

What is true religion and devotion to God?

Jesus warns his disciples against the wrong kind of religion. In his denunciation of the scribes (the religious experts of his day), he warns against three things: the desire for prominence and first place of honor rather than lowly service for the benefit of others; the desire for deference and recognition (and seeking esteem from others) rather than seeking to promote the good of others through humble service and selfless care for others; and thirdly, attempting to use one's position (even a religious position) for self-gain and self-advancement. True religion is relating rightly to God and to one's neighbor with love, honor, and respect. The Lord puts his Holy Spirit within us that we may be filled with the joy of his presence, the joy of true worship, and the joy of selfless giving and love for others. True reverence for God frees the heart to give liberally, both to God and to neighbor.

Love is more precious than gold or silver

Jesus taught his disciples a dramatic lesson in generous giving with love and devotion. Love doesn't calculate - it spends lavishly! Jesus drove this point home to his disciples while sitting in the temple and observing people offering their tithes. Jesus praised a poor widow who gave the smallest of coins in contrast with the rich who gave greater sums. How can someone in poverty give more than someone who has ample means? Jesus' answer is very simple - love is more precious than gold!

Real giving comes from a heart full of gratitude

Jesus taught that real giving must come from the heart. A gift that is given with a grudge or for display loses most of its value. But a gift given out of love, with a spirit of generosity and sacrifice, is invaluable. The amount or size of the gift doesn't matter as much as the cost to the giver. The poor widow could have kept one of her coins, but instead she recklessly gave away all she had! Jesus praised someone who gave barely a penny - how insignificant a sum - because it was everything she had, her whole living. What we have to offer may look very small and not worth much, but if we put all we have at the Lord's disposal, no matter how insignificant it may seem, then God can do with it and with us what is beyond our reckoning. Do you know the joy and freedom of giving liberally to God and to neighbor with gratitude and love?

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, November 12th

+ Des Gilling

Requested by Robert, Irene & Monika

Wednesday, November 13th

+George MacDonald

Requested by Maureen MacDonald

Thursday, November 14th

Intentions of Msgr. Brad Massman

Requested by Parish Family

Friday, November 15th

+Sarah McComb

Requested by Kathy, Katie & Micheal

Saturday, November 16th

Intentions of Exy D'Souza

Requested by Parish Family

REST IN PEACE

Beginning on the weekend of November 2/3 and throughout the month of November the Church's tradition of praying for our deceased relatives and friends will be observed at St. John's Parish by the offering of all Masses in the month of November for our beloved relatives and friends.

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light burns this week in loving memory of
+ Chang Bee Ming

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ellwood Donnelly, Philip Teixeira, John W., Paul Holliday, Bree Tiffin, Gerry Genuino, Baby Isaiah Liam, Patrick O'Neill, Jacob 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; select "St. John's Parish, Toronto" in the drop-down menu.

IN THE NEWS

Unpacking the Synod on Synodality

Join us on Sunday November 10th from 4 to 6 pm, at St. Michael's College School Centre for the Arts – 1515 Bathurst, for a panel discussion to help unpack the Synod on Synodality. The three-year process of listening and dialogue, undertaken between 2021 and 2024, has garnered participation from Catholics worldwide. Moderated by Dr. Josephine Lombardi, panelists include: Sr. Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, Archbishop J. Michael Miller CSB of Vancouver, theologians Dr. Moira McQueen and Sr. Gill Goulding, C.J. Limited tickets available – they are free but must be reserved by visiting: www.archtoronto.org/synod.

Fall Retreat Programs

Queen of Apostles Renewal Center in Mississauga is pleased to offer the following day retreats. Nov. 25 - Day of Retreat Meditating on the Last Things (Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell). Dec. 7 - Advent Retreat. Dec. 14 - Bereavement Day of Retreat. For info or to register please call 905 278 5229 or visit www.qoa.ca

Come & See Discernment Weekend Retreat

The Office of Vocations will be hosting a Come & See Weekend Discernment Retreat for men 18 years and older, at St. Augustine's Seminary on Friday, Nov. 15 (6:30 pm) until Sunday, Nov. 17 (2 pm). This Retreat offers a way for men to discern a possible call to priesthood at our seminary. Register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca/comesee. For more information, please email vocations@archtoronto.org.

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

Gift of Securities

One of the most financially sound ways to support the Archdiocese of Toronto is with a gift of securities. When you donate stocks, mutual funds and other publically traded securities to a registered charity, you pay no capital gains tax and receive a tax receipt for the full amount of the gift. For more information, contact our office at development@archtoronto.org

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit. ~Pope Francis

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

2024 / 2025 Sunday Missals Are Available For Sale

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

Book Of Names Of The Dead

November is the month the Church traditionally remembers the faithful departed. We invite you to record the names of deceased relatives and friends in the Remembrance Book which will be placed near the Statue of Our Lady this month. We will remember them at all November Masses.

Corpus Christi Craft Fair

Join us for our Craft Fair on Sunday, November 10th from 10 am to 4 pm. Local vendors with handmade items. Delicious treats and much more. Fun for kids and all ages.

Preparation For The Sacrament Of Confirmation:

Information will be provided as soon as it becomes available. Thank you for your patience.

Shepherd's' Trust

There will be a second collection for the Shepherds' Trust the weekend of November 16th/17th. The Shepherds' Trust ensures that elderly and disabled priest are provided with sufficient financial resources to lead a dignified life after many years of ministry.

Altar Server Serra Awards 2024

The Greater Toronto Area Serra Clubs recognize the service and achievements of altar servers in each parish throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto. The servers, nominated by their parishes, were recognized by Auxiliary Bishop Robert Kasun in a special ceremony on Saturday October 26 where they were presented with the "Bishop's Award for Service."

Please help us congratulate this year's Serra Award winners: Ignatius, Declan, Claudia, Finlay, Alec, Rose, Tyrrel, Jaylah, Violet, and Sofia!

GLORIA! St. Michael's Choir School 59th Annual Christmas Concert at Massey Hall

Saturday, December 14 at 7 PM: *St. Michael's Choir School presents GLORIA!* -A magical blend of secular and sacred choral repertoire to usher in this Christmas season. Tickets are now available at:

www.masseyhall.com. Promo Code: STARLIGHT. For more information, please call 416-397-6367.

Save The Date

Saturday, November 23rd St. John's Parish Pasta Dinner hosted by the Knights of Columbus.