

Do you recognize the voice of the Lord speaking to you when you listen to the word of God in Scripture?

Luke the evangelist tells us that the "word of God came to John in the wilderness" (Luke 3:2). Who was John the Baptist and what is the significance of the word which he received and delivered to the people of his day? Luke tells us that John was the son of Zechariah, a priest who served in the temple at Jerusalem. John stood at a pivotal juncture in the history of God's dealing with his people. He bridged the Old and New Testaments, also known as the Old and New Covenants which God made with his people.

John was filled and led by the Spirit

John's prophetic calling and mission preceded his conception and birth. The angel had announced to Zechariah that his barren wife will conceive a son, and "you shall call his name John," and "he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:13,15). When John received his name shortly after birth, his father prophesied that he would be "called the prophet of the Most High who will go before the Lord to prepare his ways" (Luke 1:76). John was called to be a prophet, a spokesman for God.

Do you allow God's Word to transform your life?

How can we, like John the Baptist, prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ - today and everyday and when he comes again to bring us fully into his everlasting kingdom? John the Baptist tells us that the first step is conversion and repentance (Matthew 3:2; Luke 3:7). Conversion involves receiving God's word into our heart and mind and allowing his Word to change our attitudes and wrong ways of thinking and judging. Repentance is the deliberate turning away from sin (wrong-doing) and turning to God to receive his pardon, healing, and strength to do what is good and reject what is wrong.

John saw from a distance what Jesus the Messiah would accomplish through his death and resurrection - pardon for our sins, healing and restoration, and eternal life for all who would believe in the Lord Jesus. Are you hungry for the Word of God and do you allow God's word to transform the way you think, speak, and live your life?

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 10th

+ Des Gilling
Requested by Ken, Fran, & Jen Forbes

Wednesday, December 11th

+Rick Ainey
Requested by Febria Family

Thursday, December 12th

Pro Populo

Friday, December 13th

+ Valerie Lawson
Requested by Parish Family

Saturday, December 14th

✚Alexandro Macatangay
Requested by Ethel & Steve

REST IN PEACE

In your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of:
All those who have lost a loved one this past year

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light burns this week in loving memory of
Letitia Valin & Family

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



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; select "St. John's Parish, Toronto" in the drop-down menu.

IN THE NEWS

Prayers and Best Wishes for Frank Cardinal Leo:

The faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto offer our prayers and best wishes for the newest members of the College of Cardinals, including our chief shepherd, the Archbishop of Toronto, Frank Cardinal Leo. This weekend, Cardinal Leo is in Rome as one of the 21 new cardinals from around the world, gathered with Pope Francis. Please pray for our new cardinal, as he begins this important role of service to the Church.

St. John's Children's Christmas Pageant:

The St. John's Parish Children's Liturgy and Catechism Programs are beginning to prepare for the annual Christmas Pageant to be presented immediately before the 4:30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Permission/information forms are available from the Children's Liturgy and Catechism teachers. To audition / participate, please meet in the church basement on December 8th, following the 9 am Mass. Rehearsals will be held on Dec. 15th and 22nd. If you have questions, please contact Marlo Taylor at 647-233-7636.

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 Cemeteries & Funeral Services

Today we welcome Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services to our parish.

Catholic Cemeteries are a vital part of the Catholic Church. Operated under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Toronto, each Catholic cemetery and funeral home reflects our Catholic beliefs.

To learn more, focus your smartphone's camera on the symbol or visit catholic-cemeteries.com



Mary's divinely assigned role is to make the Lord known, and loved by all. She is our privileged companion during Advent, learning from her heart on how to love Christ more. She is our Mother, our Queen, and helper. ~Archbishop Leo

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

Advent Day of Confessions:

St. John's Parish: Dec. 18th @ 6PM – 7PM

Corpus Christi: Dec. 19th @ 10 – 11AM or 6 – 7PM

Corpus Christi: Dec. 20th @ 10 – 11AM or 6 – 7PM

Confessions: Every Saturday: 3:30PM – 4:15PM

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th	
4:15PM	Christmas Children's Pageant
4:30PM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
7:45PM	Prelude – Caroling
8:00PM	Mass Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
9:45PM	Prelude – Caroling
10:00PM	Mass Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th	
11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Tuesday, December 31st 2024	
4:30PM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Wednesday, Jan. 1st, 2025	
11:00AM	Mass – Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Joshua

Confirmation Registration

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 5, 2025.

**St. Augustine's Seminary – Spirit & Life Series
Advent Day of Retreat, Saturday, December 14**

"Here I am, Lord" - Living the unconditional yes of Mary and Joseph. **Cost:** \$45 - Includes warm croissants, pastries, coffee and tea on arrival, as well as lunch. Mass, Confession, and Adoration will also be offered. Info: <https://staugustines.on.ca/events>

Caroling in the Park. Come sing with the choirs and band on Tuesday, December 10, 7:30–8:30 pm. Gather in Glen Stewart Park (Glen Manor Drive, south of Wooden Bridge, North of Queen)

2024 / 2025 Sunday Missals Are Available For Sale

The cost for the adult missals is \$8 and the Children's missals remain at \$11.