

# St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

Email: [stjohn23do@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohn23do@archtoronto.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



## PARISH BULLETIN | 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time | 16 February 2025

**BLESSED ARE YOU  
WHO ARE POOR,  
FOR YOURS IS THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD.**

Luke 6.20



**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](http://www.archtoronto.org)

**St. Polycarp Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Pray for us.**

**“Eighty and six years have I serve  
Him, and he never did me any  
injury; how then can I blaspheme  
my King and my Savior.”**



**All Parishioners are invited to  
celebrate the Opening of the Jubilee  
Year Masses in the Central Region of  
the Archdiocese of Toronto.**

*See details in page 5.*

### *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**



**“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”** Luke 6.20

*“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God, blessed are you who are hungry, for you will be filled, Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and exclude you ... defame you on account of the Son of man, Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven.”*

The Beatitudes; A call of a disciple to live the high way to the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel stated, *“Jesus looked up at his Disciples, and said...”* These words of the Beatitudes are addressed directly to us, disciples of Christ.

At the time of Christ, much of what he taught in the Beatitudes would have been revolutionary. Its words turned the theological understanding of the time upside down. Let us reflect on just one of the verses of the beatitudes; *“Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, yours is the kingdom of God;”*

The entire context of Luke 4: 17 -19 sheds light on the meaning of the term “poor,” or “rich;” The theological understanding of the time taught that riches, fortunes and good health were signs of one’s righteousness with God. Conversely, poverty, illness and misfortunes of life were signs of unfaithfulness and consequence of sin and therefor a punishment.

Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain, proclaims that membership of the Kingdom of God, included all in Luke 6:17; *“**but to you who listen, I say.**”*

God’s fulfillment of the promise in Jesus calls all to his Kingdom. Those who acknowledge the need of Salvation through Him, are the poor of God; Those that confess God’s Kingdom is effected in Jesus. The rich are those who do not want to commit themselves to Jesus and the Kingdom he effects; (Jerome pg. 695)

A question then arises, “How could Jesus justify such a radical teaching, involving himself as the only Salvation?”

Well, first and foremost, Jesus is Emanuel (God with us,) He is the fulfillment of the Promise. Secondly, an attentive reader or listener, would quickly realize that behind the Sermon on the Plain or the Sermon of the Mountain, depicted Jesus the Beatitudes.

Jesus; God among us, emptied himself off his glory and took our nature becoming one with us and went to the Cross, so that he could reconcile us to God, Our Father. He chose to be poor in every aspect, so that we could have life and have it in full. Jesus lived the Beatitudes, thus they are the Way to the kingdom, because He is the Way and the Life. Living the Beatitudes is being Christ Like.

As Children of Light, the Gospel exults us to rejoice and reap for joy, for the way to the Kingdom is known to us and if we follow it our reward will be great in Heaven.

Blessed are you because you Believe.



**Catechism of the Catholic Church**  
**Our Vocation to Beatitude**

**OUR VOCATION TO BEATITUDE**

**I. The Beatitudes**

**1716** The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching. They take up the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham. the Beatitudes fulfill the promises by ordering them no longer merely to the possession of a territory, but to the Kingdom of heaven:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
- Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.12

**1717** The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity. They express the vocation of the faithful associated with the glory of his Passion and Resurrection; they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life; they are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations; they proclaim the blessings and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ's disciples; they have begun in the lives of the Virgin Mary and all the saints.

