

# 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 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent | 08 March 2026

*“The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”*

**John 4.14**

**Prayer-Fasting-Almsgiving**

**Station of the Cross**

**All Fridays of Lent at 6:30 - Followed by 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. Frances of Rome** **Mar 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Pray for us!**

**“Hope every thing from the mercy of God; it is a boundless as His power.”**



*“If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water.”*

*John 4:10*

*“If you knew the Gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you the Living Water.”*

This Sunday, the Gospel reading reveal to us Jesus as the source of the living water. The reading is chosen to lure every disciple to thirst for Jesus, as it does the catechumens, celebrating the first scrutiny, as we implore God, for an abundance of his grace, on this final stage in preparation to celebrate the festivities of our salvation.

Thirst is the starting point of today’s famous Gospel passage, narrating the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman.

Human beings thirst! God thirst too! In the preface of the Mass today, the priest read, ***“So ardently did the Lord thirst for her Faith, that he kindled in her the Fire of Divine Love.”***

Jesus, tired from the journey, and thirsty, sits by the well of Jacob! The Samaritan woman, so tried by life, weighed down by the misery of her choices and terrified by the consequences of her sins, resolved to get to the well, at noon, when it was hot and therefore unlikely that anyone else would be there to see her!

The Samaritan woman was desperate. She had been in six relationships and none of them fulfilled her. In Christ Jesus, she met the seventh man; Could she finally experience in him “the fulfillment” of her deepest longing?

The Gospel reveals to us that her thirst for physical water turned to be a Journey of Faith, in which Her Messiah and Savior came to her and gradually revealed Himself to her.

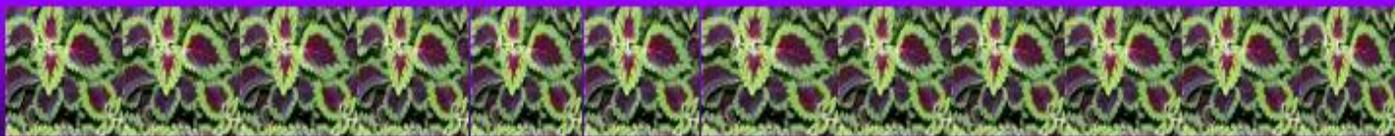
Jesus, is first described by the woman as just a man (sir), then as a Prophet, then as One who is to come and finally as the Messiah; ***“I who speak to you I Am He!”***

Notice that Jesus used the “I Am” revealed to Moses by God at the ***“Burning Bush.”*** - in Exodus 3:14! With this Revelation, the Samaritan woman was filled with Joy. Her fears and concerns disappeared and she turned a courageous proclaimer; ***“Come and see a man who told me all that I ever did!”***

The Samaritan Woman had completed her journey of Faith! She had journeyed from moments of no Faith, to moments of partial faith; To a moment of fullness of Faith!

Her proclamation won her people to Christ, they too became believers; Listen to their Profession of Faith ***“We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is Truly, the Savior of the World.”***

Brothers and Sisters, we are illumined by the Spirit to know and acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God and our Savior. He is the seventh man, who fulfills our soul’s desire. Jesus is the source of living water; our thirst is quenched at the awareness that we are the beloved of the Lord. Remember the words of St Paul in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading ***“God’s Love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”*** May we find joy and fulfillment in the realization that God our Father thirsts for us.



**Catechism of the Catholic Church**

**CHAPTER ONE - MAN’S CAPACITY FOR GOD**

**I. The Desire for God**

**27.** The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. **Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for:**

The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator.<sup>1</sup>

**28** In many ways, throughout history down to the present day, men have given expression to their quest for God in their religious beliefs and behaviour: in their prayers, sacrifices, rituals, meditations, and so forth. These forms of religious expression, despite the ambiguities they often bring with them, are so universal that one may well call man a religious being:

From one ancestor (God) made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "in him we live and move and have our being."<sup>2</sup>

**Article 1**

**AT THE WELLSPRINGS OF PRAYER**

**2652** The Holy Spirit is the living water "welling up to eternal life"<sup>3</sup> in the heart that prays. It is he who teaches us to accept it at its source: Christ. Indeed, in the Christian life there are several wellsprings where Christ awaits us to enable us to drink of the Holy Spirit.

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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- Mar 07-Sat,5:15PM Vigil Mass  
+ Mary Grace Garcia
- Mar 08-Sun9:00 AM + The Parishioners  
12:15 PM +Constancia, Asuncion Gregoria  
5:30 PM + Antonio & Reynaldo Hernandez
- Mar 09-Mon, 7:00PM Thanksgiving of Elizabeth S.
- Mar 10-Tue, 9:00 AM Thanksgiving of Ma.Teresa G.  
+ Germilita Uzle
- Mar 11-Wed, 7:00 PM + Francisco Palma Cabrita  
Thanksgiving of Jacqueline M.
- Mar 12 -Thu, 9:00 AM + Frank Edward Frost
- Mar 13 -Fri,7:00 PM Thanksgiving of Gemma C.  
+ Teodora Jardio
- Mar 15-Sat,9:00 AM Thanksgiving Delia Munar  
+ Ruperto Frilles

**7-day Vigil Lamp Intention March 07-13, 2026**

Sanctuary-- Thanksgiving of Cora deVilla  
Virgin Mary- Thanksgiving of Cora deVilla

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**“LIVING WATER”**

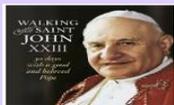
-Water- the symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit’s action in Baptism, since after the invocation of the Holy Spirit it becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth; just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit As “by one Spirit we were all baptized,” so we are also “made to drink of one Spirit.” Thus, the Spirit is also personally the living water welling up from Christ crucified as its source and well up in us to eternal life. (CCC694)

***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. Frances of Rome** *Mar 9<sup>th</sup>*

Frances was born in 1384 in Rome. She was happily married and had three children. The death in infancy of two of her children taught Frances compassion for others. She took food to the poor, and visited the sick and the needy in their homes to care for them.

She gathered other women, mainly widows and young women who lived a life of prayer and cared for others, and founded a community of Benedictine oblates. When her husband died, Frances joined their community. She died in 1440 and was declared a saint in 1608. She is a patroness of widows.

*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**



The preacher of the Papal Household offers his first Lenten meditation in the Paul VI Audience Hall. (@Vatican Media)

**First Lenten Sermon: Peace comes from the courage to be small**

Click the link to read more **Vatican News**: [First Lenten Sermon: Peace comes from the courage to be small - Vatican News](#)



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



**CANADIAN BISHOPS INVITE PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**  
Thursday, March 05, 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!!!**

- ✚ **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”;**
- ✚ **Confession on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm;**
- ✚ **ShareLife collection will start on March 22<sup>nd</sup>;**





**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??? ≈

### Living Water mentioned in the Bible

#### Jeremiah 2:12-13

And so, I command the sky to shake with horror, to be amazed and astonished, for my people have committed two sins:

-they have turned away from me, the spring of fresh water and they have dug cisterns, cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all.

#### John 4:10

The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life.

#### John 4:14

Jesus said “but those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life.

#### John 7:38

Whoever is thirsty should come to me, and whoever believes in me should drink, As the scripture says, ‘Streams of life-giving water will pour out from his side.’

#### Isaiah 12:3

As fresh water brings joy to the thirsty, so God’s people rejoice when he saves them.

## 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.*

