

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 Advent | 24 December 2023

4th Sunday of *ADVENT*



**FOREVER I WILL SING OF YOUR
STEADFAST LOVE, O LORD.**

Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to
me according to your word. Luke 1:38

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 2nd Saturday & 3rd Sunday 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. STEPHEN (Dec. 26th)

Pray for us.

“Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” St. Stephen



“Behold the young woman is with child and shall bear a Son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” (Isaiah 7.14)

Today we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. We now celebrate “the Great days,” also known as ‘Novena to Christmas,’ having begun on the 17th of December. In this Novena, our focus is only one; the event that is important; the Celebration of the Birth of Our Savior.

Advent, truly, has been intended to be, a “season of joyful preparation,” for this coming of Our Savior. Advent is joyful, because it is based on this Firm Truth that “God loves us;” and pursues us, to sending his Son among us for our salvation.

Christmas indeed is “the Proof and Celebration” of this Love.

If we can anticipate, a little, this will be the Message of the Angel of God on Christmas Night to the Shepherd; ***“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great Joy ... today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you which Messiah and Lord.”***

On this Final Week of preparation, the Church calls us to heed the call of the Psalmist; ***“Lift up your heads and see your redemption is close at hand.”***

Yes, Our Redemption is close at hand. Indeed, Jesus, is the real fulfillment of the Prophecy, spoken to Ahaz by Prophet Isaiah; ***“Behold the young woman is with child and shall bear a Son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”***

He is the One about whom the Angel of God, speaks to his foster Father, Joseph; ***“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your Wife, for the Child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit, she will bear a Son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”***

As a people of faith, we are blessed indeed, if we believed in the Love of God, out of which, God sent His Son Christ Jesus for our Salvation.

Faith in this Truth, elevates us and liberates us. Faith in this Truth, results in Joy and Peace of heart. Faith in this Truth makes Christmas, a transformative celebration in us and in those we congregate.

As we, reflect and wait for this great day; the day our Savior was born, let us abandon ourselves into the hands of God, asking Him to give us His Grace, that we may experience personally, this true Joy and Peace, that only He can give.

May God bless and protect us all, Amen.



COMPENDIUM OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHAPTER ONE

“Jesus Christ descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead.”

125. What is the “hell” into which Jesus descended? 632-637

This “hell” was different from the hell of the damned. It was the state of all those, righteous and evil, who died before Christ. With his soul united to his divine Person Jesus went down to the just in hell who were awaiting their Redeemer so they could enter at last into the vision of God. When he had conquered by his death both death and the devil “who has the power of death” (Hebrews 2:14), he freed the just who looked forward to the Redeemer and opened for them the gates of heaven.

126. What place does the Resurrection of Christ occupy in our faith?

631, 638

The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ and represents along with his cross an essential part of the Paschal Mystery.

127. What are the signs that bear witness to the Resurrection of Jesus?

639-644, 656-657

Along with the essential sign of the empty tomb, the Resurrection of Jesus is witnessed to by the women who first encountered Christ and proclaimed him to the apostles. Jesus then “appeared to Cephas (Peter) and then to the Twelve. Following that he appeared to more than five hundred of the brethren at one time” (1 Corinthians 15:5-6) and to others as well. The apostles could not have invented the story of the resurrection since it seemed impossible to them. As a matter of fact, Jesus himself upbraided them for their unbelief.

128. Why is the Resurrection at the same time a transcendent occurrence?

647, 656-657

While being an historical event, verifiable and attested by signs and testimonies, the Resurrection, insofar as it is the entrance of Christ's humanity into the glory of God, transcends and surpasses history as a mystery of faith. For this reason, the risen Christ did not manifest himself to the world but to his disciples, making them his witnesses to the people.

129. What is the condition of the risen body of Jesus? 645-646

The Resurrection of Christ was not a return to earthly life. His risen body is that which was crucified and bears the marks of his passion. However, it also participates in the divine life, with the characteristics of a glorified body. Because of this the risen Jesus was utterly free to appear to his disciples how and where he wished and under various aspects.

God preserved his body from corruption.

(to be continued)- Catechism of the Catholic Church <https://www.vatican.va/archive/compendium>

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 23–Sat, 5:15PM Vigil Mass- +Willie Agustin Sr.

