

# Parish of Saint John

Founded A.D. 1909

794 Kingston Road, Toronto, Ontario M4E 1R7

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

Website: [www.stjohnsto.archtoronto.org](http://www.stjohnsto.archtoronto.org)

Email: [stjohnsto@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohnsto@archtoronto.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. John-Mark Missio **Administrator:** Rev. James Dunstan, IVDei

**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Paul McCourt **Office Administrator:** Karen Baptiste

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

**Sunday Masses:** Saturday 4:30 pm Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am

**Weekday Masses:** Tuesday - Thursday 8:15 am

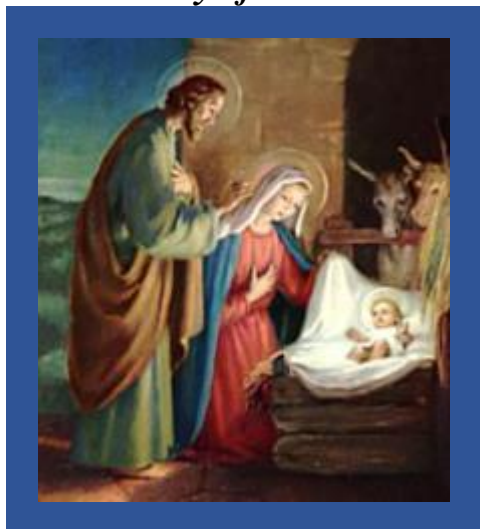
**Reconciliation:** Saturdays - 3:45 pm - 4:15 pm

Also available other times by appointment.



*Oh Come  
Let us Adore Him*

*Nativity of the Lord*



Note from the Pastor's Desk: The Mission of Christmas: Gratitude to our kind, generous and loving God is our only possible response to the joys of Christmas. We have everything to give thanks for: from the simple joys of family gatherings, big and small, even the simple exchange of telephone calls or family zoom meetings, to the heart of the matter: God has become one of us, Emmanuel, the child has been born for us, to be our Saviour. Jesus Christ, Son of the Eternal Father, is the babe lying in the manger. Our gifts to one another acknowledge that the greatest gift we will ever receive in this life is salvation, a gift completely undeserved, but out of kindness and mercy greater than any love we will know on earth, God has come to be with us. Salvation is at the heart of the meaning of Christmas, and so our Christmas celebrations should lead us to yearn for union with the God who shows us the ultimate meaning of love. Which leads us to the "Mission of Christmas": if we have come to know the love of God, we must share the Good News of his coming among us. How can we not share this with someone we know, who is searching for God, and needs a guide to find him? You and I must be those guides, sent by the Father into the world, to tell others about the Son who has come to save us. I will begin my sabbatical on January 1, and one of my primary resolutions is to pray for all the parishioners of St. John's, for the well-being of all, and especially that the Holy Spirit will deepen our faith, and conform us ever more closely to the heart of Christ. I will pray for the Spirit's guidance to see how our parish can be more alive in the Spirit than ever, and be a shining beacon of how disciples of Jesus uphold each other in faith and love. Your ongoing support for me through your prayers is an essential part of my sabbatical. I look forward to my return to the parish on July 1. Meanwhile, I truly believe that Fr. James will be an instrument of God's will for St. John's Parish, and will provide exceptional spiritual nourishment through his priestly ministry. May we all keep one another in prayer, and constantly ask the Lord to lead us in the way of his love. ....Fr. John-Mark Missio

**New Year's Masses**  
**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**New Year's Eve - 4:30 pm**  
**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - 9:00 am & 11:00 am**

*The office will be closed*  
*Monday December 26<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday December 27<sup>th</sup>*  
*&*  
*Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>*

**Mass Intentions**


**Tuesday, December 27th**  
**For + PAUL KAVANAGH**  
**Requested by The Kavanagh & James Family**

**Wednesday, December 28th**  
**For + CONNIE RAVALLI**  
**Requested by Georgina Revells**

**Thursday, December 29th**  
**For INTENTIONS OF RODNEY & HELEN TRAVERS-GRIFFIN**  
**Requested by The Family**

**Friday, December 30th**  
**For + ERICA MEIER**  
**Requested by Alberto & Josie Wintersinger**

**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. 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.

*The Sanctuary Light burns this week  
in loving memory of  
Edmond Valin Sr.*

**SANCTUARY LIGHT:** The red lamp near the tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection. If you wish to have the Sanctuary Lamp burning in memory of a loved one, or to honor a special occasion, please contact the Parish Office. The cost of the candle is \$10.00. It will burn for one week.

**Please Pray For The Sick**

**Diane Meldrum, Abina Guinan, Paul Decourcy, Lena Gilmour, Jack Lees, Stella Avery, Carmel Richard**

Come join us in praying the ROSARY before Mass, Tuesday to Friday. Church doors will open at 7:45 am.



