

St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

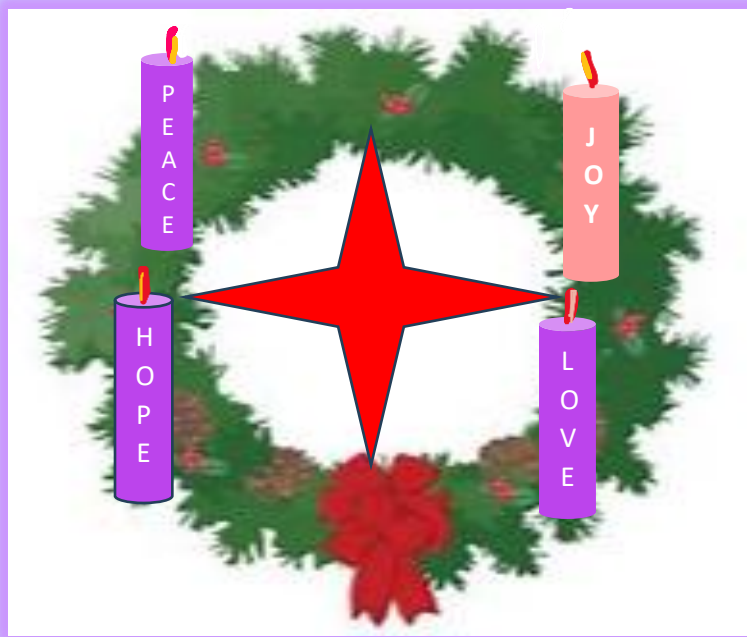
Email: stjohn23do@archtoronto.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



PARISH BULLETIN | 4th Sunday of Advent | 21 Dec 2025

2025 ADVENT



"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." Matthew 1.24

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. Peter Canisius Dec 21st

Pray for us.

"There is no work more commended in Holy Scripture, none, more necessarily is to be exercised in this life than prayer."



“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great Joy ... today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you which Messiah and Lord.” Luke 2.10-11

Today we celebrate the final Sunday in this time of joyful expectation. We celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent, having entered the “Great Days of Advent,” also known as the Novena for Christmas on the 17th of December. We are now, I supposed, focused on only one thing that matters; the Celebration of the Birth of Our Savior.

Advent, truly, is intended to be, a season of joyful preparation, for we know who is coming, Christ, our Savior. Advent, should also be joyful, because it is based on this firm truth that God loves us, unconditionally.

Christmas, indeed, is the proof and celebration of God’s love for humanity. If we can anticipate, a little, this will be the message of the Angel of God on Christmas night to the Shepherds the Bethlehem; ***“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great Joy ... today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you which Messiah and Lord.”***

On this final week of preparation, the Church calls on us to heed the call of the Psalmist; ***“Lift up your heads and see your redemption is close at hand.”***

Yes, our redemption is close at hand. Indeed, Jesus, is the fulfillment of all the prophecies and the prophesy spoken to Ahaz by Prophet Isaiah in the 1st Reading; ***“Behold the young woman is with child and shall bear a Son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”***

He is the One about whom the Angel of God, speaks to his foster father, Joseph; ***“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your Wife, for the Child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit, she will bear a Son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”***

As a people of faith, we are blessed, because we believe in the love of God, out of which, he sent his Son Christ Jesus for our Salvation.

Faith in this truth, elevates us and liberates us, giving us joy and peace of heart. Faith in this truth makes Christmas a transformative celebration.

As we, reflect and wait for this great day; the day our Savior was born, let us abandon ourselves into the hands of God, asking him to give us his Grace, that we may experience true Joy and Peace, that only He can give.



SEASON OF ADVENT



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

II. THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' INFANCY AND HIDDEN LIFE

The Christmas mystery

525 Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family.²⁰² Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest.²⁰³ The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night:

The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal
and the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.

