

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 & CHRISTMAS | 22Dec2024

2024 ADVENT & Christmas



KEEP AWAKE AND BE ALERT
O Come, Let us Adore Him!

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

St. John the Apostle Dec 27th

Pray for us.

“If we love one another...his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him & he in us.”



**“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”
“And why has this happened to me, that the Mother of My Lord comes to me?”**

Luke 1.39-45

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” “And why has this happened to me, that the Mother of My Lord comes to me?”

These are the words of Elizabeth, cousin to Mary at her first encounter with her Lord and Savior in the womb her cousin, Mary; An exultation under the influence of the Holy Spirit!

Here is the central image that the Church wants us to behold and contemplate; Two women who accepted the Will of God and generously responded to Him. The Lord bestowed on them as a consequence of their availability, blessings beyond all measures, to an extent of experiencing true divine peace.

My brothers and sisters, Christmas celebrates one, if not the highest point, in God’s revelation of Himself. At Christmas we experience what was denied to Moses; We behold the face of God. At the birth of Jesus, the face God the Father became visible in the face of Baby Jesus. What a blessing and privilege!

The question then becomes, given an opportunity and a privilege of physically beholding God in our human history, can we remain indifferent?

The Gospel reading today, allows us to behold the workings of the Holy Spirit. Mary and Elizabeth were illumined by the Spirit of God, to be aware and experience the honor given them by the Lord. No wonder, they were exceedingly joyful!

“And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?”
Elizabeth asked.

And Mary responded; ***“My Soul glorifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Because he has regarded the lowliness of his servant; hence forth all generations shall call me blessed.”***

The Spirit of God works in the heart of every human being leading him or her to an encounter with God their Creator and Father. He illumines us to experience a fulfillment.

Elizabeth’s exclaimed the truth about Mary that was the foundation of her experiencing of this Fulfillment; Mary was a Believer.

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

As we await the Birthday of Our Lord and Savior, let us abandon ourselves on hands of God and ask him to bless us with an increase of Faith.



Christmas Message:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A Saviour has been born for us; a Son has been given to us.

Christ, who in his birth and in becoming human has allowed us to share in the glory of his immortal nature. He has freed us from death, and the power of sin and darkness. This promise of salvation is ours and thus we rejoice in the knowledge that God is with us.

In our world overshadowed by war, injustice, oppression, division and selfish concerns the Good News proclaimed by Christ continues to offer us a message of salvation and hope. His words speak to us today, they reassure us, and fill us with hope:

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.
I am the way, and the truth and the life.
I am the good shepherd.
I am the bread of life.*

On 29 December 2024 the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope will take place in the cathedrals across Canada. In announcing the Jubilee year Pope Francis wrote: "The Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives. Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love."

May the light of hope illuminated by the Holy Spirit burn within our hearts this Christmas. May the light of God's love shine through us, and may our witness of faith be an invitation for others to believe in the gift of salvation that Christ offers to all, and most especially in this upcoming Jubilee year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2025!

The Most Rev. William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

17 December 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 21-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass + Lino Q. Tuanquin
Dec 22- Sun 9:00AM + The Parishioners
12:15 PM +Carmelita & Felix Villanueva
5:30 PM +Cecilia Ignoro
Dec 23 -Mon,7:00PM Thanksgiving Bday Christine
Dec 24-Tue **Midnight** The Parishioners
Dec 25-Wed **Christmas Day**
9AM Thanksgiving of Hernandez Fam
12:15PM Thanksgiving of Sunga Family
Dec 26 -Thu, 9 AM Thanksgiving B-day Nati Albano
Thanksgiving B-day of Jinky A.
+ Prosie Labo
Dec 27 -Fri, 7:00 PM + Lydia Lumarlan
Dec 28- Sat, 9 AM + Teresa & Domingo Ayala
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7-day Vigil Lamp Intention – Dec 21- 27, 2024
Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Hayde
Virgin Mary- Healing of Nida Donado
Chapel ---- +Lerma & +Isagani Ayala

WORD OF THE WEEK

"BLESSED"

-means **treated with great kindness** (if used as verb) as in "The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us (Psalm 67:6);

- means **holy** (if used as an adjective) like Blessed Virgin Mary.

-when used to refer to God, it means **Praised**, as in "Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore (Ps 113.:2).

<https://www.catholicjournal.us/2014/04/30/blessed-mean/>

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."



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

St. John the Apostle Dec 27th

The apostle John was the son of Zebedee and the brother of James, and a fisherman. John was very close to Jesus and was present at the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter and the Agony in the Garden. John is the "beloved disciple" referred to in the Gospels. While ancient scholarship linked him to the Fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation and the three epistles that bear his name, modern scholarship disputes this notion. John is believed to have died at Ephesus in extreme old age. In Christian iconography, his symbol is the eagle.

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 speaks to "Canal Orbe 21"

Pope Francis' vision of hope, forgiveness, and unity in troubled times

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-12/pope-francis-interview-argentina-tv-war-dialogue-synod-church.html>



POPE FRANCIS ELEVATES ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS
Sunday, October 06, 2024



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM HIS EMINENCE FRANK CARDINAL LEO
Friday, December 20, 2024



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Thursday, December 12, 2024

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

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

Announcements!!!

- ✚ **Masses on Christmas are as follows:**
December 24th – Midnight Christmas Eve;
December 25th – 9am and 12:15pm
- ✚ **Hang your Christmas prayer intention to the Christmas tree project, contact Cora & Lynda, or Office for the card;**
- ✚ **Parents of all First Holy Communion Candidates, please email the office to schedule your child to take Test 1;**
- ✚ **2025 Donation Envelopes are ready for pick up.**



O ANTIPHONS or the Great Advent O Antiphons

O wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

—From [Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers](#)

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/o-antiphons-advent>



¡Feliz Navidad!

Buon Natale!

(Meli Keuliseumaseu!)

Joyeux Noël!

Feliz Natal!

(Merikurisumasu!)

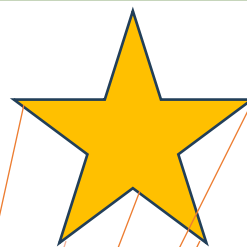
Frohe Weihnachten!

Vrolijk Kerstfeest!

(Shèngdàn jié kuàitè!)

Krismasi Njema

Maligayang Pasko!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JESUS



Dear Jesus,

As the star was the guide of the three Wise men to see your face and honor you, we pray that you be our guiding star in our daily lives until we see the Father who loves us so much.

May all our intentions hang on the Christmas Tree reach heaven & be granted!

St. John XXIII Community

O Come let us adore Him Christ our saviour!

MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