**DON'T BE LEFT OUT, REGISTER:** We welcome all who have moved into our parish. To be a registered member of our parish is to have a sense of belonging to a Community of Faith. So help us so we can help you! Email the office.

## In The News

**CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE MASS:** As part of Marriage Sunday 2023 celebrations, Bishop Vincent Nguyen will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, especially those celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+) in 2023. The Mass will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 12 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their vows and milestone anniversary celebrants will be honoured with a special blessing. The Mass is open to all, but due to space restrictions those wishing to attend are asked to register online. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass here: <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>. The broadcast will begin at 2:15 p.m. Please visit [www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage) to register and to access resources for couples or contact [formation@archtoronto.org](mailto:formation@archtoronto.org).

**TCDSB KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:** Kindergarten in the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides children with a variety of learning experiences in a caring, faith-based environment. Students develop a positive attitude about themselves and others, become more independent and responsible, develop self-regulation skills and appropriate social skills, and solve problems. TCDSB looks forward to welcoming new students for the 2023-2024 school year. Children born in 2019 are eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten in September 2023.

**REGISTRATION:** [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration](http://www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration)

**FRIARS STUDENT WRITING CONTEST:** The Catholic Register invites Young Adults (13-19 years and currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school or equivalent program) to write a short essay on the theme: "Do good; seek justice", (Isaiah 1:17). Contestants should consult resources of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and submit a 450-500 word essay that answers the given question. Deadline on or before January 16, 2023 by 2 pm. Winners will receive 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Samsung Galaxy Cell Phone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Samsung Galaxy Watch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Samsung Galaxy Buds. For further inquiries, call 416.934.3400 ext. 527. Entries are to be submitted @<http://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

**VOCATIONS:** We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.968.0997. Email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)

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



## Parish News

**SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOHN:** December 27th is not a great day for a feast day, making a parish picnic a non-starter, but since St. John (the Evangelist) is the patron of our parish, we observe the day as a solemnity. Considering coming to St. John's Church for the Holy Mass that day at 8:15 a.m., praising God and honouring the Beloved Disciple who helped make Jesus known to us through his beautiful Gospel. A great way to keep Christ in Christmas, something we should through all the 12 days of Christmas.

**YOU CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE:** in someone's quality of life. Please remember that there is always a box in the east vestibule of the church, collecting good used eyeglasses. We've recently been asked to donate items you may already have in your home; a bar of soap, a tooth brush, or half bottle of Tylenol/Advil. All items will be sent to recipients in the Third World who cannot afford to buy their own, through the organization of Dr. Joan Simone.

**THANK YOU:** to all who participated and donated in this year's Advent Sock & Mitt Drive. All donations will go to those in need in our community and beyond.



**2023 PARISH OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** The 2023 Parish Offertory envelopes are ready and waiting for you to pick up in the vestibule. Don't forget to put your name and address on the first few envelopes. Please don't take a box that doesn't belong to you. If you can't find a box with your name on it, email the office. Faithful parishioners who make regular donations or use their weekly envelopes consistently are the bedrock of our stable financial support. The parish offers several choices for your method of giving, including direct deposit (PAG), Donate Now button on our website, & weekly envelopes. Email the office if you are interested. If you have a credit card that gives points, use that with your PAG donations, and watch your points add up. "Where Your Treasure Is, There Also Will Your Heart Be." *Matthew 6:21*. Please remember St. John's Church in your last will and testament. **DONATIONS FOR 2022:** must be post marked December 31st, 2022, and be into the office no later than January 1st, 2023, to be eligible for 2022 tax receipts.

**DID YOU KNOW?:** that out of the world's population, 4% die attending movies, 8% die eating in fast food restaurants, 10% die in home accidents, 10% die in lounges and taverns, 13% die in bars, 18% die, from smoking, 47% die from accidents, misc., but only 1 out of 75 million people die in Folk Group choir practice! As you can see, staying out of the Folk Group may be hazardous to your health! Please contact me if interested in joining! Sing-cerely, Your Folk Group Director, Paul Holliday, [illod@hotmail.com](mailto:illod@hotmail.com) or 416.699.2162.

**Little Levity:** A dog walking by a store, noticed a sign "Now Hiring: must be able to type & must be bilingual. Equal opportunity employer" The dog took the sign & brought it to the manager's office. The manager took one look at the dog, laughed and said, "I'm not going to hire a dog!" The dog pointed to the sign "equal opportunity employer." "Let's see you type!" said the manager. The dog perfectly duplicated the document. The man looked at the dog. "Don't tell me you're bilingual too." The dog opened his mouth and said, "Meow."

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