The angels and shepherds praise him
and the magi advance with the star,

For you are born for us,
Little Child, God eternal!²⁰⁴

526. To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom.²⁰⁵ For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become "children of God" we must be "born from above" or "born of God".²⁰⁶ Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us.²⁰⁷ Christmas is the mystery of this "marvellous exchange":

O marvellous exchange! Man's Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.²⁰⁸

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 20-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass + The Parishioners

Dec 21- Sun 9:00AM +Clara Arevalo

12:15 PM + Isagani Ayala

+Lino Sr. Q. Tuanquin

5:30 PM + Alfred & Ethelda Puncion

Dec 22-Mon,7:00PM Thanksgiving of Marcy Goertzen

Dec 23-Tue, 9:00 AM + Claude D'Souza

Thanksgiving B-day of Christine NC Taite

Dec 24- Wed, 9:00AM + Isaias & Eugenia Porte

Dec 24 -Wed, 12:00 AM The Parishioners

Dec 25 -Thu, 9:00 AM + A. KamalRaj

12:15 PM The Parishioners

Dec 26 -Fri, 10:00 AM Thanksgiving of Nati Albano

+ Prosie Labo

Dec 27-Sat,9:00AM + Lydia Lumarlan

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention – Dec 20-26, 2025

Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Hayde

Virgin Mary- Healing of Mary Ylagan

WORD OF THE WEEK

“IMMANUEL”

It is means God is with us.

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the Prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him IMMANUEL,” which means, “God is with us.” Mt 1.18-24

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...



"We have a wonderful opportunity here in this world, and I believe that God has placed us here for a reason." 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 December 2025 edition

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS

December 24- Wednesday 12:00 Midnight

Vigil Mass for Christmas

December 25- Thursday- Christmas Day

9:00 AM

12:15 PM

5:30 No MASS

26- Friday – 10:00 AM (Feast of St. Stephen)

English - MERRY CHRISTMAS

FRENCH - JOYEUX NOEL

Filipino -- MALIGAYANG PASKO

Spanish - FELIX NAVIDAD

SWAHILI -- HERI YA KRISMASI

German - FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

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 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 wasn't Jesus named "Immanuel" as prophesied by Isaiah in the Old Testament?

Answer: The word Immanuel translates to "God is with us." Matthew recalls the messianic prophecy from Isaiah 7:14 and states that its ultimate fulfillment is found in Mary's Son: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (Matt. 1:23).

"Name," in this sense, does not refer to the actual name Joseph and Mary were to give to their Son (cf. Matt. 1:21, Luke 1:31); in this case, the word is used in the sense of "to call" (i.e., "they shall *call* his name Immanuel," cf. Is. 7:14). Analogously, one could say of baseball legend, Babe Ruth, "They called him the Sultan of Swat," without intending to mean that "the Sultan of Swat" was George Herman Ruth Jr.'s given name. Just as Babe Ruth's nickname was meant to indicate that Ruth was a great hitter, so Immanuel indicates that the expected Messiah would be "God with us."

Immanuel, "God is with us," also calls to mind the last verse in Matthew (28:20): "Behold, I [Jesus] am with you always, until the end of the age."

[Why Wasn't Jesus Named "Emmanuel" as the Angel Told Joseph](#)

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

LOVE

The Advent theme of love is celebrated during the fourth and final week of Advent, highlighting God's deep and boundless love for humanity. Love is at the heart of the Christmas story: God sent his only Son, Jesus, as an act of selfless love to redeem the world.

What is the importance of love during Advent?

This theme reminds us of John 3:16— "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." It's a powerful message that the birth of Christ is the ultimate expression of God's love, freely given to all.

As we light the fourth Advent candle, symbolizing love, we reflect on how Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us. This season encourages us to embody God's love through acts of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness, extending that love to family, friends, and those in need. Advent love invites us to open our hearts to receive God's love anew and share it generously, preparing to welcome Christ with a heart full of gratitude and grace.

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



SEASON OF ADVENT





Message for Christmas
25 December 2025
His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

My dear brothers and sisters,

Praised be Jesus Christ and Merry Christmas to you and to your loved ones.

Each year the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ invites us to delve deeper into the true meaning of the Incarnation, to ponder anew the mystery of God's love, and to renew or even seek new ways to serve our brothers and sisters because of Jesus and his teaching and example. The wonders of the Incarnation - God becoming man in Jesus - were first announced by the Archangel Gabriel nine months earlier at the Annunciation and are now fulfilled in the birth of the Messiah and as St John the Evangelist describes so eloquently, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14). Heaven and earth are joined forever giving rise to the *foundation* of our **hope** because God, who loves us, is now united to humanity forever.

