

# St. John XXIII Parish

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

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

Email: [stjohn23do@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohn23do@archtoronto.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM to 3PM



## PARISH BULLETIN | 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time | 14 Sep 2025



**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”**

*John 3:16*

### *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

#### *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 2025-2026** is in the months of August and September 2025

**First Holy Communion** – for Grade 2 &

up **registration for 2025-2026** is in the months of August and September 2025

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**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-**

**St. Robert Bellarmine Sep 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Pray for us.**

**“Charity is that with which no man is lost, and without which no man is saved.”**



## *“God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Gal 6:14

***“Nicodemus, No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. “And just as Moses lifted up the Serpent in the Wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that Whoever Believes in Him may have Eternal Life.”***

Today we celebrate the feast of “The Exaltation of the Cross” also called “Triumph of the Cross” or “The Elevation of the Cross.”

On this Feast, the Church invites us, to proudly lift up this Glorious Wood and give thanks to God. For on the tree which brought death through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, life explodes anew in its fullness in the death and resurrection of the second Adam; Christ Jesus, Our Lord.

The beginning of the celebration of this Feast is quite an interesting one. According to tradition, first mentioned by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem in 348 AD, St Helena, Mother of Emperor Constantine, nearing the end of her life, decided to go and search for the Cross, on which Jesus died. Helena, arrived in Jerusalem, and by the blessing of God, met a Jew by the name of Judas, who knew of the tradition concerning the hiding of the Cross. Judas became of great help as a leader, in excavating the holy spot in which the Cross was hidden. They found several crosses, and according to another tradition, the inscription on the Cross of Jesus was missing. St Helena and the Bishop of Jerusalem, Saint Macarius, devised an experiment to determine which of the Crosses, was the True Cross. Two Miracles were obtained as a result; One of the three crosses were taken to a woman who was near death; when she touched the True Cross, she was healed. In another, the body of a dead man was brought to the place where the three crosses were, and laid upon each one. The True Cross restored the dead man to Life.

In celebration of the discovery of the True Cross, Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of two Churches, One at the site of the Holy Sepulcher and the other on Mount Calvary. Those Churches were dedicated on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 335 AD and shortly thereafter this Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross began to be celebrated on the latter date. The feast slowly spread from Jerusalem to other Churches, until 720, the celebration was universal.

The Cross, the instrument of torture, the symbol of a curse and death, which, on Good Friday, manifested how ruthless humanity can be, wonderfully manifested the extend of God’s love and mercy for humanity; ***“On the Cross, the darkest of human condition met the Fullness of Divine Love and found itself transfigured into Life.”***

We celebrate and exalt the Cross of Christ, because by the Cross we see and know the full extent of the love of God, in his Son crucified. By the Cross, we are saved and are victorious! By the Cross, we have life in its fullness, in Christ Jesus.

Let us then, exalt the Cross with the words of St Paul to the Galatians; ***“God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** Gal 6:14.



## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### III CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF TO THIS FATHER FOR OUR SINS

*Christ death is the unique and definitive sacrifice*

**613.** Christ's death is both the Paschal sacrifice that accomplishes the definitive redemption of men, through "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world",<sup>439</sup> and the sacrifice of the New Covenant, which restores man to communion with God by reconciling him to God through the "blood of the covenant, which was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins".<sup>440</sup>

**614.** This sacrifice of Christ is unique; it completes and surpasses all other sacrifices.<sup>441</sup> First, it is a gift from God the Father himself, for the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself. At the same time it is the offering of the Son of God made man, who in freedom and love offered his life to his Father through the Holy Spirit in reparation for our disobedience.<sup>442</sup>

*Jesus substitutes his obedience for our disobedience*

**615.** "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous."<sup>443</sup> By his obedience unto death, Jesus accomplished the substitution of the suffering Servant, who "makes himself an offering for sin", when "he bore the sin of many", and who "shall make many to be accounted righteous", for "he shall bear their iniquities".<sup>444</sup> Jesus atoned for our faults and made satisfaction for our sins to the Father.<sup>445</sup>

*Jesus consummates his sacrifice on the cross*

**616.** It is love "to the end"<sup>446</sup> that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction. He knew and loved us all when he offered his life.<sup>447</sup> Now "the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died."<sup>448</sup> No man, not even the holiest, was ever able to take on himself the sins of all men and offer himself as a sacrifice for all. the existence in Christ of the divine person of the Son, who at once surpasses and embraces all human persons, and constitutes himself as the Head of all mankind, makes possible his redemptive sacrifice for all.

