, Show me your glory.”*** God responded; ***“I will make all my goodness pass before you, ... I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion; But ... You cannot see my Face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”*** Ex. 33:19

With Christmas the Face of God is seen in Face of Baby Jesus. He is Emmanuel; “God with us!”

In the hymn of hope, in the 1st Reading, Zephaniah prophesied, Jerusalem emerging from the ashes of destruction through the power of God. In the hymn, Zephania, foresaw the day when the love of God would reach its apex; in the coming of the Messiah. Jerusalem will rejoice not only because it will have been rebuilt, but because God would be in their midst; ***“On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem; Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst.”***

In the Gospel reading today, John the Baptism professes that he is part of that fulfillment of Isaiah Prophecy but quickly reveals that another, other than Himself was present among them; ***“I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worth to untie the thong of his sandals.”***

Christ Jesus, is the One who is the Fulfillment of the Promise. He is as described by Angel Gabriel at the annunciation The Son of The Most High. He is Emmanuel God among us. Eden all over again! Let us rejoice then!

We rejoice because, this has been made known to us; God lives among His People. We Rejoice because we’ve been made sharers in his life; in the Words of Prophet Isaiah; we have been ***“clothed (through Christ) with the garment of Salvation, covered with the robe of righteousness.***

We rejoice because we’ve been made witnesses of God’s love and hope, to our brothers and sisters who thirst for him!

Let us pray then, that we may experience joy in God; who comes among us, in a special way, this Christmas. Amen.



The season of Advent



Compendium of the CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Dignity of the Human Person MAN THE IMAGE OF GOD

358. What is the root of human dignity? 1699-1715
The dignity of the human person is rooted in his or her creation in the image and likeness of God. Endowed with a spiritual and immortal soul, intelligence and free will, the human person is ordered to God and called in soul and in body to eternal beatitude.

OUR VOCATION TO BEATITUDE

359. How do we attain beatitude? 1716
We attain beatitude by virtue of the grace of Christ which makes us participants in the divine life. Christ in the Gospel points out to his followers the way that leads to eternal happiness: the beatitudes. The grace of Christ also is operative in every person who, following a correct conscience, seeks and loves the true and the good and avoids evil.

360. Why are the beatitudes important for us? 1716-1717, 1725-1726
The beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus’ preaching and they take up and fulfill the promises that God made starting with Abraham. They depict the very countenance of Jesus and they characterize authentic Christian life. They reveal the ultimate goal of human activity, which is eternal happiness.

361. What is the relationship between the beatitudes and our desire for happiness? 1718-1719
The beatitudes respond to the innate desire for happiness that God has placed in the human heart in order to draw us to himself. God alone can satisfy this desire.

362. What is eternal happiness? 1720-1724 1727-1729
It is the vision of God in eternal life in which we are fully “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4), of the glory of Christ and of the joy of the trinitarian life. This happiness surpasses human capabilities. It is a supernatural and gratuitous gift of God just as is the grace which leads to it. This promised happiness confronts us with decisive moral choices concerning earthly goods and urges us to love God above all things.

[Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

MASS INTENTIONS

- Dec 14-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass + The Parishioners
- Dec 15- Sun 9:00AM + Bienvenido Macaraig
12:15 PM + Reynaldo Piñon
5:30 PM + Dennis Edquiban
- Dec 16 -Mon,7:00PM + Mina de Joya
- Dec 17-Tue, 9:00 AM + Marita Salvosa
- Dec 18 -Wed, 7 PM Thanksgiving of Garcia Family
- Dec 19 -Thu, 9 AM Thanksgiving of Nelia Alzate
- Dec 20 -Fri, 7:00 PM + Roger & Clara Arevalo
- Dec 21- Sat, 9 AM Thanksgiving Wed Anniversary of
Roy & Jaqueline Marasigan

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention – Dec 14- 20, 2024

- Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Cora deVilla
- Virgin Mary- Thanksgiving of Cora deVilla
- Chapel ---- Thanksgiving of Cora deVilla

WORD OF THE WEEK

“GAUDETE”

-is a Latin word meaning REJOICE.

