

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 in Ordinary Time | 25Jan26



"Come, follow me, and I will
make you fishers of people."

Matthew 4.19

Week of prayer for Christian Unity

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

Conversion of St. Paul January 25th

"I can do everything
through him who gives me
strength."



“The Lord is my Light and my Salvation, whom shall I fear?” Psalm 27.1

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? We sang in the Responsorial Psalm of today.

One thing I ask of the Lord, one thing I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord... I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord, in the Land of the Living ... Wait for the Lord ... Be Strong!

Psalm 27 is a beautiful prayer, an ultimate declaration of faith in the greatness of God and a trust in his boundless protection. The Psalm, as for many other Psalms, are traditionally attributed to King David. He, though known to have been a very strong and effective warrior, never relied on himself. He had learnt in his youth, as a shepherd, that his strength and success came from God. Yes, David, had attributes that would make any leader great; a sincere fear of the Lord and absolute faith in God, for his salvation.”

Prophet Isaiah, in the 1st Reading today addresses his people who unlike King David, relied on the power of man. They sought help from the Syrians, against the advice of the Prophet who was pleading with them to trust in God’s protection. The result was destruction and ruin. The Assyrian made them a vassal state and settled among them, bringing with them their Idol gods. Paganism took root and the remnants of the chosen people, thinly scattered in the region, found it difficult to retain their faith in the One True God.

Isaiah points to this, as great darkness; the return to idolatry and vanishing of the knowledge of the One True God; He used the word “gloom,” to describe the void; that emptiness in a heart of one who turns away from God.

Isaiah, foresaw a time, when this darkness would be turned into brightness; brilliant as the noon-day. We read; *“For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, will be broken!”*

This Prophecy of Isaiah is proclaimed by Mathew the Evangelist, as having been fulfilled in Christ Jesus in today’s Gospel Reading! As we read: *He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum, by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the Prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles- the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.”*

Jesus, in the Gospel, begins his public ministry, having been silent in Nazareth for 30 years. John the Baptist exits the scene; his role having been fulfilled, and is arrested.

Jesus begins the Mission of his Father with the Words ***“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”*** Repent; make a U-turn, back toward the Living God, aware of the Privilege allotted one in his Son’s coming. ***“The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”*** God is acting directly among his people! This is the moment when God’s Presence is real and touchable as in the Garden of Eden.

God’s Eternal Plan for us in Christ Jesus, is that, we be with Him and experience Eternal Joy in his Presence forever. Blessed are you because you believe.



Catechism of the Catholic Church

IV THE CHURCH IS APOSTOLIC

857. The Church is apostolic because she is founded on the apostles, in three ways:

- she was and remains built on "the foundation of the Apostles,"³⁶² The witnesses chosen and sent on mission by Christ himself;³⁶³
- with the help of the Spirit dwelling in her, the Church keeps and hands on the teaching,³⁶⁴ The "good deposit," the salutary words she has heard from the apostles;³⁶⁵
- she continues to be taught, sanctified, and guided by the apostles until Christ's return, through their successors in pastoral office: the college of bishops, "assisted by priests, in union with the successor of Peter, the Church's supreme pastor";³⁶⁶

You are the eternal Shepherd
who never leaves his flock untended.
Through the apostles you watch over us and protect us always.
You made them shepherds of the flock
to share in the work of your Son....³⁶⁷

The Apostles' mission

858. Jesus is the Father's Emissary. From the beginning of his ministry, he "called to him those whom he desired; and he appointed twelve, whom also he named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach."³⁶⁸ From then on, they would also be his "emissaries" (Greek apostoloi). In them, Christ continues his own mission: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."³⁶⁹ The apostles' ministry is the continuation of his mission; Jesus said to the Twelve: "he who receives you receives me."³⁷⁰

859. Jesus unites them to the mission he received from the Father. As "the Son can do nothing of his own accord," but receives everything from the Father who sent him, so those whom Jesus sends can do nothing apart from him,³⁷¹ from whom they received both the mandate for their mission and the power to carry it out. Christ's apostles knew that they were called by God as "ministers of a new covenant," "servants of God," "ambassadors for Christ," "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."³⁷²

To read more click this link: [Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 24-Sat,5:15PM **Vigil Mass** + Aurora & Perfecto E.
Jan 25- Sun 9:00 AM + Esther & Nicolas Sr.

12:15 PM + Rosalio Velasco

5:30 PM The Parishioners

Jan 26-Mon,7:00PM + Belinda Castillo

Jan 27-Tue, 9:00 AM + Dennis Edquiban

+ Isabelita Dela Cruz

Jan 28- Wed, 9:00am + Nicola Pierni

+ Thanksgiving of Jane de Guia

Jan 29 -Thu, 9:00 AM Thanksgiving of Zeny Crescini

+ Priscilla Cruz 40th day of passing

Jan 30 -Fri,7:00 PM + Amina Vellani

Jan 31-Sat,9:00AM Thanksgiving of Hayde

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention – Jan 24-30, 2026

Sanctuary--- + Isaias & Eugenia Porte

Virgin Mary- + Leoncio & Conchita Ayala

WORD OF THE WEEK

"APOSTLE"

-An APOSTLE in the Catholic Church refers to one of the twelve chosen by Jesus to be his closest followers and to spread his teachings.

