

Parish of Saint John

Founded A.D. 1909

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Website: www.stjohnsto.archtoronto.org

Email: stjohnsto@archtoronto.org

Pastor: Rev. John-Mark Missio

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

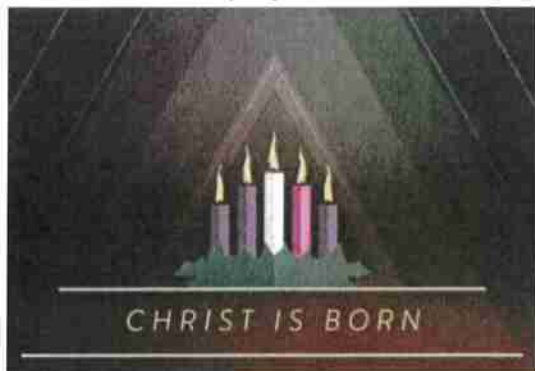
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Closed between 12:00 -1:00 pm

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

Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday 8:15 am



Fourth Sunday of Advent & Nativity of the Lord



From the Pastor's Desk: Christmas is about Christ! In this joyful Christmas week, the signs we have on the church lawn this year proclaim the wonderful truth at the very heart of our Christmas joy. Our beautiful nativity scene has been saying this wordlessly for years, and seems to say it more boldly after its recent renovation. All the joys of Christmas ... the family gatherings, the gifts, the excitement, the meals ... are themselves gifts of joy from our loving Father in Heaven. As we think about the divine child Jesus in the manger, and the love of God reflected in the loving gaze of Jesus and Mary, let us join in their rejoicing. May our homes be as blessed as that stable was 2000 years ago, and may Christ always dwell with us all our days. May your Christmas season be filled with the joy and love showered on us by the Prince of Peace, and may he bless all St. John's families and friends through the coming year.

.....Fr. John-Mark



We welcome the newest members of our parish family:

Jack Cunningham
Sophia Lanan



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 Sunday offertory. At time of preparation of this bulletin, figures were not available



Please remember the poor box as you exit the church.

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

We welcome all who are joining us this Advent & Christmas Season. We welcome you with loving hearts and smiles.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS SCHEDULE

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24th

- Children's Christmas Pageant – 4:15 pm
- Christmas Eve Family Mass – 4:30 pm
- Carolling – 7:45 pm
- Mid Eve Mass – 8:00 pm
- Carolling – 9:45 pm
- Late Eve Mass – 10:00 pm

Monday, December 25th - Mass at 11:00 am

Tuesday, December 26th – Mass at 8:15 am
Office will be closed

Wednesday, December 27th – Mass at 8:15 am
Office will be closed

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Sunday, December 31st - New Year's Eve - 4:30 pm

Monday, January 1st - New Year's Day Mass – 11:00 am

Regular Sunday Masses continue Saturday, December 23rd at 4:30 pm, Sunday December 24th at 9 & 11 am, & Saturday December 30th at 4:30 pm & Sunday, December 31st at 9 & 11 am



Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 26th

For + **ROGERIO DEMELO**
Requested by The Melo Family

Wednesday, December 27th

For + **THERESA COOPER**
Requested by Pat Cairns

Thursday, December 28th

For + **MAISIE & KATHY FOLEY**
Requested by Marie Foley

Friday, December 29th

For + **NELSON D. MCPHERSON**
Requested by Monish Sarker

Saturday, December 30th

For **INTENTIONS OF FR. JOHN-MARK MISSIO**
Requested by Parish Friends



*The Sanctuary Light burns this week
for the intentions of
Families of St. John's Parish*

Please Pray For The Sick

Michael Higgins, Richard Bowman, Chiu Wong, Cathy Connor, Gillian Haughey, Christine Clementi, Anne Abate, Isabel Cairns, Marianna Loranger, Christine Curran, Jacob McLean, Carl D'Sousa, Diane Meldrum, Carmel Richard

In The News



WE REMEMBER FONDLY FR.

