

Baptism of the Lord

Jesus came to give us the fire of his Spirit that we may radiate the joy and truth of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. His word has power to change and transform our lives that we may be burning lights pointing others to Jesus Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you want the Lord's power, grace, and love to burn brightly in your life? Ask him to fill you with his Holy Spirit.

John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit himself to John's baptism? In this humble submission we see a foreshadowing of the "baptism" of his death upon the cross. Jesus' baptism is the acceptance and the beginning of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allowed himself to be numbered among sinners. Jesus submitted himself entirely to his Father's will. Out of love he consented to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins.

The Lord Jesus is ever ready to renew and refashion us in his likeness through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit - and he anoints us for mission as ambassadors of his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. We are called to be the "light" and "salt" of his kingdom that radiate the beauty and aroma of his mercy and goodness to those around us. The Lord Jesus wants his love and truth to shine through us that many others may find new life, freedom, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord Jesus to fill you with his Holy Spirit that you may radiate the joy of the Gospel to those around you.

Reflection: *Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and with the fire of your love and goodness. May I always find joy and delight in seeking to please you in doing your will just as you have delighted in the joy of pleasing your Father and doing his will.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday Jan 14th

+ Mary Mailloux
Requested by Maureen MacDonald

Wednesday, Jan 15th

+ James Coyle
Requested by Catherine Coyle

Thursday, January 16th

+ Jack Ryan
Requested by Riet Ryan

Friday, January 17th

+ Howard Jobin
Requested by Maureen MacDonald

Saturday, January 18th

+ Jack Ryan

REST IN PEACE

In your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of:
Paul Proctor, Etienne (John) de Villiers, Jack Ryan

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light burns this week for the intentions of
Pope Francis.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ellwood Donnelly, Philip Teixeira, John W., Paul Holliday,
Gerry Genuino, Baby Isaiah Liam, Baby Owen, Patrick
O'Neill, Jacob McLean, Elaine Atwood, Mary McLean



Please remember the St. Vincent De Paul poor box as you exit the church.



Help support your parish so that we are able to keep our doors open to support you when you need us. Contact the office if you wish to begin using envelopes or for more information on our Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). Alternatively, scan the QR code and link will take you to our "Donate" button on our website where you can donate through your credit card.

IN THE NEWS

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Churches – We have identified holy places of worship in each of the major regions of the archdiocese to serve as pilgrimage destinations during the Jubilee Year. The locations are as follows:

Archdiocese	St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto
Shrines	Martyrs' Shrine, Midland
Central Region	St Paul's Basilica St Mary's, Toronto St Edward the Confessor
Western Region	Our Lady of Sorrows, Etobicoke St. Mary's, Brampton
Eastern Region	St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough St Gregory the Great, Oshawa
Northern Region	St Padre Pio, Kleinburg St Mary's, Barrie

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:
Prayer Service 2025 Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, 4 p.m. North City Church 377 Woodbridge Ave., Woodbridge. Join Bishop John A. Boissonneau and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for His Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches and celebrates the 1,700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.

Vocations:

If you feel God is offering you the grace of a Church vocation, call, Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.968.0997. Email vocations@archtoronto.org

Catholic Recovery:

Catholic in Recovery is a non-profit organization seeking to serve those suffering from addictions and unhealthy attachments. We meet every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. St. Roch's Parish 2889 Islington Ave., North York. Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Church. If interested in learning more, call 289-541-8188

“If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive, and it embraces our lives forever!” – Pope Francis

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

Confirmation Registration (EXTENDED)

Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation is now open and online on the website (stjohnsto.archtoronto.org) – please fill out the form and submit it by January 31, 2025.

2025 Parish Offertory Envelopes:

The 2025 Parish Offertory envelopes are ready and waiting for you to pick up in the vestibule. Please note some of the previously assigned envelope numbers have changed, especially those who had envelopes 401 and up. If you can't find a box with your name on it, contact the office. Don't forget to put your name and address on the first few envelopes. We thank you for your contributions in supporting our parish.

Call to Ministry:

A few ministries are looking for volunteers to serve in the Parish community. If you are interested, please let Fr. Joshua know or contact the Parish Office.

1. Parish Counters

Volunteers are needed to help count the weekly collection and the donations given to the parish community through various means. The team mainly meets on Sundays after the Masses to count the collection and deposit it in the bank.

2. Hospitality Ministry

This ministry seeks to serve, welcome, and greet all peoples who walk through our doors here at St. John's. They exist to welcome and assist all our neighbours to be able participate in our faith community. We are looking for people to assist at our Saturday evening and Sunday morning liturgies.

3. Liturgical Ministry

- **Lectors** – the call for readers to assist both at the weekday and weekend liturgies. Whether you are a young person or a person of experience, please consider serving at the Lector.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist** – the special call to be able to distribute communion to the faithful during Mass, but also to help bring the Eucharist to the sick if able.
- **Altar Servers** – the important call to serve at the Altar of the Lord, to help the presider and the deacon pray with the faithful, but also help uplift our liturgy with your witness.