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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- Feb 15-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass  
+ Petra D. Perlas
- Feb 16- Sun 9:00AM + The Parishioners  
12:15 PM + Josefa Pepita Verayo  
5:30 PM + Alfredo & Ethelda Puncion
- Feb 17 -Mon,7:00PM + Marita Salvosa  
+ Romeo Galvez
- Feb 18 -Tue, 9:00 AM +Herberto &  
+ Simeona Manzanilla  
+ Jonel Labrador  
10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of CWL
- Feb 19 -Wed 7:00 PM + Josefa Pepita Verayo
- Feb 20-Thu,9:00 AM + Marita Salvosa
- Feb 21-Fri,7:00PM Thanksgiving -Geoffrey M.
- Feb 22-Sat,9:00AM Thanksgiving of Nida D.  
+Domingo Ayala

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention –Feb 15-21, 2025

- Sanctuary--- + Isagani Ayala
- Virgin Mary- Healing of Mary Ylagan
- Chapel ---- + Domingo Ayala

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**“BEATITUDES”**

--"are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulation." The Beatitudes are difficult for us to understand because they are the antithesis of everything that the world we live in pushes us to believe; that in order to be happy, we have to be rich, own a huge home, be physically attractive, have an extensive wardrobe, etc.

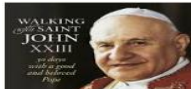
[The Meaning of The Beatitudes — The Key to Happiness](#)

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention-February 2025-For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.**

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



Our Patron Saint...



**"Never hesitate to hold out your hand; never hesitate to accept the outstretched hand of another."** Pope John XXIII

**St. Polycarp Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Polycarp is one of the Fathers of the early Church, and his letter to the Philippians is one of the early pieces of Christian writing in existence today. A disciple of the apostle of John, he was a leader of the second generation of Christians, the first Christians who were not eyewitnesses to the death and resurrection of Our Lord. Extremely influential in the catechesis and initiation of new Christians, he was named bishop of Smyrna, located in modern-day Turkey. Polycarp was martyred for his faith about the year 155, at the age of 86. He is a patron of those suffering from earaches.

*Living with Christ, Feb 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](mailto: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 meets with members of the Gaudium Et Spes Foundation (VATICAN MEDIA Divisione Foto)

**Pope: 'We must share the joy of the Gospel to bring hope to the world'**

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-02/pope-highlights-continued-relevance-of-gaudium-et-spes.html>



**ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION – RESOURCES FOR THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Friday, February 14, 2025



**SACRED FIRE STORIES FROM THE INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025



**11,476 YEARS OF MARRIAGE UNDER ONE ROOF – MARRIAGE SUNDAY CELEBRATION**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025



**MESSAGE FOR MARRIAGE SUNDAY FROM CARDINAL LEO**

Friday, February 07, 2025

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!!!**

- ✚ **FHC candidates and parents, please email the office to book your child for Test 2, if have not taken it yet;**
- ✚ Confirmation Candidates and Parents, the 6<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Session will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11 am;
- ✚ Seniors Breakfast this Thursday Feb 20 after the 9am Mass;
- ✚ For new Parishioners, please fill up the Parish registration form and submit to the parish office.





# JUBILEE 2025- Pilgrims of Hope

## Opening Jubilee Year Masses in the Central Region of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

**St. Paul's Basilica** (83 Power St.) Wed. Feb 12, celebrated by Bishop Kasun

**St. Mary's Church** (588 Adelaide St.) Thurs, Feb 20, celebrated by Bishop Kasun

**St. Edward the Confessor Church** (75 Churchill Ave) Tues, Feb 25, celebrated by Cardinal Francis Leo

All Masses begin at 7:00pm Confession Time from 5:30pm to 6:45pm

**(No need to register. Just come!)**

## THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us in your son,  
Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame  
of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy  
Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.  
May your grace transform us into tireless  
cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure  
expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.  
May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen

*Franciscus*

Pilgrimage Churches identified holy places of worship in each of the major regions of the archdiocese to serve as pilgrimage destinations during the Jubilee Year.