The third Sunday of Advent in the Catholic Church is also known as Gaudete Sunday. It emphasizes the joyful anticipation and celebration of the upcoming birth of Jesus Christ during Advent season.

The rose-pink candle in the Advent wreath is lighted and the Mass Celebrant wears a rose/pink chasuble.

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

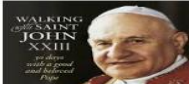
“We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.”



The season of Advent



Our Patron Saint...



“Animated, too, by the charity of Christ, he finds it impossible not to love his fellow men. He makes his own their needs, their sufferings and their joys.” Pope John XXIII

St. Peter Canisius Dec 21st

Peter was born in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, in 1521. He joined the Jesuits and worked in Germany, Austria, Bohemia and Switzerland as a leader of the Counter-Reformation. Peter educated Catholics with his popular and influential catechism. Although he worked in a time of conflict with growing Lutheranism, he remained moderate and courteous. Peter died in Fribourg in 1597. He was canonized and declared Doctor of the Church in 1925.

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 at Mass: Just the tilma, rose, and Juan Diego

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-12/pope-francis-mass-feast-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe.html>



POPE FRANCIS ELEVATES ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS

Sunday, October 06, 2024



PHOTOS: CONSISTORY 2024

Sunday, December 08, 2024



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Thursday, December 12, 2024



PHOTOS: MASS AT SANTA MARIA IN TRASPONTINA

Thursday, December 12, 2024

NEWS ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS ARCHBISHOP LEO

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

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



Announcements!!!

- ✠ **Parish Advent Confession is on December 18th at 7:30pm after the 7pm Mass;**
- ✠ **Hang your Christmas prayer intention to the Christmas tree project, contact Cora & Lynda, Office for the card;**
- ✠ **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



November 27, 2024

Pope at Audience:

May witness to “joy of the Gospel” bring peace and hope

By Thaddeus Jones

In his continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, Pope Francis focused his General Audience reflections this week on the gift of spiritual joy, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The Pope observed that in contrast to fleeting worldly joys, the Spirit grants us a profound and enduring joy born of His presence in our hearts that inspires us to share this joy with others.

Grace and freedom

The Pope explained how the fruits of the Spirit are the result of our cooperation between grace and freedom, as they express the creativity of each person where "faith works through love" in unique and joyful ways.

While we all have special gifts, all of us without distinction, the Pope pointed out, must be "charitable, patient, humble workers for peace" always.

Joy, fruit of the Spirit

The joy that is fruit of the Spirit gives us a feeling of fullness and fulfilment, which makes one wish it would last forever, the Pope explained.

He recalls Saint Augustine's words to God: "You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You".

Joy shared multiplies

"The joy of the Gospel, unlike any other joy, can be renewed every day and become contagious," the Pope went on to say, and thanks to this ongoing encounter with God's love, "which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption."

This is where we find "the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization," as it is only natural that we are inspired to share this joy with others.

The joy that is fruit of the Spirit does not fade and it "multiplies when it is shared with others."

The Saint of joy, Philip Neri

In conclusion, the Pope recalled the witness of Saint Philip Neri who lived in Rome five centuries ago and became known as "the saint of joy."

The Pope recalled how he used to say to the poor and abandoned children of his oratory: "My children, be cheerful; I do not want qualms or melancholy; it is enough for me that you do not sin".

His joy was a fruit of the Spirit, the Pope observed, and he became "a true evangelizer through joy."

Joy of the Gospel

The word "Gospel" means glad tidings, the Pope recalled, and he encouraged everyone to take to heart Saint Paul's exhortation to the believers of the Church of Philippi, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5).

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-11/pope-may-witness-to-the-joy-of-the-gospel-bring-peace-hope.html>



The season of Advent



ARCHDIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!

JULY 23, 2025 - AUGUST 5, 2025

JUBILEE OF YOUTH

Join Fr. Paul Magyar and the OCY team for a pilgrimage of a life time! All young adults (ages 19 - 39) are invited.



Archdiocese of Toronto



PEREGRINANTES

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

