

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 | 4th SUNDAY OF LENT | 30 March 2025

Laetare Sunday

“I will get up and go to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.” Luke 15:18

PRAYER -- FASTING -- GIVING

Message for LENT ... See page 6



Pilgrimage Churches. *see 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



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

St. Isidore of Seville April 4th

Pray for us.

“If a man wants to be always in God’s company, he must pray regularly and read regularly. When we pray, we talk to God; when we read, God talks to us.”



“Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” Luke 15:18

In the Gospel Reading today, Jesus speaks lovingly of a father, who out of love is, in a look out, for you and me, sure of our return home, so that he would welcome us with a loving embrace.

The “*Parable of the Prodigal Son*,” also called by some, “*The Parable of the two Brothers*,” “*The Parable of the Son who remained home*,” has been called by others, “*The Parable of the Good Father*.”

The Parable begins with the younger son asking his father for his share of inheritance. The implication being, that the son could not wait for his father to die in order to receive his part. The Father complied without hesitation; giving the younger son his portion of inheritance. The Father left the younger son, to the dominion of his will.

Upon receiving the inheritance, the son travelled to a distance country; where “*he squandered his property in dissolute living*.” Scriptures tell us that, after he had spent everything, a famine occurred where he was, putting the younger son in dire need; He took a job, that for a Jew was unthinkable; he became pig herder. The younger son hit the bottom of his life, envying the pigs and wished he would eat their Food. In his desolation, however, a miracle was happening; slowly. He remembered the care and love of his Father. “***I will get up and go to my Father, and I will tell him, ‘Father I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.’***”

The younger son had scooped life out of himself; he had scraped off his identity to the point that he was an empty shell; nothing was left! His humanity, his dignity, his self esteem was in a desperate need of recharge! He hungered for the love and provision of his father. To survive, he rose, to return to his father.

While he was still far off, the father saw him, and moved by love and compassion, ran to meet him, embraced and kissed him. The Father was always certain of his Son’s return, so he was on a look out. His love and mercy consumed him. The Prodigal Son, in his selfishness, returned home to the experience of the warmth of his Father’s Love, Mercy and Forgiveness. He was welcomed to a feast; experiencing yet again the incredible generosity of his Father.

There is another side of the Parable that is often overlooked. A closer look at the Gospel, we realize, to whom the Parable was addressed. The Gospel begins; “***All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And The Pharisees and the Scribes were grumbling and saying, “this fellow, welcomes sinners and eats with them;”*** So, Jesus told them a Parable.

The Parable was told for the Pharisees and the Scribes; Those who thought themselves right with the Lord and judged every one else. It’s right to say that, the Parable was about the Elder Brother, who was always in the Presence of his Loving Father. The trouble was, it looked, he was not aware of the Privilege. He never let himself experience the Love of his Father; and the joy of being at home was foreign to him. His relationship with the Father was legalistic one; “*For all these years I have been working for you as a slave.*” His obedience to his Father had made him inwardly bitter. At his return home from the field and on hearing that his brother had returned home to a feasting; “***He became angry and refused to go in.***”

He needed the journey of transformation like his younger brother: A journey enabling him to discover and experience his Father, not legalistically but to as a Loving Father.

The Loving Father reveals to have understood of his elder son call for justice; “***Son, you are always with me, and what I have is yours.***” However, his Love and Mercy for a lost Son, had to prevail; “***We had to celebrate and rejoice ... because your brother has come to life.***”

The Parable breaks off here; it does not tell us how the Elder Brother’s reacted to this Revelation of the Father.