**Archdiocesan-** St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto

### Central Region

- St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto
- St. Mary's Parish, Toronto (Bathurst St)
- St. Edward the Confessor Parish, North York

### Western Region

- Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Etobicoke
- St. Mary's Parish, Brampton

### Easter Region

- St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough
- St. Gregory the Great Parish, Oshawa

### Northern Region

- St. Padre Pio Parish, Kleinburg
- St. Mary's Parish, Barrie

**Shrines** - Martyrs' Shrine, Midland

### How to Make a Jubilee Pilgrimage or Visit a Jubilee Parish

- Consult the parish schedule for Mass and Confessions.
- For **individual visits**, it is not necessary to alert the parish about your planned pilgrimage if you are simply attending a regularly scheduled Mass or Confession time.
- Contact the pastor before making any plans for **group visits** outside of regularly scheduled Mass and Confession, or for special arrangements, such as Mass, Confessions, Adoration or Celebrations of the Word of God.
- Be mindful that the designated Pilgrimage sites are active parishes with their own scheduled liturgies and events, as well as a regular schedule of the times when the church is open or closed for visits.
- A pilgrimage group wishing to celebrate Mass and/or offer Confessions will be asked to bring their own priest to celebrate, and at a time agreed to by the pastor.

Click to find more: [Archdiocese of Toronto - Pilgrimage Churches - Jubilee Year 2025](#)





## Message for Marriage Sunday from Cardinal Leo

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May Jesus and Mary be in your souls.

I am writing you in anticipation of Marriage Sunday which we will be celebrating on the weekend of February 8/9, 2025. Our annual celebration affords us the opportunity to not only reflect on the sacrament of marriage but also pray for couples, young and old, who have responded positively to the vocation of holy matrimony. We also remember those who are discerning marriage, those preparing to enter into this life-long calling, those who lead and accompany the preparation, those who are experiencing difficulties, and those who have experienced the loss of a spouse. I am grateful to all couples for their fidelity and witness to God's love in the world.

Marriage is first and foremost a gift from God (1Cor. 7:7). With this simple yet profound truth we recognize that it is far from being a mere impulse of nature, but a supernatural reality and one in which we see God's providential and life-giving plan for us. Pope Francis described marriage as "a precious sign, for 'when a man and a woman celebrate the sacrament of marriage, God is, as it were, 'mirrored' in them; he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love. Marriage is the icon of God's love for us" (Amoris Laetitia, 121).

During this Jubilee Holy Year, Our Holy Father has asked us to consider what it means to be Pilgrims of Hope – men and women who are called to not only live in hope but be signs of hope. In the very fabric of marriage, we have a tangible sign of hope; namely the bond that is created between the couple. The sacramental bond, characterized by fidelity and permanence, is a symbol of the union between God and humanity. God is always faithful; his love is unconditional, generative and unchanging. Our hope is based in the certainty that nothing and no one will ever separate us from the love of God (cf. Spes Non Confundit, 3). Further, St. Paul compares the relationship between husbands and wives, to the relationship between Christ and the Church. Christ loves the Church so deeply that He gave Himself up for her, and this love is mirrored in the sacrificial, self-giving love that spouses are called to live out (cf. Eph. 5:25-32). Whether it is the Father's fidelity or Christ's sacrificial love, both are mirrored in marriage and serve as signs of hope interwoven by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

To those who have experienced the pain of a broken relationship or the loss of a spouse, know that you are close to my heart and in my prayers. You are not alone. There are programs and ministries available throughout the archdiocese to help those men and women who have endured these challenges and moments of great suffering. I hope that these resources will assist in accompanying those who have faced many difficult times, offering hope and light through the darkness.

As part of our Marriage Sunday 2025 celebrations, Bishop Ivan Camilleri will preside over a special Holy Eucharist to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries during the course of 2025. The Mass will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, 9 February 2025, at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment.

In closing, I would like to restate my sincere gratitude and esteem for all married couples throughout the archdiocese. I would also like to express my deep appreciation for all those who are engaged in marriage preparation and marriage enrichment programs throughout our archdiocese, and for all those who, in one way or another, provide ongoing support, inspiration, encouragement and hope to married couples. Your ecclesial service truly helps to foster healthy relationships and strong families infused with faith and commitment, so desperately needed in our day.

May the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph intercede bountiful blessings from the Lord upon you and keep you safe in his grace.