*To read more click the link-- Catechism of the Catholic Church - IntraText*

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sep 13, 5:15PM Vigil Mass +Teodora Jardio

Sep 14 -Sun- 9:00AM +Jermilita Ponferrada

12:15PM + Julie Costales

5:30 PM The Parishioners

Sep 15-Mon, 7:00 PM + Lourinda Figueredo

Sep 16-Tue,9:00PM + Ediser Casana

Sep 17-Wed 7:00PM + Isabelita dela Cruz

Sep 18-Thu,9:00PM + A. Kamalraj

Sep 19-Fri,7:00PM + Tomas & Magdalena

Sep 20-Sat,9:00AM +Mercedes & Leonardo Sr. Alon

### 7-day Vigil Lamp Intention Sep 13-19, 2025

Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Gemma Cabungcal  
Virgin Mary- +Isaias Porte

## WORD OF THE WEEK CROSS

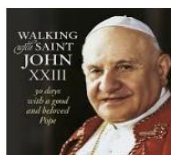
The cross is a central symbol in the Catholic catechism, representing the redemptive power of Christ's sacrifice. It is described as the unique sacrifice of Christ, the "one mediator between God and men" (CCC 618). *The catechism emphasizes the cross as the means through which salvation is achieved, and it is a reminder of the atonement for sins. The cross is also a sacramental gesture that Catholics make before and after private prayer, symbolizing their commitment to God and the race of redemption won by Christ's sacrifice.*

*Pope Leo's Prayer Intention - September 2025 - For our relationship with all of creation*

**"Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect."**







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

## **St. Robert Bellarmine** Sep 17<sup>th</sup>

St. Robert Bellarmine is one of the Church's great apologists. Born in Tuscany, Italy, in 1542, he entered the Jesuits in 1560 and was renowned for his preaching even before his ordination in 1570. After years of study and teaching, he was made Professor of Controversial Theology at the Roman College.

Robert's many roles included reviser of the Latin Vulgate Bible, advisor to Galileo, author of two catechisms, director of the Roman College, leader in the Catholic Reformation head of the Vatican library, and theological consultant of the Holy See.

Appointed cardinal in 1599 and archbishop of Capua in 1602, he was greatly loved as a pastor. He died in 1621, was canonized in 1930 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1931. He is a patron of catechists and catechumens.

*Living with Christ - Sep 2025 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 calls on new bishops to be builders of bridges**

To read more, click this link >>> [Pope Leo calls on new bishops to be builders of bridges - Vatican News](#)



**A CALL TO CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**  
Monday, September 01, 2025



**FRANK CARDINAL LEO APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF VATICAN' DICASTERY FOR THE CLERGY**

Thursday, August 28, 2025



**CLOSE TO 4,000 JOIN ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO MARTYRS' SHRINE**

Monday, August 25, 2025

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

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

## **Announcements!!!**

- ✚ Join us in our Parish Pilgrimage to the Martyrs Shrine at Midland, Ontario, save your seat;
- ✚ Reminders for Parents with Grade 2 child to register in the First Holy Communion and Grade 7 and up for Confirmation;
- ✚ On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Matthew Tulio will be ordained as Transitional Diaconate at St. Michael Cathedral. Remember him in your prayers;





## 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



### Martyrs' Shrine

### St. John XXIII Parish Pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine

All Parishioners are invited to join our  
Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope

on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to  
Martyrs' Shrine, Midland, Ontario

*Email the parish office to sign up:*

Departure Time from St. John XXIII Parish- **7am**

### 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*

*Francis*



*Prayers for our parishioners who died recently:*

**Cristina Soriano, Antonio Dequito,  
Elenida Donado,  
Frank Pinto, Julieta Costales**

*May their souls rest in peace and share the heavenly banquet.*



## OUR FAITH

# Sacraments

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is an essential part of Christian Initiation. In Confirmation the bishop seals us, the baptized, with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. This sacrament is intended to:

- root us more deeply as sons and daughters of God,
- incorporate us more firmly into Christ,
- strengthen our bond with the Church,
- associate us more closely with the mission of the Church, and
- strengthen us to bear witness to the Christian faith.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Why must I take part in a parish-based program when I am attending a Catholic School?**

The Catholic schools assist the parents and the parish with what is called "initial preparation" for the sacraments. Initial preparation deals primarily with content: What do we believe as Catholics?

"Immediate preparation," which takes place shortly before a sacrament is celebrated, is the responsibility of the parents and the parish. Immediate preparation leads the candidates to look at their relationship with God and with the Church.

**2. What is a sponsor?**

If possible, the person to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor is a model of faith for the candidate and must be a fully initiated, practising Catholic in good standing under church laws and normally at least 16 years of age. It is desirable that the sponsor selected be a godparent who undertook the role at Baptism.

**3. Why must I submit a Baptism certificate?**

Only someone who is baptized Roman Catholic or who has been received into the Roman Catholic Church may celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. The parish is responsible for verifying this by collecting Baptism Certificates or Certificates of Reception from those presenting themselves as candidates.

**4. I was baptized in an Eastern Rite Church, so I was confirmed at the same time. Can I be confirmed again?**

Confirmation may be celebrated only once. However, the Ukrainian Eparchial Bishop expects Grade 7 students who are already confirmed to take part in the preparation program at school and in the parish to deepen their understanding of their faith. During the Confirmation Mass, they will be called forward to receive a blessing. Any Grade 7 student who is already confirmed is encouraged to participate in the program.

To read more click this link ..... [Archdiocese of Toronto - Confirmation](#)

