

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 | Ascension of the Lord Sunday | 17 MAY 2026



“Go, make disciples of all nations; I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28.19-20

Alleluia!

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. Bernardine of Siena May 20th

Pray for us.

“The last degree of love is when He gave Himself to us to be our Food; because He gave Himself to be united with us in every way.”



“As Jesus was talking to them, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.” Act 1:9

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Today, we celebrate the Ascension Sunday, forty days, this past Thursday since the day of his resurrection. Jesus ascended to Heaven; in his Words to Mary Magdalene on that Easter Morning; ***“...Ascending to My God and your God, to my Father and your Father.”***

He, the Son of God, became one with us, in that Great Miracle of Incarnation and was born in Bethlehem. He, ***“God among us,”*** the highest point in God’s Revelation, revealed the Face of the Father!

With his journey on earth now complete, Jesus returns to the Father having completed his Salvific Mission on earth. His self-giving on the Altar of the Cross revealed the extent to which God in his Love was willing to pursue us, reconciling us to Himself; Our Creator and Father.

And as if this was not enough, in the opening prayer of this Mass, the Priest pleaded with the words; ***“gladden us with holy joys, Almighty God, and make us rejoice with devote thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation.”***

How is Christ’s Ascension our Exaltation?

Pope Francis wrote, and I quote; ***“Jesus leaves our earthly space to enter the fullness of God’s Glory, taking our humanity with him. In other words, our humanity entered heaven for the first time.”*** (Pope Francis – Regina Coeli 8th May 2016)

Ascension is our exaltation, because in Christ’s return to the Father, He carried our poor human nature, in Him; above all the hosts of heaven, above all the ranks of angels, beyond the highest heavenly powers to the very throne of God the Father.” (St. Leo the Great)

You can see, then, why Jesus told us in St. John’s Gospel; ***“If you Loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, ... because the Father is greater than I.”***

The question then becomes; are we human beings, attentive enough to appreciate our blessedness in this privilege?

Christ’s departure, is not a journey out of the cosmos, but an entry into the Mystery of God; an absolute inner closeness in the Divine. In the words of Pope Benedict ***“He enters into communion of power and life with the living God, into God’s dominion over space; Hence he has not gone away, but now and forever by God’s Power, He is present with us and for us.”*** (Jesus of Nazareth Vol. 2 Pg 283.)

The Disciples in St Luke’s Gospel, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, understood this. That’s why St Luke concludes the scene of the Ascension with the words; ***“They returned to Jerusalem with Great Joy.”*** (Luke24:52)



Our Patron Saint...



“Our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him.” St. John XXIII

St. Bernardine of Siena May 20th

Child of a noble family, Bernardine, born in 1380, was orphaned at 7 and raised by loving relatives who provided him with an excellent education. During an outbreak of the plague in 1400, he ministered to the sick, inspiring other young men to take the same risk. In 1402, he entered the Franciscan order and was ordained in 1404.

Commissioned to preach, Bernardine won converts all over northern and central Italy. Having refused several bishoprics, he became vicar general of the Franciscans, brought reform and inspired vocations. Bernardine died in 1444 and was canonized in 1450.

(Living with Christ, May 2026 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: Virgin Mary is perfect model of what the Church is called to be

To read more, click this link >>> [Pope: Virgin Mary is perfect model of what the Church is called to be - Vatican News](#)



CARDINAL LEO WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER, MPS - "I ASK YOU TO CHOOSE LIFE..."
Monday, April 20, 2026



CARDINAL LEO'S MESSAGE FOR THE MARCH FOR LIFE
Monday, May 11, 2026



CARDINAL FRANK LEO ORDAINS 4 MEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD
Sunday, May 10, 2026

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

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



Announcements!!!

- Confirmation candidates May 23rd at 11:00am is the Confession and Rehearsal;
- May 24th is the Feast of the Pentecost and the Confirmation of our 13 young people at the 9:00 AM Mass. Please include them in your prayers;



≈ Did you know??? ≈

- **Deeper Significance of Ascension**

- Exaltation and Victory: The Ascension is Christ's enthronement and triumph. He who descended now ascends, filling all things (Ephesians 4:8-10)
- For humanity: By taking our human nature into heaven, Jesus shows that our destiny is union with God. Heaven is now open to those who follow him.
- Not abandonment: Jesus is not "gone." He remains present in the Church through the Eucharist, the sacraments, his Word, and the Holy Spirit. His Ascension makes possible a new, more intimate presence.

The Ascension is distinct from the Assumption of Mary (when she was taken body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life by God's power, not her own). Only Jesus ascends by his own divine power.

This feast invites Catholics to live with eyes fixed on heaven while actively building up the Church on earth, awaiting Christ's return in glory.

- **Who are the people assumed into heaven body and soul?**

1. **The Virgin Mary**

- The Assumption is a defined dogma of the Catholic Church, proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950 (*Munificentissimus Deus*).
- At the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain or original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things....." (CCC 966).
- This is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the general resurrection. The Church does not definitively state whether she died first (the common view is that she did, in a peaceful "Dormition"), but the dogma leaves this open.

2. **Enoch and Elijah (Old Testament Precedents)**

- Enoch: Genesis 5:24 says "God took him," and Hebrews 11:55 adds that he was taken up so that he "should not see death." Catholic tradition understands this as a bodily assumption.
- Elijah: Taken up bodily into heaven in a whirlwind with a chariot of fire (2Kings 2:11). This is explicitly scriptural.



Prayer on the Feast of the Ascension

Heavenly Father,

With hearts lifted up, we praise and glorify You on this holy feast of the Ascension of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

We thank You that after His resurrection, our Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven in glory. Before the eyes of His disciples, He was lifted into the clouds and seated at Your right hand in majesty. We rejoice that He who descended to earth in humility now reigns in eternal victory.

Lord Jesus, You have gone before us to prepare a place for us. Because You ascended, heaven is now open. Because You ascended, You ever live to intercede for us. Because You ascended, You sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always.

As the apostles gazed into heaven, two angels brought them Your promise: “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come again in the same way.”

Fill us with joyful hope, O God. While we wait for His return, strengthen us to be Your witnesses. Give us courage to proclaim the Gospel, zeal to make disciples of all nations, and faithfulness to live as citizens of Your Kingdom.

Bless Your Church throughout the world. Guide our pastors and leaders. Comfort those who are grieving or struggling. And draw all of us closer to You.

Father, as we celebrate Christ’s Ascension, may our hearts also rise with Him. Lift our eyes beyond the troubles of this world to the glory that awaits us.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our ascended Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

