

# St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



## PARISH BULLETIN | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent | 01 March 2026

*"This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"*

Matthew 5.17

Prayer-Fasting-Almsgiving

### Station of the Cross

March 6<sup>th</sup> Friday at 5:30pm - Followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Mass

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

**St. Perpetua & Felicity** Mar 7<sup>th</sup>  
Pray for us!

**"Stand fast in the faith, and love one another, all of you, and be not offended at my sufferings."**



*“This is My Beloved Son, With Whom I am Well  
Pleased Listen to Him.”* *Matthew 17.5*

The Story of Abraham in today’s 1<sup>st</sup> Reading is very well known to us: God’s promise to Abraham; a man of great faith. God promise to Abraham; “*Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to ... so will your descendants be,*” was a challenging one. Abraham and his wife were advanced in age, and yet to have a child. The Lord, God, made a covenant with Abraham assuring him that God would make him a father of a great nation.

In the Gospel Reading today, God had fulfilled this Promise to Abraham in a very unique and magnificent way. Jesus, the Son of God was of the lineage of Abraham and obediently fulfilling the Will of his Father.

In the Gospel, Jesus set to reveal himself to three of his Disciples. The Disciples had been following Jesus for some time and had come to believe that he was the promised Messiah. The trouble was the Messiah they took Jesus to be, was apolitical one, with earthly power and glory. Several times they had been caught fighting for greatness. Jesus, on his part had been predicting, anything but earthly glory and placement to great positions. For three times, He had revealed to them, the Will of His Father;

***“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem and everything written by the Prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Chief Priest and the Scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him, and put him to death, but after three days he will rise.”*** (Lk. 18:31-33, Mt. 20:18-19, Mk. 10:33-34)

These predictions did not sit well with his Disciples, who had up to that time, witnessed Christ perform many wonderful signs and miracles; turning water into wine in the wedding at Cana, the great catch of Fish, curing the sick, feeding the multitude and driving out demons, restoring the sight of the blind and the lame walking.

Luke writes, the disciples ***“understood nothing of this; the Word remained hidden from them and they failed to comprehend what he said.”*** (Lk. 18: 34)

The shock of Christ’s Passion, His Crucifixion and Death, would have a devastating effect on the disciples and the probable question was; Would the disciples have Faith strong enough to survive the shock as they witness their master, arrested, tortured, crucified and dead on the Cross? The Disciples needed encouragement and Strength;

Today, the second Sunday of Lent, the Church offers us this Gospel of encouragement; in the account of the Transfiguration of Christ.

Before starting His Journey to Jerusalem, where he was to die, Jesus went up a Mountain commonly identified as Mt. Tabor, to pray together with Apostle Peter, James and John. And there, God in his generosity, gave the Apostles the full and definitive revelation of their master in Glory. They witnessed their master in His Glory in Heaven. And in the experience of this glory, Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus. Elijah representing the Prophets and Moses, the Covenant. Both appeared in bodily form that the three Apostles could recognize.

Moses and Elijah had previously gone up the mountain to receive God’s Revelation, however, unlike their two episodes, in Transfiguration, it was not Jesus who received the Revelation of God rather, it was in Jesus that God revealed himself.

Luke the Evangelist reveals the topic that Elijah, Moses and Jesus discussed, Christ’s Exodus, from this World, back to the Glory of God, having sealed the New Covenant with his people.

The Apostles were overwhelmed by the Vision in the Glory of God, so much so that Peter wanted this Glorious Experience prolonged! Then Came the Voice of God the Father; ***“This is My Beloved Son, With Whom I am Well Pleased Listen to Him.”***

The Apostles were commanded to be attentive to Christ, in the Final phase in God’s Revelation; where in Christ, the Will of the Father would be fully revealed and fulfilled

In the talk with Moses and Elijah, the Disciples learn of the soon coming Exodus of their Master. Learning they learnt the bitter truth: The Cross was inevitable if the God’s infinite love for humanity and creation was to be revealed.

