

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 | Ascension of the Lord SUNDAY | 01 June 2025



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

Matthew 28.19-20

Alleluia!

Message of Cardinal Leo
for the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
see page 5 & 6

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 in the months of
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. Charles Lwanga &
Companions** June 3rd

Pray for us.

**"Perseverance is not a sprint but a
marathon. Stay focused and finish
strong."**



“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.)

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

Today, we celebrate the Ascension Sunday, forty days, this past Thursday since the day of his resurrection. Jesus ascends 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; Thus, revealing the extent to which God in His Love was willing to pursue us, reconciling us to Himself; Our Creator and Father. This is a Great Uplifting beyond every human fathoming!

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 last Sunday’s Gospel Reading; ***“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)



THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Article 6

"HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER"

659. "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God."^{[531](#)} Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys.^{[532](#)} But during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity.^{[533](#)} Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand.^{[534](#)} Only in a wholly exceptional and unique way would Jesus show himself to Paul "as to one untimely born", in a last apparition that established him as an apostle.^{[535](#)}

660. The veiled character of the glory of the Risen One during this time is intimated in his mysterious words to Mary Magdalene: "I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."⁵³⁶ This indicates a difference in manifestation between the glory of the risen Christ and that of the Christ exalted to the Father's right hand, a transition marked by the historical and transcendent event of the Ascension.

661. This final stage stays closely linked to the first, that is, to his descent from heaven in the Incarnation. Only the one who "came from the Father" can return to the Father: Christ Jesus.^{[537](#)} "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man."^{[538](#)} Left to its own natural powers humanity does not have access to the "Father's house", to God's life and happiness.^{[539](#)} Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us.^{[540](#)}

662. "and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."^{[541](#)} The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven, and indeed begins it. Jesus Christ, the one priest of the new and eternal Covenant, "entered, not into a sanctuary made by human hands. . . but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."^{[542](#)} There Christ permanently exercises his priesthood, for he "always lives to make intercession" for "those who draw near to God through him".^{[543](#)} As "high priest of the good things to come" he is the centre and the principal actor of the liturgy that honours the Father in heaven.^{[544](#)}

To read more click the link below:

Catechism of the Catholic Church - IntraText

MASS INTENTIONS

May 31, 5:15PM Vigil Mass + The Parishioners

Jun 01 -Sun- 9:00AM +Primitivo Cabilin
+Nida Donado

12:15PM +Tony Dequito

5:30 PM +Especiosa Lobo
+Eulalia Nazareth

Jun 02-Mon, 7:00 PM +Rodolfo Macapagal
+ Virgilio Lazaro

Jun 03-Tue,7:00PM *B-day-Gerald Fernandes
+ Ed Perez*

Jun 04-Wed 7:00PM *+Philip deVilla &
+Rodel Perez*

Jun 05-Thu,7:00PM +Arcadio & Luz de Guia
+ Nida Donado

Jun 06-Fri, 7:00PM *B-day Lauren Garde
+ Nida Donado*

Jun 07-Sat,9:00am +Tony Dequito
+ Nida Donado

7-day Vigil Lamp Intention May 31 Jun 06, 2025

Sanctuary--- + Nida Donado

Virgin Mary- + Nida Donado

WORD OF THE WEEK

“ASCENSION”

- Commemorates the moment when the Lord Jesus lifted up into heaven, as his disciples witnessed forty days after his Resurrection.

Scripture tells us that, after appearing to his followers over forty days, Jesus raised his hands and blessed them. Then, while he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:50-52)

[The Ascension of Jesus](#) | [Catholic Answers Guide](#) | [Catholic Answers](#)
[Tract](#)

Pope's Prayer Intention-June 2025-That the world might grow in compassion

Let us pray Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.



Our Patron Saint...



"This is the rosary of Mary, considered in its various elements, which are linked together in vocal prayer and woven into it as in a delicate and rich embroidery, full of spiritual warmth and beauty." St. John XXIII

St. Charles Lwanga & Companions Jun 3rd

Charles Lwanga and his companions became Christians through the Catholic missions of the Missionaries of Africa (commonly known as the White Fathers). Charles' predecessor as master of royal pages, also a Christians, had censured King Mwanga of Uganda for his cruelty and immorality. The vengeful king, determined to stamp out Christianity, ordered Charles and the other young Christian pages put to death. About 100 died during the persecution. Within a year of these deaths, however, the number of Christians had greatly increased, and by 1890 was estimated to be ten thousand. The 22 Martyrs of Uganda died on June 3, 1886 and were canonized in 1964. Charles Lwanga has been declared patron of Catholic Action and of black African youth.

(Living with Christ, June 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 Francis at last year's Arena of Peace in Verona (VATICAN MEDIA Divisione Foto)

To read more, click this link >>> [Pope Leo XIV: If you want peace, prepare institutions of peace - Vatican News](#)



NEWLY INITIATED CATHOLICS GATHER AT ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA FOR MASS
Tuesday, May 13, 2025



MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL LEO ON THE ELECTION OF POPE LEO XIV
Monday, May 12, 2025



ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO CELEBRATES THE ORDINATION OF THREE PRIESTS
Saturday, May 10, 2025

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

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



Announcements!!!