Dec 24–Sunday 9:00 AM +Prosie Labo

11:00 AM The Parishioners

Christmas Vigil Mass -12:00AM The Parishioners

Dec 25 –Mon, 9:00 AM Thanksgiving of Garcia Family

12:15 PM Thanksgiving of Sunga Family

5:30 PM Thanksgiving of Zeny Crescini

Dec 26 - Tue, 9 AM Thanksgiving of Jinky Aliligay

Thanksgiving of Nati Albano

Dec 27 –Wed, 7 PM +Lydia Lumarlan

Dec 28–Thu, 9 AM +Aniskhatun Poonja

Dec 29– Fri, 7 PM +John Castanha

Dec 30- Sat 9:00 AM Thanksgiving of Donado Family

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7-day Candle –Offering–Dec 23- 29, 2023

Sanctuary--- Thanksgiving of Vi. Hughes

Virgin Mary- Thanksgiving of Vi. Hughes

Chapel ---- Thanksgiving of Vi. Hughes

WORD OF THE WEEK



VIRGIN

A consecrated virgin is a never-married woman who dedicates her perpetual virginity to God and is set aside as a sacred person who belongs to Christ in the Catholic Church. <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/>

Mary consecrated herself totally, as the handmaid of the Lord, to the work of her Son, diligently serving the mystery of the redemption with him and under him, with the grace of almighty God (42).

Full of faith in the promise of her Son (43), the Virgin constitutes a praying presence in the midst of the community of disciples: persevering with them in unity and in prayer (44), imploring "with her prayers the gift of the Spirit, who had already overshadowed her at the Annunciation" (45).

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccclergy/documents/rc_con_ccclergy_doc_19071997_conri_en.html

Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention –December 2023 - FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

“We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.”



The season of Advent



Our Patron Saint...



"[A]ll men without exception, both individually and in society, have a lifelong obligation to strive after heavenly values through the right use of the things of this earth. These temporal goods must be used in such a way as not to jeopardize eternal happiness."
 QUOTE OF POPE JOHN XXIII

St. Stephen (Dec 26th)

This celebration dates back to about the 4th century. Because his name is Greek, it is assumed Stephen was a Jew of the diaspora (Jewish communities outside Israel) who had resettled in Jerusalem. Stephen is the first-named among the seven deacons chosen to minister to Greek-speaking Christians in Jerusalem at the very dawn of the Christian church. He is the first recorded martyr of the New Testament.

Living with Christ Dec 2023 edition.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS (Online- click the link to view& listen)

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6dTaaamqU0EMoLUaJVwB-w_YiyA9KPYXC



Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent 2023
 Archdiocese of Toronto • 907 views • 1 day ago



Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent 2023
 Archdiocese of Toronto • Premieres 12/9/23, 5:00 PM



Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent 2023
 Archdiocese of Toronto • 79 views • 18 hours ago



Bishop Vincent Nguyen's Reflection

Fourth Sunday of Advent

IN THE NEWS !!!

Pope: Concert with the Poor shows true meaning of Christian message

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-12/pope-concert-with-the-poor-shows-meaning-of-christian-message.html>



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR NEW CYCLE OF FORMATION COURSES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023



ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO ALLOCATES OVER \$2.7 MILLION TO SUPPORT EIGHT INDIGENOUS HEALING & RECONCILIATION PROJECTS
 Tuesday, December 12, 2023



ARCHBISHOP LEO'S MESSAGE FOR HANUKKAH
 Monday, December 11, 2023

NEWS ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHBISHOP LEO

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **If you want to use 2024 pre-numbered donation envelope, please fill up the Parish Registration form and submit it to the OFFICE.**
- **First Holy Communion First Test is in the month of December, email the office to book an appointment;**
- **“Hang a Christmas Card on the Tree” we encourage your support on this project;**
- **See next page for the Mass Schedule on Christmas and New Year’s Day celebration.**



MASS SCHEDULE

December

- 23 – 9:00am Regular Saturday morning Mass
- 23 – 5:15pm Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent
- 24 – 9:00am 4th Sunday of Advent
- 11:00am 4th Sunday of Advent
- 5:30pm Cancelled

CHRISTMAS 2023

December

- 24 Sunday – 12:00 midnight Vigil Mass for Christmas Day
- 25 Monday - 9:00 am Christmas Day
- 12:15 pm Christmas Day
- 5:30 pm Christmas Day

December

- 30 Saturday- 9:00am Regular Saturday morning Mass
- 30 Saturday- 5:15 pm Vigil Mass Feast of the Holy Family
- 31 Sunday - 9:00 am Feast of the Holy Family
- 11:00 am Feast of the Holy Family
- 5:30 pm Cancelled

NEW YEAR 2024

December

- 31 – 7:00pm Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

January

- 01 Monday- 9:00 am Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
- 12:15 pm Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
- 5:30 pm Solemnity of Mary Mother of God