Meditating on this Gospel Passage, we too who are preparing to re-live the decisive events of Christ’s death and Resurrection, require Strength and Graces from God to understand the significance of God’s Love in our lives as disciples of his Son. This Glimpse of our Master in the Glory of Heaven should encourage us in our Faith. Like Abraham, we too are called and take to a Journey of Faith, renouncing all our securities and abandoning ourselves to the Will of God. †

**Catechism of the Catholic Church**

**A foretaste of the kingdom: the Transfiguration**

**554** From the day Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Master "began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things. . . and be killed, and on the third day be raised."<sup>290</sup> Peter scorns this prediction, nor do the others understand it any better than he.<sup>291</sup> In this context the mysterious episode of Jesus' Transfiguration takes place on a high mountain,<sup>292</sup> before three witnesses chosen by himself: Peter, James and John. Jesus' face and clothes become dazzling with light, and Moses and Elijah appear, speaking "of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem".<sup>293</sup> A cloud covers him and a voice from heaven says: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"<sup>294</sup>

**555** For a moment Jesus discloses his divine glory, confirming Peter's confession. He also reveals that he will have to go by the way of the cross at Jerusalem in order to "enter into his glory".<sup>295</sup> Moses and Elijah had seen God's glory on the Mountain; the Law and the Prophets had announced the Messiah's sufferings.<sup>296</sup> Christ's Passion is the will of the Father: the Son acts as God's servant;<sup>297</sup> the cloud indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit. "The whole Trinity appeared: the Father in the voice; the Son in the man; the Spirit in the shining cloud."<sup>298</sup>

*You were transfigured on the mountain, and your disciples, as much as they were capable of it, beheld your glory, O Christ our God, so that when they should see you crucified, they would understand that your Passion was voluntary, and proclaim to the world that you truly are the splendour of the Father.* <sup>299</sup>

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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- Feb 28-Sat,5:15PM Vigil Mass  
+ The Parishioners
- Mar 01-Sun9:00 AM +Tomas & Magdalena Quebral  
12:15 PM + Elena Dalisay  
5:30 PM + Julieta Sugui
- Mar 02-Mon, 7:00PM + Esperanza Intoy
- Mar 03-Tue, 9:00 AM + Rodolfo Naval Sr.
- Mar 04-Wed, 7:00 PM + Ricardo Balatbat
- Mar 05 -Thu, 9:00 AM + Esperanza Intoy
- Mar 06 -Fri,7:00 PM + Lydia Casana
- Mar 07-Sat,9:00 AM Thanksgiving-Hernandez Family

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention Feb28-Mar06, 2026

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

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**“TRANSFIGURATION ”**

**-a change came over Jesus; his face was shining like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white.** (Matthew17.2)

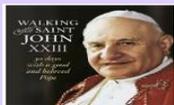
*It was witnessed by the three disciples, Peter, James & John when they went on the mountain. Then the three also saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus.*

**Pope Leo’s Prayer Intention – March 2026 – FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE**

*“Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.”*



**Our Patron Saint...**



**“Never hesitate to hold out your hand; never hesitate to accept the outstretched hand of another.”** St. John XXIII

**St. Perpetua and St. Felicity** Mar 7<sup>th</sup>

Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, a slave, were killed for their faith on March 7, 203, in Carthage. Perpetua's diary and accounts by eyewitnesses provide a vivid picture of the martyrs' experiences.

During the persecution of Christians by Emperor Severus, several catechumens were arrested, among them Perpetua with her infant son and the pregnant Felicity. They were baptized while under arrest.

After flogged, the Christians were led to the amphitheater, exposed to the wildbeasts, and beheaded.

*Living with Christ March 2026 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 Leo XIV to make Apostolic Journeys to Africa, Spain and Monaco**

Click the link to read more Vatican News: [Pope Leo XIV to make Apostolic Journeys to Africa, Spain and Monaco - Vatican News](#)



**MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026 FROM HIS EMINENCE FRANK CARDINAL LEO**  
Monday, February 16, 2026



**A CALL TO BUILD UP HEROIC MEN OF FAITH THIS LENT**  
Friday, February 20, 2026



**MARKING ASH WEDNESDAY AT ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA**  
Friday, February 20, 2026

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

**Announcements!!!**

- ✚ Parents of all First Holy Communion Candidates, please email the office to schedule your child for Test 3;
- ✚ Station of the Cross in all Fridays of Lent at 6:30pm;
- ✚ Confirmation Meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11AM- topic is “Fruits of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit”.