This year, as the Church celebrates a Holy Year, the Jubilee - a year of grace, forgiveness, and renewal - the light of Bethlehem shines with renewed meaning. The birth of Jesus can be seen as the first and perpetual Jubilee. It is God's great proclamation of mercy: where true freedom is realized, forgiveness abounds, and our relationship with God is restored forever. For this reason, Christmas is not only a feast we celebrate but a mystery we are called to enter into and experience. We live in hope because the Bethlehem event - Christ being born among us - is not simply a scene of tenderness but the *pledge of redemption*: God's faithfulness has a name - Jesus. From the manger to the altar, from Bethlehem to our families, parishes and different communities, God's nearness is not a mere memory of a long-ago event, far, far away but a living presence here among us, now. And his presence always sends us forth as disciples and missionaries to proclaim, "God saves", which is the very meaning of the name of Jesus.

As Pilgrims of Hope, we live in this world witnessing to the love and mercy of God, looking forward to the day when we will be with God forever in his eternal Kingdom. As Christians we do not offer the world a new ideology, theory, or philosophy. Rather, we reveal a new reality: **that God is with us, and his mercy for us endures forever**. With the Incarnation the way we relate to God has changed, we are no longer merely creatures, but his beloved children called to share in his divine life.

The name "Bethlehem" (*beit lehem*) literally "house of bread" offers us a rich theological and spiritual connection of God's life, our life and the holy Eucharist. Indeed, from the beginning, the same love which is the Godhead, now lays in the manger in the flesh and would one day be placed upon the altar at Mass. Truly, the mystery of Christmas finds its continuation in the Eucharist insofar as we understand the Eucharist to be the promise of our future glory (cf. CCC 1402-1405). By this mystery we recall both Christ's first coming in Bethlehem in flesh and anticipate his final return in glory - the "already and not yet" of Christian hope (cf. CCC 1818). As such, each time we celebrate the holy Eucharist, the horizon of hope opens before us. What began in Bethlehem continues on the altar and will be fulfilled in the heavenly banquet in eternity. The Eucharist keeps our eyes fixed not only on where God has come, but where he is leading us.

At every Mass, the same Divine Word that was made flesh in Our Lady's heart and womb way back many years ago, becomes present to us again - but now sacramentally. The same Jesus whom Mother Mary held in her arms is now entrusted to us under the humble signs of bread and wine. The same divine humility that chose the manger to show himself to the world, chooses now and until his return the altar of sacrifice at Mass. The same mercy that came to shepherds and strangers comes to each and every one of us. In the Eucharist, the Incarnation is not just remembered but renewed, made present, and given to all. The God who once drew near to us, walked among us, and taught us, is now given to us to dwell within us in holy communion. The Eucharist is the living sign that God's nearness endures. When we gather around the altar in our parishes and communities for Mass, we are drawn into the same mystery that gathered shepherds around the crib in Bethlehem. We, too, come in our poverty - carrying our fears, our failures, our hunger for meaning, our hopes, dreams and deepest desires - and we find that Christ is waiting for us, because he loves us personally and by name. For St. Francis of Assisi, the stable becomes the sanctuary, the feeding trough becomes the table of life, and the Eucharist is foreshadowed at the Nativity. (Thomas of Celano, *Book 1 Life of St Francis*, 85:469; St Cyril of Alexandria, *Sermon I, Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 2:1-7*).

This Christmas, let us make room again for the Child Jesus who comes with peace. Let our **families** be havens of love and understanding; our **parishes** be places of welcome and care; our **communities** become schools of compassion and outreach; and our **hearts** tabernacles of transforming mercy. The Word still becomes flesh - in every act of faith, every gesture of love, every Sunday Eucharist - and then sends us forth to serve God by serving one another. May this holy season renew in us the **joy** of belonging and being loved and the **courage** to share that love with those the Lord puts on our path. God bless you and your family abundantly and powerfully this Christmas season.

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

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S