The term APOSTLE comes from Greek word "Apostolos" which means "one who is sent out."

The Apostles played a crucial role in the early Church, as they were the ones who received the teachings of Jesus firsthand and were commissioned to go out and share them with others. They were the foundation of the Church, and their authority was seen as coming directly from Jesus himself. In the Catholic tradition, the Pope, who is considered the successor of Peter, holds a special place of authority as the Bishop of Rome and the head of the universal Church.

To read more click the link [What is 'Apostle' in the Catholic Church?](#) - Jesus Everyday

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention - January 2026 - FOR PRAYER WITH THE WORD OF GOD

"Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church."



Our Patron Saint...



**"Christ desires unity for his Church,
and for all people."** Pope John XXIII

Conversion of St. Paul Jan 25th

The conversion of Paul was a turning point in the history of the early Church. Saul, as Paul was first known, was a tentmaker from Tarsus who zealously persecuted the followers of Christ. While travelling on the road to Damascus, he was struck down amidst a blinding light from heaven. According to the accounts in Acts of the Apostles (9.1-22; 22.3-16 26.12-18) a voice asked, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Following the instructions he was given, Saul headed into Damascus and began proclaiming Jesus. Threatened with death for his actions, Paul escaped the city by being lowered in a basket over the city wall. Paul's zeal for the risen Jesus led him to become a passionate follower and later a teacher of the nations. The letters, or epistles, of Paul offer us a window into the early church. *Living with Christ January 2026 edition*

IN THE NEWS



Photo of Pope Leo XIV (eVatican Media)

Pope: Catholic Social Teaching shows path to peaceful coexistence

Click the link to read more **Vatican News**: [Pope: Catholic Social Teaching shows path to peaceful coexistence - Vatican News](#)



CARDINAL LEO AFFIRMS CONCERNS OF CANADIAN BISHOPS RE: BILL C-9

Friday, December 05, 2025



TORONTO CARDINALS JOIN POPE LEO XIV FOR ROME MEETINGS

Friday, January 16, 2026



MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Click the link to read more **Archdiocese News**: [Archdiocese of Toronto -](#)

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 2;

New to the Parish? Please register, fill up a Parish Registration Form and submit to the Office or to Fr. David.



≈ Did you know??? ≈

What is Apostolic Succession?

Apostolic succession is the doctrine that the bishops of the Catholic Church have received their spiritual authority directly from the apostles, through an unbroken chain of valid ordinations, guaranteed by the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 861)

Biblical Foundation: Not a human invention

Apostolic succession is not a medieval invention. It has direct roots in Scripture:

a. The election of Matthias (Acts 1:15–26)

When Judas betrays Jesus and loses his place among the Twelve, Peter proposes that someone else should be chosen to “**take the place in this ministry and apostleship**”

(Acts 1:25). Matthias is elected and “**added to the eleven apostles**” (Acts 1:26). This shows that **the apostolic ministry is transmissible**.

b. Saint Paul and Timothy

Paul writes to his disciple:

“For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” (2 Tim 1:6)

This passage clearly states that the gifts of apostolic ministry are transmitted **by the laying on of hands**, i.e., through valid ordination.

History: A golden thread through the centuries

a. The Church Fathers Saint Irenaeus of Lyon, as early as the second century, affirms in his work *Against Heresies*:

“We can enumerate those who were appointed bishops by the apostles, and their successors down to our own time. This is the surest proof of truth.”

The early Church understood clearly that **the validity of teaching and sacraments depended on this apostolic continuity**.

b. The lineage of Peter

The Church of Rome, for instance, can trace an **unbroken line of bishops** from **Saint Peter to the current Pope**. This is a sign of unity, fidelity, and authenticity. It is not about human power, but **spiritual authority transmitted by Christ**. *To read more* <https://catholicus.eu>

Current Pope of the Catholic Church

The Pope is the successor of St. Peter the Apostle. He is also, the Bishop of Rome and the spiritual leader of the worldwide Catholic Church, currently held by Pope Leo XIV elected on **My 8, 2025**.

He is formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost. He succeeded Pope Francis, who served from March 13, 2023, until April 21, 2025. Pope Leo XIV's election marks a continuation of the papal lineage, which has played a significant role in the history of Christianity and the Catholic Church. He resides in Vatican City, an independent city-state established by the Lateran Treaty in 1929, which ensures the political and spiritual independence of the Holy See.

Responsibilities

The Pope's responsibilities include leading the Catholic Church, making decisions on faith and morality, engaging in ecumenical dialogue, and addressing contemporary issues such as human rights and social justice. The Pope also plays a crucial role in the Church's central government, guiding the administration of the Holy See and its various departments.

In summary, the Pope is a pivotal figure in the Catholic Church, embodying spiritual leadership and continuity of the apostolic mission established by Jesus Christ.

Bishops in the Archdiocese of Toronto

In the Archdiocese of Toronto which St. John XXIII Parish belongs, have 6 bishops:

Frank Cardinal Leo

Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Cardinal Collins

Most Reverend John A. Boissonneau

Most Reverend Vincent Nguyen

Most Reverend Robert Kasun, CSB

Most Reverend Ivan Camilleri

To read more about them; [Archdiocese of Toronto -](https://www.toronto.catholic.ca/)

