

Living the Gospel



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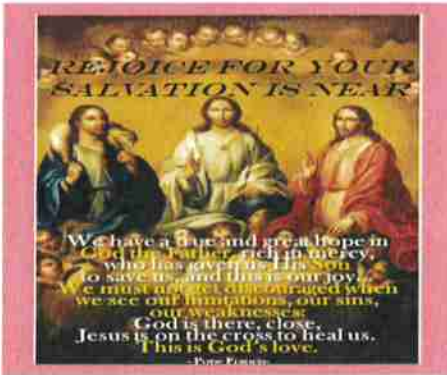
Phone: 416-698-1105 Fax: 416-698-1106

Website: www.stjohnsto.archtoronto.org

Email: stjohnsto@archtoronto.org

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

**Fourth Sunday Of Lent
& Laetare Sunday**



From the Pastor's Desk: LET US PRAY: After the "Lord, have mercy," the priest says, "Let us pray." This is followed by a moment of silent reflection, so that we can all put ourselves in the presence of God as our plea for mercy echoes up to heaven. It allows us to focus on just who we are standing before: our awesome Creator, our Father, who now looks on his prodigal sons and daughters and loves us, just as the father lavishly welcomed the Prodigal Son who had repented and returned to his father. It is a perfect moment to call to mind any special intention. Then the priest says the "Collect", giving voice to the prayers of the Body of Christ. "Silent reflection" can be many things. It is a time for stillness of the heart, even in the midst of everyday distractions, like the din of streetcars, trucks, motorcycles and sirens on the street, the shuffling of latecomers, or the cry of a baby. Generally, the din in our heads is louder than any of these, and that is what we try to refocus at this time. Distractions can actually become the focus of prayer, recognizing that we live in the midst of a world of wonderful activity, for which we give thanks; or a thought that will not go away because it is troubling us, is perhaps the very thing we need to take to prayer. And we simply rejoice in the crying of a baby or the fussing of a child, because it is the sound of life. This beautiful moment of preparation in the Mass disposes our hearts to hear something more than the noise around us and in our heads, and we are ready to listen to the Word of God proclaimed now in the holy scriptures which follow.....Fr. John-Mark

WHAT IS LAETARE SUNDAY? Laetare means to rejoice. Also known as Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, Mid-Lent Sunday or Rose Sunday. **What's different?** Priests may wear rose vestments at Mass - Flowers may adorn the Altar - the organ may play instrumental music. **Why celebrate it?** Laetare Sunday provides us encouragement as we progress toward the end of Lent. Today is a small break from the penitential season that reminds us of the joy and hope ahead at Easter. The Joy of his resurrection. So let us Rejoice!

Please Pray For The Sick

Paul Proctor, Christina Jopling, John Rao, Nancy Smith, Rosanne Nihtila, Margaret Ryan, Michael Higgins, Richard Bowman, Chiu Wong, Cathy Connor, Gillian Haughey, Isabel Cairns, Marianne Loranger, Christine Curran, Jack Lees, Jacob McLean, Carmel Richard

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, March 12th

For INTENTIONS OF CALVIN JOHANSSON
Requested by Parish Family

Wednesday, March 13th

For + CRISTINA CLEMENTI
Requested by Anna Ercolino

Thursday, March 14th

For INTENTIONS OF GABRIELLE MCQUILLAN
Requested by Parish Family

Friday, March 15th

For + ROBERT & TROY ROSS
Requested by Mary Ross

Saturday, March 16th

For INTENTIONS OF FRAN FORBES
Requested by Parish Family



*The Sanctuary Light burns this week
for the intentions of
Rosemary Walcher*

Lent & Easter Schedule

Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent - 4:30 pm

Confessions

Saturdays - 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Wednesday, March 20th

8:45 am to 9:15 am, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm, 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Palm Sunday Masses

Saturday, March 23rd

4:30 pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 24th

9:00 am & 11:00 am

Holy Thursday - March 28th

8:15 am - No Mass

7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper & Eucharistic Adoration

Good Friday - March 29th

8:15 am - No Mass

12 noon & 3:00 pm - Liturgy of the Word - Communion Rite

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - March 30th - 8:30 pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Masses - March 31st - 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Easter Monday - April 1st - 9am



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 and it will take you to our DONATE page where you can use your credit card.



	2023	2024
<i>Sunday Offertory</i>	<i>\$ 3,175</i>	<i>\$ 4,115</i>
<i>Offertory PAG:</i>	<i>\$ 1,421</i>	<i>\$ 1,426</i>

In The News

SECURITIES AS A CHARITABLE GIFT OPTION: One of the most financially sound ways to support your parish is with the gift of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds). When you donate stocks, mutual funds and other securities to a registered charity, you pay no capital gains tax and receive a tax receipt for the full amount of the gift. It means a great tax break for you and support of your Parish and various archdiocesan charities such as ShareLife, St. Augustine's Seminary, The Shepherds' Trust, and many others. For further information, contact the development office at 416.934.3400 Ext. 519 or email to development@archtoronto.org.

