

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 | 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 23February2025

**If you love those
who love you, what
credit is that to you?
For even sinners love
those who love
them.** Luke 6.32-36



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



**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

St. Gregory of Narek Feb 27th

Pray for us.

**“In the face of my darkness, you are
light. In the face of my mortality,
you are life.”**



“Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

I say to you that listen; *“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you, to him who strikes you on the right cheek offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your ... Do to others as you would have them do to you.”* Notice it’s to you that listen!

The Gospel today, gives us, the disciples’ response to God’s generous self-giving love; a response to the blessedness of being in his Presence, in the person of Christ Jesus. This response is to, the beautiful experience, of our ongoing encounter with Emanuel; God with us.

Last Sunday in the Beatitudes, Jesus revealed and proclaimed the new way of the Kingdom of God. This was the way of the Son of God; who emptied himself, off his glory and became one with us, and taking our nature, he was humbler yet, even accepting death, death on a cross, for our salvation. (Phil 2:6-9)

In a World where “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life” are a common practice, it’s only a true disciple who can reciprocate the self-giving love lived by Christ Jesus without reservation.

Jesus, through his life and death taught us that, love of an enemy is possible; ***“Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.”*** (Lk. 23:34)

The 1st reading of today, gives us, the figure of David and his friend Abishai, who together with their companions were freeing King Saul and his massive army. Ever since, David was anointed king, by Samuel, and was taken to the King Saul’s presence, at the king’s own request, David had done only good for King and his people.

King Saul, on the other hand, out of jealousy wanted David dead and driven by anger and hatred, had been pursuing David and his people for days to kill them. King Saul had chosen to be a true and dangerous enemy to David.

David had a chance to kill Saul several times, and in today’s reading, David and Abishai snuck at night into King Saul’s tent while all his soldiers and body guards were sleeping. David had a chance! Abishai insisted with him, to strike his enemy; ***“God has given your enemy into your hands, Abishai said, now let me pin him to the ground with one stroke of the spear.”*** (1Sam 26:8)

David refused to strike the Lord anointed, instead, spared his life, to the surprise of Abishai, his friend. David, however, took the King’s spear and reaching a distance away called on Saul to get his Spear.

King Saul aware that David could have taken revenge but didn’t, and instead spared his life, relented, for some time from pursuing David. David had resolved evil with good.

Brothers and Sister, blessed, in Christ Jesus through his “life-giving spirit,” we are called to imitate this second Adam. And here is the promise given in the concluding verse of the 2nd Reading of today; ***“Just as we have borne the Image of the one of dust, we will also bear the Image of the One in Heaven.”*** (1Cor. 15:45)

May the Lord increase our Love for one another. Amen.



Catechism of the Catholic Church

Article 4

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

1422 "Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from **God's mercy** for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion."⁴

II Theological Virtues

1829 The fruits of charity are joy, peace, and **mercy**; charity demands beneficence and fraternal correction; it is benevolence; it fosters reciprocity and remains disinterested and generous; it is friendship and communion: Love is itself the fulfillment of all our works. There is the goal; that is why we run: we run toward it, and once we reach it, in it we shall find rest.¹⁰⁸

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

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the prisoners
- Bury the dead
- Give alms to the poor

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 22-Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass
+ Louis Comeau

Feb 23- Sun 9:00AM + Silvestre Sabugdalan
12:15 PM + The Parishioners
5:30 PM +Mariano & Teresa Cayetano

Feb 24 -Mon,7:00PM + Ruperto Frilles
+ John Dias

Feb 25 -Tue,9:00 AM +Gerardo Calderon

Feb 26-Wed7:00PM+Francesca & Pietro Gulli
+Facundo Ventura

Feb 27-Thu,9:00 AM +Moises Petrasanta
+ Antonio de Villa

Feb 28-Fri,7:00PM + Guia Reyes
Deceased Members of Dias Family

Mar 01-Sat,9:00AM + Rodrigo Parcon

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention –Feb 22-28, 2025

Sanctuary--- Healing of Nida Donado
Virgin Mary- Thanksgiving of Sally Sunga
Chapel ---- +Lerma Glen Ayala

WORD OF THE WEEK

“MERCIFUL”

-someone who is merciful is willing to be kind to and forgive people who are in their power; [MERCIFUL | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary](#)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
Psalm 103:8

In the Sacrament of Confession, we experience the love of a merciful God who forgives our sins and shortcomings.

