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## Parish of Saint John

Founded A.D. 1909

794 Kingston Road, Toronto, Ontario M4E 1R7 Phone: 416-698-1105 Fax: 416-698-1106

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Closed between 12:00 -1:00 pm

Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday



From the Pastor's Desk: YEAR OF PRAYER: Pope Francis has called on all the faithful to make 2024 a "Year of Prayer" as a special preparation for the Jubilee of 2025. The Church has a centuries-old custom of declaring every 25 years as a Jubilee Year, celebrating another quarter century of walking in the way of Jesus Christ as a pilgrim Church. Each Jubilee year is seen as an opportunity for renewal, with special places of pilgrimage assigned, and spiritual activities for all the faithful to participate in some way, at home, in church, or on pilgrimage. By preparing for the Jubilee Year through a renewal of our prayer life, we can be as open as possible to the graces we hope to receive in marking the year. Pope Francis writes, "This is not a year with specific initiatives. Rather, it is a privileged time to rediscover the value of prayer." That simplicity of purpose is an invitation to each one of us to simply spend more time in prayer, and to do some concrete activity to enrich your prayer life. The best "study guide" is the Holy Bible, reading and meditating of the life of Jesus in the gospels, and in the letters of St. Paul and the other epistles. Also, if you have not read the section in the Catechism of the Catholic Church on prayer, this is an opportunity (many say it is the best part of the Catechism.) Find a prayer book on your bookshelf that you have not opened in years, and look at it with fresh eyes. But always the best prayer is the simple and humble prayer of the heart, your own conversation with God, trying to love Him and trust in Him and asking him to help those you love. Pope Francis has called people from all walks of life to enter more deeply into prayers of intercession, petition, contemplation and thanksgiving. If we can concentrate on these classic four ways of prayer at least once each day, we can be assured of the best preparation to celebrate a Jubilee Year of grace in 2025.

.....Fr. John-Mark

Please remember the St. Vincent de Paul poor box as you exit the church. Your donations help St. Vincent de Paul Society respond to needy families and individuals within our parish boundaries who are struggling to make ends meet.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY: This weekend is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis theme this year, "Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace" " .... I think too of all those consecrated men and women who offer their lives to the Lord in the silence of prayer and in apostolic activity, sometimes on the fringes of society, tirelessly and creatively exercising their charism by serving those around them. And I think of all those who have accepted God's call to the ordained priesthood, devoting themselves to the preaching of the Gospel, breaking open their own lives, together with the bread of the Eucharist, for their brothers and sisters, sowing seeds of hope and revealing to all the beauty of God's kingdom." We are so grateful for the Good shepherd and all our shepherds especially Fr. John-Mark. Let us take a moment this weekend to thank him. We hope to host a coffee Sunday after each Mass outside soon, as the Hall is in use during sacramental prep. Stay tuned!

#### Mass Intentions



Tuesday, April 23rd
For INTENTION OF THE DECOURCY FAMILY
Requested by The DeCourcy Family

Wednesday, April 24th For + ALDO MISSIO Requested by Parish Family

Thursday, April 25th
For + MARGARET HACKETT
Requested by Pat Cairns

Friday, April 26th
For INTENTION OF LIN & DIANA
Requested by Sharon Vernon

Saturday, April 27th
For + RICHARD E. WILSON
Requested by Bernadette & Jim Glover

Please Pray For The Sick
Michelle Miles, Marianella Espinal, Helen Travers-Griffin,
Catherine Chang, Paul Proctor, Christina Jopling, John Rao,
Nancy Smith, Rosanne Nihtila, Margaret Ryan, Michael
Higgins, Richard Bowman, Chiu Wong, Gillian Haughey,
Isabel Cairns, Marianne Loranger, Christine Curran, Jacob
McLean, Carmel Richard



#### Rest in Pleace

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of

Norbert Maduka Mbaegb, Angela Farrell & Georgina Jamieson



The Sanctuary Light burns this week in loving memory of

Edmond Valin Sr.

#### In The News

# FIVE MEN PREPARE FOR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD ON MAY 11. Over the next few weeks we would like to introduce you to the five men who will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders in May of this year. These five men, transitional deacons at present, will be ordained to the priesthood on May 11, 2024 and will serve the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto.



MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST: Join our Mary, Cause of our Joy, Toronto Chapter for our 48th Magnificat breakfast. Treat your mother, sister, colleague or friend to an inspirational morning that includes a hot breakfast, praise and worship led by our spirit-filled music ministry, a personal testimony of the transforming love of Christ in the life of an invited speaker. Priests are available for women wishing to avail themselves of the sacrament of Reconciliation. Saturday May 25, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. St. Benedict Parish Hall, 2194 Kipling Ave. Etobicoke, ON, Doors open at 9 am

WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT: Join us at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre on Saturday, May 9th from 8:30 to 3 pm for Attitude with Gratitude Day Retreat. The cost to attend is \$45 and includes lunch. For more info, contact Jean at 905.278.5229 or office@qoa.ca.

DAY OF REFLECTION: at Manresa Jesuit Renewal Centre on Monday, April 29, from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Topic "Hospitality of the Heart". Enter deeply into the value and practice of hospitality. Look anew and contemplatively at the dynamic of hospitality. Focus on God as the source of hospitality, receiving the gift of Divine Love, hospitality to the self, the expanding love of neighbour and hospitality to an unknown future. For more information: <a href="http://manresa-canada.ca">http://manresa-canada.ca</a>, 905.839.2864. or registration@manresa.ca



God our Father, you generously grant us all the gifts we have. Help us to understand that it is in the giving that we receive. Thank

you for making a gift to your Parish. Don't walk with cash? Scan the QR code where you can use your credit card.

	2023	2024
Sunday Offertory	\$ 3560	\$ 4112
Offertory PAG:	\$ 1421	\$ 1426

Little Levity: A German shepherd, a Doberman and a cat died. In heaven they faced God, who wanted to know what they believed in. The German shepherd said "I believe in discipline, loyalty and training to my master". "Good" said God. "You may sit on my right side". The Doberman said "I believe in love, care and protection of my master". "Aha, you may sit on my left" said God. Then God looked at the cat and said" and what do you believe in"? The cat replied "I believe you are sitting in my seat".

Peace begins with a smile.......Mother Teresa

#### **Parish News**

Invest in our Church's future by giving to St ShareLife ShareLife, Your kindness and devotion enable St. Augustine's Seminary, along with the Office of Vocations and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary, to provide an excellent formation for our seminarians as they pursue a life of service. This past year, you invested in our Church's future by supporting 58 seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary, This Sunday, April 21, we celebrate the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There has never been a better time to support and pray for our seminarians, wherever they may be on their journey. We've pulled ahead a bit this week bringing us to 22.2% of our total goal with \$17,650. Please consider giving at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate. Thank you for living the Gospel through ShareLife!

COME CELEBRATE OUR NEWEST CATHOLICS! Join us on Sunday April 28th after the 11 am Mass, in the Parish Hall to celebrate and congratulation Amy, Bella, Jane, Jessica, Joanne, John, Tim, & Caroline, & Janice (Confirmed), our newest Neophyte Catholics to St. John's Parish family.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CEREMONIES: What a joy it was to rejoice with family and friends last weekend with our first set of First Holy Communion students receiving Holy Communion for the first time. This weekend we welcome many more at each of our Masses. We continue to pray that the Lord who has called them to follow him, may guide them in their faith journey.



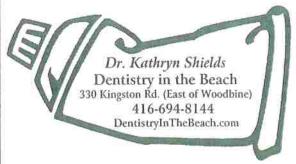


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