TENEBRAE SERVICE: Join us on Friday, March 22 at 7:30 pm, to experience the embracing service, sung by the St. Michael's Choir School Alumni Choir and set to music composed by the school's founder Msgr. John Edward Ronan at St. Paul's Basilica for our Tenebrae Service. With a dimly lit church, a rarely seen candle holder, and somber tones, "Tenebrae" (Latin meaning 'darkness' or 'shadows') is a unique and special service, adapted from 9th century medieval Roman Catholic practices, marking the days of Holy Week with readings, music and candles extinguished one by one. This is a solemn liturgical service, open and free to all. However a free will donation will be gratefully accepted.

FORMED: Register for free reflections! Great videos for kids and families. To sign up go to www.formed.org. Click on SIGN UP. Search for St. John's Parish (or enter our postal code M4E 1R7), and you will see our name and address (794 Kingston Road) - click on it, then "Next". Enter your name and e-mail address, click on SIGN UP!

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT VIDEOS: Every week during Lent the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops will release a video reflection from their series entitled "Journey through Lent 2024". To view the video visit: ccb.ca/len

DOMINICAN FRIARS YOUTH INTERFAITH VIDEO CONTEST: Enter between Feb 5 to April 15. The theme: "This is a time when the world needs more love and compassion than ever." High school students in Catholic School Boards are invited to participate.. Students are encouraged to make a 3-minute video encapsulating the theme. For rules & regulations and forms visit: <https://www.catholicregister.org/videocontest>.

ANNUAL MANRESA WEEKEND RETREAT FOR MEN: Join us from Friday March 15 to Sunday March 17th, to experience silence and restfulness, to renew your spirit and to deepen your relationship with the Lord. Theme: To be like Mary - Immersed in God's Divine Life "To live as a Christian in the world, while at the same time living with God's vision for oneself and his Creation." Facilitator: Fr. John Sullivan, S.J. Info: 905.839.2864. Register: <https://manresa-canada.ca/events/>

Little Levity: Joanie and Claudee meet for a coffee break most workdays but today Joanie noticed Claudee was upset. When she asked her why she appeared so upset, Claudee replied, "Our booking office have three phones. Today during lunch, I was responsible for answering all of them. It was a constant repeat of "May I help you?" or "Will you hold?" I guess I got confused because I surprised my boss on the other end of the line when I answered his call with, "May I hold you?" Peace begins with a smile.....Mother Teresa

Parish News



Inspired by God's love: Support ShareLife's mission. Today, as we contemplate God's boundless generosity, may we, too, be moved by this same spirit of generosity. May this inspire all of us to be kind, compassionate, and move us to share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need.

St. John's has been given a suggested goal of \$79,500. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate. ShareLife collections will be held at the parish on March 17, April 28 & June 2nd

MASS INTENTIONS: The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, for anniversaries, weddings and birthdays, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition. Masses can be scheduled Tuesday to Friday at 8:15 am or Saturday at the 4:30 pm Mass. If you wish to schedule a Mass, please contact the Parish Office. Having a Mass said is a great gift for someone who has everything.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: We are pleased to bring the Sacrament to all homebound parishioners. Please contact the parish office if you or a family member wish to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the sick.



IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS? How does God Guide us? What does the Holy Spirit do? Beginning just after Easter, St John's will be joining the almost 300 Canadian Catholic parishes to offer an Alpha Program, and by doing so, will continue to expand upon the 1,000,000 Canadians that have already experienced an Alpha. What is Alpha? It is a 12 week program, where we meet weekly to break some bread, watch a video on the question of the week, like the ones above, and have some open discussion. Would you like to join us? If so call or text Deacon Paul – 416.606.7285 for details. Space is limited. God is love!!! dp

50/50 RAFFLE: Get your tickets for The Knights of Columbus 50/50 raffle lottery in support of the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus of Ontario. Tickets are just 10 tickets for \$10.00/ 40 tickets for \$20.00 / 125 tickets for \$50.00 or 300 tickets for \$100. Lot's of chances to WIN! Grand Prize Draw April 28th. To support our council ticket sales, visit the following link: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/194>

RETURN BLESSED PALMS: Reminder to bring your blessed palms from last year to Mass on the 9th and 10th There will be a basket in the vestibule for you to leave them in. The blessed Palms will be burnt in time for next year's Ash Wednesday.



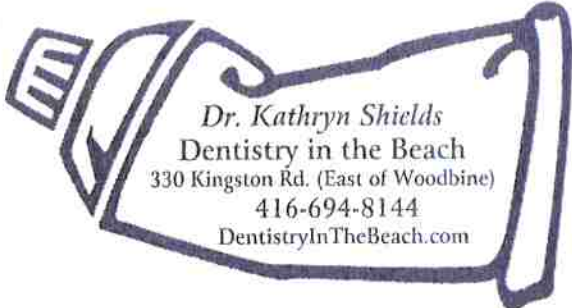
40 CANS FOR LENT - I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN: The Knights of Columbus are once again encouraging you to donate one can per day for 40 days during the Lenten season. Or substitute \$1 for each can. All donations will be given to the Good Shepherd Mission. Drop off your non-perishable food donation in the special 40 Cans for Lent baskets in the vestibule. Monetary donations can be placed in an envelope, marked "40 Cans For Lent", and dropped in the collection basket.

Please remember the poor box as you exit the church.





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