

Parish of Saint John

Founded A.D. 1909

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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




*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

*Feast of
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*




From the Pastor's Desk: The Holy Mother of God, Mary, is honoured as "Mother of the Church". No human being is more closely united to Jesus Christ than the Blessed Mother, and so we honour her with exuberant joy on a very significant day in the Christmas season. The date of January 1 marks the New Year, and therefore seems to be a fitting day to honour the mother of God, the new Eve; however, the greater significance of this day is that January 1 is the Octave day of Christmas. The tradition of marking the eighth day after a solemn feast is a very ancient Christian custom, rooted in the symbolism of the number eight. God created the world in six days, and rested on the seventh; creation as we know it was complete in those seven days. But God has promised us a new creation – a new heaven and a new earth – and that will be the eighth day of creation; the perfect and final day that will last forever, when death and corruption are known no more. Historically, church buildings – especially baptistries and baptismal fonts – were octagonal in shape, representing the new creation already begun in each Christian upon being baptized, reborn, and regenerated in Christ. The Octave day is often used to highlight something complementary to the feast. We honour Christ in his divinity and his humanity at Christmas, the new Adam; and on the Octave we honour Mary, whose perfect humanity radiates the love of her Divine Son, and she is called the new Eve, the Mother of the Church. Therefore January 1 is a feast of maternal love which Mary sheds upon each one of her spiritual children. Every one of us can turn to her in prayer, knowing that we have a Blessed Mother who loves us with the love she lavished upon her son, from the moment of his conception, a love so beautifully depicted in the Nativity. The love Mary shows towards her Son in the manger is now turned towards you and me. Mary is like a beacon of love drawing all of us to her Son. When you need a mother's affection in troubled times, turn to Mary in prayer, and know with certainty that your Heavenly Mother is going to be there for you.

.....Fr. John-Mark



NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Monday, January 1st
11:00 am



Office will be closed as usual on Monday. For the holiday, closed on Tuesday and reopen Wednesday, January 3rd.

Mass Intentions


Tuesday, January 2nd
For + PASQUALE BELSITO
Requested by Larry Lazazzera

Wednesday, January 3rd
For + THERESA COOPER
Requested by Jim Hughes

Thursday, January 4th
For INTENTIONS OF EDNA HIGGINS
Requested by Parish Family

Friday, January 5th
For INTENTIONS OF MAUREEN MACDONALD
Requested by Parish Family


Saturday, January 6th
For INTENTIONS OF CATHERINE CHANG
Requested by The Family




*The Sanctuary Light burns this week
in loving memory of
Douglas Higgins*


Please Pray For The Sick

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


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



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.



	2022	2023
Sunday Offertory	\$ 4329	\$3685
Offertory PAG:	\$ 1183	\$1421



Please remember the poor box as you exit the church.

*We welcome all who are joining us this most Holy Season.
We welcome you with loving hearts and smiles.*

In The News


CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN'S ELEMENTARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL:




They will be hosting the 2024 Toronto Catholic District School Swim Invitational (TCSSSI to be held on April 3rd & 4th, 2024.

This is a great privilege. Now they need you! The school is looking for volunteers; about 100! Mark your calendars and contact the school if you are willing to volunteer your time, ½ day, full day, two days, whatever time you can offer; they need you!

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING: Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletins. The advertising will begin in March 2024 & supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise yur product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905.624.4422.

 **ARCHDIOCESAN CONSULTATION:** You still have time. 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.

 **VOCATIONS:** By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.968.0997. email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca


Little Levity: Paulie had had too much to drink so he decided to walk home on New Year's Eve. Johnny, the local policeman, stopped him and asked where he was going? Paulie replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture," Johnny scoffed and said, "Who gives lectures on New Year's Eve?" "My wife.", said Paulie. Peace begins with a smile.....Mother Teresa

Parish News

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Marriage Sunday, February 11th. All Married Couples are encouraged to come celebrate with us and obtain a special blessing. Tuesday, February 13th - Our Annual Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Dinner – All you can eat pancakes and sausages! Take a bulletin and view all the upcoming events.

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 Friday January 5th, 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.


FORMED: Are you looking for resources to help you in your spiritual development? Our parish has an annual subscription to Formed.org. They provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Access thousands of movies, children's programs, e-books, audio, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device. Take advantage of the many programs that are there to know more about your Catholic faith so you can live it better. FREE!

[HTTPS://STJOHNSTO.ARCHTORONTO.ORG/EN/OUR-COMMUNITY/FORMED/](https://stjohnsto.archtoronto.org/en/our-community/formed/)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAM: will resume Sunday, January 7th at the 9 am Mass. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Marlo Taylor at 647.233.7636.




 **2024 SUNDAY ENVELOPES ARE OFFERING AVAILABLE:** Please pick up your boxed set as soon as possible in the church vestibule. They will be moved back to the office after January 7th. On January 1st 2024, all remaining envelopes from 2023 and prior years should be discarded. Please contact the parish office, if your boxed set is not available and if you wish to receive one or if you have never been registered and wish to do so. Finally, your co-operation in writing your donation amount clearly on the envelope each week is greatly appreciated by the volunteers who record donations.

 **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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