As God is kind and merciful to us, we the believers are expected to be kind and merciful too.

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...



"If God created shadows, it was to better emphasise the light." Pope John XXIII

St. Gregory of Narek Feb 27th

St. Gregory of Narek was a 10th-century Armenian monk, poet, and mystical writer and composer. His best-known literary work is a book of prayers, *The Book of Lamentations*. It is considered a masterpiece of Armenian literature. St. Gregory himself defined the work as an "encyclopedia of prayer for all nations." And hoped that it would provide guidance in prayer for people of all walks of life.

In 2021, Pope Francis inscribed St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church, on February 27 as an Optional Memorial in the Roman Calendar. St. Gregory of Narek is recognized as a saint in both the Catholic Church and in the Armenian Apostolic Church, being venerated in a particular way among Catholics of the Armenian Rite.

Living with Christ, Feb 2025 edition

IN THE NEWS !!!



Gemelli Hospital in Rome

Pope has good night at Gemelli Hospital

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-02/pope-francis-pneumonia-gemelli-hospital.html>



CARDINAL LEO WRITES TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES OF DEEP CONCERN

Friday, February 21, 2025



PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH AND RECOVERY OF POPE FRANCIS

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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

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

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!!!

- ✚ **FHC candidates and parents, please email the office to book your child for Test 2, if have not taken it yet;**
- ✚ **FHC & Parents on March 1 at 11am there'll be a meeting with Fr. David- "Mass explained";**
- ✚ **Tax Receipt for 2024 are now available, ask the Parish Office for your copy;**
- ✚ **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](#)



Letter of Cardinal Leo to the Minister of Health



Hon. Mark Holland
Minister of Health
Government of Canada
Sent via e-mail

February 14, 2025

Dear Minister Holland,

Be assured of my ongoing prayers for you and all those who are entrusted to serve and strengthen our country.

I reach out today regarding the current consultation taking place regarding advance directives as it relates to euthanasia in Canada (referred to in legal terms as Medical Assistance in Dying – MAID). While the consultation period is about to close, I feel that it is important for you to hear feedback regarding the process and language conveyed in the consultation.

I understand the Government of Canada wishes to solicit views from Canadians on proposals relating to end of life care. However, I must convey both, in my own opinion and from those deeply engaged in end of life issues, that the wording and overall approach of the survey pre-supposes that those responding support euthanasia. We know this is simply not true.

Over the past decade, there has been significant opposition to the legalization of “Medical Assistance in Dying” in Canada. While legislation has been passed, there remains deep concern from many Canadians about the rapid expansion of euthanasia, especially from those living with disabilities, medical professionals and those with deeply rooted beliefs regarding the sanctity of life at every stage to name just a few.

According to Health Canada [data](#), in total, 15,343 Canadians died from euthanasia in 2023. This represents a 15.8% increase over 2022 with more than 1 in every 20 deaths attributed to assisted death in 2023.

The movement towards including advanced directives as another pathway to euthanasia is disturbing. We are encouraging those who have not yet been diagnosed to “schedule” their death based on the fear of what may come. Others may be pressured, even by those in the medical profession, seeing themselves as a burden to their family or caregivers.

Your government is normalizing euthanasia – by extension, those experiencing loneliness, isolation and depression associated with their medical condition are increasingly vulnerable to choosing euthanasia. This is not something our country should be proud of. We should be judged by the care, love and dignity afforded to those who are most vulnerable, especially in moments of despair and suffering. Hastening death is not a breakthrough in healthcare.

I would respectfully request that the government give serious consideration to halting any further expansion of euthanasia in Canada, especially as it relates to advance directives. Future consultation should also take into account all views on end of life care.

I would also ask, as others have for years, that the federal government prioritize palliative care over euthanasia, recognizing the need for quality palliative care to be accessible and available to every Canadian. [Horizons of Hope](#), an initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and numerous faith-based partners, is one such example of how we can both educate our community and encourage outreach to the sick and suffering by offering quality palliative care.

I would be happy to meet along with those with expertise in palliative care should you ever wish to discuss this matter in greater detail.

I will continue to keep you and all Members of Parliament close in prayer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Cardinal Leo".

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

cc. Hon. Arif Varani, Attorney General of Canada