FITZPATRICK: First assigned to Canada in 1964, Fr. Pat taught at Neil McNeil High School where he headed the Religion department while also serving as the Spiritan Formation Director. In 1980, Fr. Pat joined the Catholic Teachers' Centre of the Metropolitan Separate School

Board. In 1991, Fr. Pat returned to Neil McNeil High School as Chaplain and later served as the Adult Faith Consultant for the Dufferin Peel Roman Catholic School Board until his "retirement" in 1999.

ARCHDIOCESAN CONSULTATION: Share Your Ideas to assist with future planning! Archbishop Francis Leo is inviting the Catholic community to share thoughts and ideas regarding future pastoral planning in the Archdiocese of Toronto. To learn more about the process, read the letter of invitation from the Archbishop and complete the short survey which has been extended until January 31 2024

www.archtoronto.org/consultation.

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:

Prayer Service 2024 Sunday, January 21, 2024, 4 pm at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral (455 Ferrier St., Markham, Ont. L3R 5Z2) Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27) Join Archbishop Francis Leo and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.



SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN REMAINS OPEN:

From now until December 31st, every dollar you give will be matched by an anonymous donor, up to \$500,000. Take this opportunity to make your donations before the end of the year.

FRIARS STUDENT WRITING CONTEST 2024: "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself." High school students in the Catholic School Boards are invited to participate in this annual event that commemorates the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18-25. Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2024 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions. Contact: ecumenical@archtoronto.org or call 416.934.3400 (Ext. 527)



VOCATIONS: From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world.

Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.

Little Levity: As Maggie climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas little Maggie?" Maggie turned and looked at Santa open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Santa didn't you get my E-Mail?"

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

Parish News

PRAISE A SECOND TIME: St. John's 4:30 Music group is an informal group that sings at the 4:30 Saturday Masses. We are always on the lookout for additional musicians, who play guitar, keyboard or any other instrument, and sing. If interested in joining please contact Paul Holliday at illod@hotmail.com or the office.



JOIN US FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: On First Friday's of the Month, after the 8:15 am Mass. Share some prayers, hymns and quiet time adoring the Lord. Deepen your relationship with him; make him a greater priority in your life.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAM will take a small break on Sunday December 31st.



We will resume Sunday, January 7th at the 9 am Mass. What's this about? At the 9 am Mass, all school-aged children who haven't made their First Holy Communion are invited to attend. No registration is necessary. The children are called to the front of the church after the opening of the Mass and proceed to the church hall, where they participate in a discussion and activity based on the Gospel reading. The children return to sit with their family at the offertory. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Marlo Taylor at 647.233.7636.

KNIGHTS ADVENT SOCK & MITTS DRIVE: was a great success. Thank you to all who donated to the drive. There is still time to give. Donations will be taken to the Good Shepherd after Christmas.



COMMITMENT TO PARISH LIFE:

OFFERING: 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, scanning the QR Code and weekly envelopes. If you would like to begin using envelopes or wish to sign up for PAG, email the office. If you have a credit card that gives points, use that with your PAG donations, and watch your points add up. To those who continually give, **THANK YOU!**

DONATIONS FOR 2023: Must be post marked December 31, 2023 and be into the office no later than January 1, 2024, to be eligible for 2023 tax receipts. **OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2024 ARE READY FOR PICK UP:** in the vestibule. Don't forget to put you name and address on the first few envelopes. New parishioners please don't take a box that already has a name and number on it; email the office and we'll provide one for you.

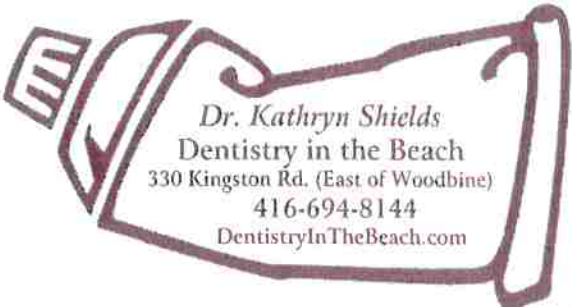


HAVE YOU MOVED OR NEW TO THE PARISH?: Please put St. John's on your list to be notified about any change of contact information.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE PARISH, please register. Registration is necessary when seeking reference letters, Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriages and other documents. Join our family of Faith. Email the office.



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