**Lenten Message 2026**  
**His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo**  
**Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*May Jesus and Mary be in your hearts.*

As we enter into the holy season of Lent, I would like to share some words of spiritual nourishment and encouragement. Each year, while Ash Wednesday emphasizes repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, on the First Sunday of Lent especially, we are invited to pursue our journey of faith into the desert with Christ. However, it is not a solitary journey, nor are the three Lenten practices purely a “private affair”. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition teaches us that God never saves individuals in isolation, rather, he gathers a people to himself (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 9). Recently, the universal Church has reflected on the meaning of *synodality* and emphasized the ecclesial and social togetherness of our journey together to God, thus recalling the importance of the community in the salvific plan of God (cf. CCC 781). With this in mind, I would ask us to consider how Lent is not only about our personal conversion but also the healing and renewal of our relationship with God and one another. We would do well to ask ourselves: how do we live Lent together?

Conversion or repentance is frequently framed within the context of individual acts such as sacramental confession, penance, self-denial or acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Old Testament already understood the human person within the context of the community which is very different from the modern understanding of a radical individualism. The Hebrew Scriptures, in fact, narrate a strong sense of community and its fidelity or sinfulness in the eyes of God. This is because from the beginning, God relates to Israel as a collective body (cf. Ex 6:7). Sin is never merely a private act because the covenant binds people together, and one person’s infidelity affects the whole body. Fidelity and infidelity are corporate realities. In this way sin, though personal, is likewise always social inasmuch as it always wounds the Body. And conversion, if it is real, always restores relationships. Lent teaches us that to return to the Lord is also to return to one another, and journey together.

Today, many experience the social or communal fragmentation caused by sin: families strained by silence or envy, communities divided by fear or resentment, parishes weakened by absence or disengagement. We may live or work in close proximity to others and yet carry unspoken distances in our hearts. Lent invites us to name this reality honestly—not to assign blame, but to seek healing and forgiveness. The call of the Gospel is not simply “to be better,” but “to be reconciled” (cf. 2 Cor 5:20). Part and parcel of our journeying together is the experience of authentic and daily conversion, both personal and communal, embodied beautifully in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While Confession is deeply personal, it is never private because sin wounds not only our relationship with God but also our communion with the Church (cf. CCC, 1440; 2 Cor 5:18–20).

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we restore not only our friendship with God but our bonds within the community—a ministry Our Lord entrusted to the apostles (cf. Jn 20:22–23; CCC, 1443–1445). Through this sacrament, the Lord repairs the bonds we have weakened—with him and with one another—and teaches us again the language of mercy and love (cf. CCC, 1468–1469; St. Ambrose, *On Repentance*, I.15). Our Lenten practices culminate on Easter Sunday when our conversion is publicly proclaimed and personally reclaimed as we renew our Baptismal vows, rejecting evil and confessing our belief in the One God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—through whom we were reborn into new life (cf. Rom 6:3–11; CCC, 1213, 1262).

To continue reading click the link [Archdiocese of Toronto - Message for Lent 2026 from His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo](#)

≈ Did you know??? ≈

### TWICE

In the Bible, God the Father's voice was heard to declare Jesus as His Son twice. The first occasion was at Jesus' baptism, where God said, "This is my Son, whom I love" (Matthew 3:17). The second occasion was during the transfiguration, where God again declared, "This is my Son, whom I love" (Matthew 17:5).

### FASTING

Fasting in the Catholic Church is a spiritual practice observed during specific times of the year, particularly during Lent, and involves reducing food intake and abstaining from certain foods. These practices are forms of penance and are intended to foster spiritual growth and self-discipline.

- Traditionally, fasting involves eating one full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal a full meal on fasting days;
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: these are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for all Catholics aged 18 to 59;
- Fridays during Lent: All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from meat for Catholics aged 14 and older.

## LENT



### THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries His Cross
3. Jesus Falls the first time
4. Jesus meets His sorrowful mother
5. Simon helps Jesus to carry the Cross
6. Veronica wipes the Face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time
8. The women weep over Jesus
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of His garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus dies on the Cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross
14. Jesus is laid in the sepulcher

We adore you, O Christ and we bless you.  
Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