- ✠ On June 8th at 9am will be the confirmation Mass of our candidates, you are all invited to attend the Mass;
- ✠ Next Week is the feast of Pentecost-June 8th include in your prayers who received the Sacraments of Confirmation;
- ✠ As baptized Catholic, we encourage you to share your faith to your family, friends and neighbor, invite them to come to church and be part of our Christian family.





JUBILEE 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

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 Regions 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

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*

Franciscans

*Message on the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto
1 June 2025*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May Jesus and Mary be in your hearts. Among the Christian People, it is our privilege and delight to honour in a very special way the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. I earnestly invite therefore all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto this June to join in celebrating Jesus in the reality of his loving, burning, sacrificial and life-giving Heart. This year the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart is commemorated on June 27th though the entire month is dedicated to this long-standing and much appreciated devotion in the Church. As Pilgrims of Hope during the Jubilee Holy Year we recall the words of Pope Francis, "Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross" (Spes non Confundit, 3).

The Sacred Heart is one of the most profound and enduring symbols in Catholic devotional life as it encapsulates the depth of Christ's love for humanity, his freely chosen passion, and his ongoing intercession for the world as our Mediator and Eternal High Priest. When viewed through the lens of hope, this timeless devotion takes on a new depth of transformative power. It is important for us to remember that the Sacred Heart does not merely refer to Jesus' physical heart, but to his entire interior life—his will, emotions, thoughts, desires, and love. It signifies the love that motivated the Incarnation, Our Lord's earthly ministry, his Passion, and ultimately the offering of himself on the Cross for the redemption of the world (cf. Dilexit Nos, 3-8). In this way the Sacred Heart becomes not just a symbol of the greatest love that ever existed, but also a wellspring of hope and endurance in the face of suffering, sin, and uncertainty for all those who approach the Sacred Heart with faith, humility and trust.

While hope anchors us in the love of God amidst the turbulent seas of life, it is fundamentally oriented towards our future glory with God in His Kingdom (cf. CCC, 1820). Simply put, whereas faith believes in God and charity loves him, hope longs for union with him and trusts that, despite our human frailty and suffering, such union is truly possible (cf. Rm 8:31-19). We have a foretaste of this union in the Eucharist, and we recognise that in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ, God and humanity are forever united, accomplishing the union we hope for and making Jesus Christ the revelation of hope incarnate (cf. Dilexit Nos, 65-70).

Continued in page 6





Continuation of the Message of Cardinal Leo

In meditating on the Sacred Heart, we are drawn into the discovery of the personal face of God. For men and women of faith, God is more than a concept, an ideal, the divine law-giver or the mysterious “Someone up there, somewhere”. He is the God who has revealed himself, his very life and his plan for us; he is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of the living and not of the dead. He is the God who knows, listens, cares for, loves, gives of himself and saves. He is the God of Jesus – the only God.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus, understood as a source of new life, helps us to avoid divinizing anything in this world since there is only the one true God and idolatry is a one-way boulevard to spiritual slavery. The danger is to put our faith in an impersonal and distant God, one who does not care or have any interest in our lives. The result of this false credence is that we allow ourselves to live any which way because it does not matter in the end. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Jesus’ Sacred Heart is a reminder that no one can replace God; nothing is more important than to know, love and serve him, and that the choices and decisions we make, as well as the lifestyle we lead, do matter, they matter to God. Jesus’ Sacred Heart points to his nature as both God and man: as God we are to glorify and praise him; as man, he understands our human condition. Jesus’ Heart retells us the sacred truth that God does very much care about everything in our life, because he loves us; God does have a plan for our life and wants us to be holy, because he loves us. God is interested in what we think, say and do because he loves us; God is a close, caring, just and compassionate God who sees us and wants us to grow spiritually and humanly, because he loves us. And God will never abandon us to our woes and difficulties, because he loves us.

The Sacred Heart which depicts Christ’s physical heart, pierced and surrounded by thorns calling to mind his suffering and imbued with the inextinguishable fame of his love, is ultimately the only symbol we really need which underscores our human dignity, our call to holiness of life, Jesus’ sacrificial love for humanity, how precious we are to him and how ugly sin is as an offence to him. We should all honour the Sacred Heart in every home, parish, school, convent, hospital and Catholic institution. Symbols are important as they convey meanings in what they represent, and they point beyond their own reality to something else, someone else. Our very own Catholic symbols help us to deepen our faith and shape our prayer life, not to mention the lives we lead and the choices we make. They are like bridges joining together the material and spiritual worlds, and reveal to us the Gospel truths. They showcase what our values are, what is important to us and how we intend to live our faith. We need to make sure that the symbols we use are consistent with our Catholic faith and not borrowed from ideological fora, promoted by lobby groups and endorsed by political movements. We ought to honour and respect our traditions and not compromise the integrity of the faith by using symbols that are contrary to God’s divine revelation. We do good to use our own symbols to tell our own story without resorting to trendy, misguided and inadequate symbols that do not represent us as Catholics but rather contribute to confusion, distortions and ambiguities about what the Catholic faith truly teaches regarding the human person, human nature, and natural moral law.

Finally, during this month of June, I would encourage you to take time to renew your consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. If you haven’t already consecrated yourself, your family and household to the most Sacred Heart, please consider doing so. In addition, I recommend you take up Pope Francis’ Encyclical, *Dilexit Nos*, which is dedicated to this wonderful devotion and spirituality.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