Catechism of the Catholic Church

VI The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

1440 Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time, it damages communion with the Church. For this reason, conversion entails both God's forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. ³⁸

Only God forgives sin

1441 Only God forgives sins.³⁹ Since he is the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, "The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" and exercises this divine power: "Your sins are forgiven."⁴⁰ Further, by virtue of his divine authority he gives this power to men to exercise in his name.⁴¹

1442 Christ has willed that in her prayer and life and action his whole Church should be the sign and instrument of the forgiveness and reconciliation that he acquired for us at the price of his blood. But he entrusted the exercise of the power of absolution to the apostolic ministry which he charged with the "ministry of reconciliation."⁴² The apostle is sent out "on behalf of Christ" with "God making his appeal" through him and pleading: "Be reconciled to God."⁴³

1443 During his public life Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: he reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community of the People of God from which sin had alienated or even excluded them. A remarkable sign of this is the fact that Jesus receives sinners at his table, a gesture that expresses in an astonishing way both God's forgiveness and the return to the bosom of the People of God.⁴⁴

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

MASS INTENTIONS

- Mar 29 Sat,5:15PM **Vigil Mass** +Dolly Gonzalves
- Mar 30-Sun 9:00AM + Paz & Rolando Bongar
- 12:15PM + Caridad Palconit
- 5:30 PM + The Parishioners
- Mar 31 -Mon,7:00PM + Edlin Marina Pereria
- + Oswin Carlo de Almeida
- Apr 01-Tue,9:00AM + Cristina Soriano
- Apr 02-Wed7:00PM + Virginia Hipolito
- Apr03-Thu,9:00AM Intention of Hayde for Jeffrey
- Apr 04-Fri, 7:00PM + Joey Moreno
- Apr 05-Sat, 9:00AM Healing of Rachelle

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention
Mar 29-Apr4, 2025

- Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Noel & Jealen Tan
- Virgin Mary-For Good health of Belen, Jaime, Linda
- Chapel --+Noel Tan Sr. +Alejandra & Mariano Suarez



WORD OF THE WEEK
“RECONCILIATION”

-the act or process of restoring or reestablishing friendly and harmonious relationships between individual or groups after a disagreement, conflict or period of estrangement;

(betterwordsonline.com)

The sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament in which the priest, as the agent of God, forgives sins committed after Baptism, when the sinner is heartily sorry for them, sincerely confesses them, and is willing to make satisfaction for them.

Beingcatholic.com

Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention-March 2025- For Families In Crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences.



Our Patron Saint...



"Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams." Pope John XXIII

St. Isidore of Seville April 4th

Isidore was born of a noble family and was the brother of three saints: St. Leander of Seville, St. Fulgentius of Cartagena & St. Florentina.

Isidore served as archbishop of Seville for nearly 40 years and was recognized as the greatest teacher in Spain. He presided over councils, was a progressive educator and a prolific writer. He compiled an encyclopedia, a dictionary, treatises on various subjects and wrote a history of the Goths, which remains our only sourcebook for much of Visigothic history. He died in 636 and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1722.

(Living with Christ, April 2025 ed.)

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

IN THE NEWS !!!



Pope prays for victims of earthquake in Southeast Asia

To read more, click this link >>> [Pope prays for victims of earthquake in Southeast Asia - Vatican News](#)



MESSAGE FOR LENT 2025 FROM HIS EMINENCE FRANK CARDINAL LEO

Monday, March 03, 2025



INVITATION FROM CARDINAL LEO - SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI - PROCESSION & RESOURCES

Thursday, March 27, 2025



IMAGE OF MARY ARRIVES AT JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE CHURCHES

Monday, March 24, 2025

NEWS ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

<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 3;**
- ✚ **Session 9 for Confirmation Candidates on April 5 at 11:00am, please come on time;**
- ✚ **This Friday Apr 4th at 5:30-Way of the Cross, then Eucharistic Adoration followed by the Holy Mass;**
- ✚ **April 9th at 7:30pm after the 7pm Mass is the Parish Confession. There will several guest priests to give confession;**
- ✚ **St. Vincent de Paul Bundle up Sunday on April 12 & 13, 2025.**





JUBILEE 2025
Pilgrims of Hope

LENT - 2025

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



PRAYER



Fasting



Giving

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- Spend time with the Lord
- Attend Mass daily
- Read the Bible
- Attend Lenten Retreat
- Jubilee Pilgrimages
- Do the Station of the Cross

- * Give up watching TV
- * No Meat in all Fridays
- * Less phone screen time
- * No gossiping
- * Less shopping
- * Do not drink coffee for today

- * Share your blessings
- * Volunteering
- * Visit the sick
- * Say kind words
- * Feed the homeless
- * Pray for the pope & the clergy

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

From the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Journey through Lent 2025 - Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Journey Through Lent Video Series: Weekly Reflections for the Lenten Season - Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Click the link above to watch the video

Other Resources, click the link below:
Archdiocese of Toronto - Resources for the Season of Lent

STATIONS OF THE CROSS -----Every Friday at 6:30pm





LENT 2025

Message of Pope Francis for Lent:

"This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance."

Message for Lent 2025 from His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo

Posted : Mar-03-2025

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May Jesus and Mary be in your souls.

I am writing to you as we prepare to enter the Holy Season of Lent; a sacred time that invites a heightened awareness of God's love in our lives, and prayerful discernment on how best to cooperate with His love. This needed cooperation with grace requires true repentance as well. The spiritual renewal that is sought earnestly by men and women of faith will come about only if the heart accepts to change. This year our Lenten observance takes on an added spiritual dimension, the Jubilee Year with its focus on Hope, born from God, born in our hearts.

As Pilgrims of Hope, our traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help to orient our thoughts, words and deeds toward God, His Kingdom and in steadfast hope. Prayer is especially important, insofar as "hope is expressed and nurtured in prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire" (CCC 1820). Fasting "takes up the hopes that inspire [our] activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven" (CCC 1818). And finally, Almsgiving, when done with compassion and in solidarity with those who suffer, especially the sick, the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed, are concrete expressions of hope (cf. *Spes non Confundit*, 7-15). Have you given some thought to how you will embody these three practices in your Lenten journey this year?

Lest we forget, at the core of Lent's 40 days is the Paschal Mystery—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis suggests that to "experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is "making all things new" (cf. Rev 21:1-6). It means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross and was raised by God on the third day, and always being "prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls [us] to account for the hope that is in [us]" (1 Pet 3:15)" (Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2021). Are we really and acutely aware of the newness of life which the Lord desires of us and is fashioning in us at this very moment? As Pilgrims of Hope, we walk with Christ through His suffering and death on the Cross, to a profound hope in the resurrection and witnesses to the new life that is offered to us. In this way the Cross is the ultimate symbol of Christian hope—what appears to be defeat and despair on Good Friday is revealed in the resurrection as the triumph of life over death.

We live in challenging times and there are myriads of voices that proclaim fear, despair, and desolation. Taking seriously the call to be Pilgrims of Hope, we readily listen to the voice of Christ, knowing that "hope does not disappoint" (Rom. 5:5). Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life" (*Spes Salvi*, 2). Let us boldly dare to live differently, to live as one who has hope. What does that "difference" look like in your life and relationships?

Hoping as intended by the Lord necessitates that we are willfully engaged in a continuous process of interior purification and repentance, which means we are striving to reorient our entire life, to return back to the Lord and away from sinful thoughts, words and deeds. Welcoming the grace of renewal entails desiring and deciding to place all our trust and all our hope in God's truth and mercy and walk resolutely in His presence.

In conclusion, let us remember the Catechism teaching that Lent is an "intense moment of the Church's penitential practice" (CCC, 1438). But Lent is also a time of renewal and reconciliation—two hallmarks of the Jubilee Year as well. I encourage you to take advantage of this sacred time of 40 days and discover the hope into which we were born. To assist you this Lenten Season, do avail yourself of the numerous Lenten resources found on the Archdiocese of Toronto website. There you will find Pope Francis' 2025 Lenten Message, a variety of Online Retreats and Reflections, Lenten Activities for Families, and much more.

While wishing you all and your loved ones and communities a most sacred Lent, I invoke upon us all the powerful blessing of Almighty God through the loving intercession of the Blessed Mother.