

# St. Luke's Parish

39 Green Lane, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6K5 Tel: (905) 881-2786  
 Website: <https://stlukesth.archtoronto.org> Email: [st.lukesparish@rogers.com](mailto:st.lukesparish@rogers.com)



**Pastor: Fr. Mark Van Patten - Ext. 222**  
**Associate Pastor: Fr. Wenceslao Abalos - Ext. 227**  
**Secretary: Anne Amore, Lois Henderson - Ext. 221**  
**Pastoral Associate: John Humphries - Ext 226**  
**Parish Social Ministry Coordinator: Natalie Doucet - Ext 235**  
**Lay Pastoral Associate: Antoinette Agostinelli - Ext 233**  
**Youth Minister: Greg Garda - Ext. 232**

Masses: Saturday - 5:00 P.M.  
 Sunday - 8:45, 10:30 and 12:15 P.M.  
 Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. - 8:00 A.M., Tue. - 7:00 P.M.  
 Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Tuesday - 7:00 P.M.  
 Confessions: Saturday 4:00-4:45 P.M. and Tuesday after Devotions  
 Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:30-4:00 (905) 881-2786

|          |                |                          |                   |                         |
|----------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| PARISH   | St. Anthony's  | St. Rene Goupil/St. Luke | St. Robert C.H.S. | Saint John Paul II      |
| SCHOOLS: | 141 Kirk Dr.   | 135 Green Lane           | 8101 Leslie St.   | 155 Red Maple Rd.       |
|          | Thornhill      | Thornhill                | Thornhill         | Richmond Hill L4B 4P9   |
|          | (905) 889-7420 | (905) 881-2300           | (905) 889-4982    | (905) 709-3134/709-3136 |

For more information on Catholic education in our community or to reach your local school board trustee, contact the York Catholic District School Board at (905) 713-2711 or [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca)

**PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE; COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING & PUT IN COLLECTION BASKET**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Name .....                                 | Phone.....   |
| Address .....                              | Postal Code.....   |
| Children & Dates of Births: .....          |  |
| .....                                      |  |
| New Parishioner <input type="checkbox"/>   | For Envelopes, please contact usher <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Change of Address <input type="checkbox"/> | Moving out of Parish <input type="checkbox"/>                |

# LENT

## Why Giving up Chocolate is Missing the Point of Lent

The season of Lent is our going apart, taking time out on the holy mountain where heart meets heart, to face reality in all its fullness. With nothing to distract us, we can give our undivided attention and listen to the healing words of Jesus. It provides an opportunity to renew our faith and to get an overall view of how we are journeying. Maybe we are wondering why, as followers of Christ, we are not happy and fully alive? It could well be that we are following false signposts and are not prepared to let go of material things, which are distractions on the road to life!

The Transfiguration is a reminder of our need for God’s guiding light as we make our pilgrim journey, so that we may not stumble but be a source of inspiration and encouragement to those who have lost their way.

One of my most recent hobbies has been to fix and build and computers. For building computers is like Lego for kids. Lego indeed, very expensive Lego.

Admittedly, I think it’s safe to say this seemingly innocent hobby has become an attachment for me. I often feel restless unless I get a system working perfectly and if it doesn’t turn out I get angry.

This past week I experienced an episode of frustration and anger that was a clear sign that I should give this hobby up for Lent, if not permanently. To make a long story short, I have been working on a system for two weeks. A major component kept malfunctioning and I had to order replacements. I installed the replacement and the computer wouldn’t even turn on.

I was infuriated to say the least. I felt like I wasted so much time and energy on something so superficial.

### *Why is the Bible Obsessed with Sacrifice?*

One of the side effects of Original Sin is our tendency to adopt attachments that give us momentary pleasure, but fall short of giving us a sense of fulfilment. At worst these habits end up hurting us, our loved ones, and our relationship with God.

This is the significance of animal sacrifice in the Old Testament. The entire Old Testament presents a story of a people who constantly turn away from God and constantly need their hearts reconverted. In today’s first reading, Abraham sacrifices a ram in thanksgiving for the life of his son. The Levitical laws command the Israelites to make a temple sacrifice of an unblemished lamb every year during Passover.

“But isn’t scaring animals a bit too much?,” you might be thinking. Cattle were the livelihood of many families in the ancient world. They were a source of income and food for families. So to sacrifice expensive cattle was truly an act of sacrifice for households. The purpose of the sacrifice was to help the Israelites remember that their dependence does not lie in the material world, but in God. This is why the Passover – the remembrance of Israelite’s liberation from Egypt – was accompanied by temple sacrifice. Sacrifice is a gesture of thanksgiving towards God.

### *What about sacrifice today?*

I want to conclude by asking you: What are your attachments that can be offered up to God this Lent? Are you attached to your phone? Can you sacrifice social media or having your phone turned off when you’re with your family? Can you sacrifice spending time on YouTube or playing video games for prayer in front of the Eucharist?

This Lent let’s challenge each other to sacrifice the things that draw us away from God and replace them with actions that will draw us closer to Him.

Greg Garda, *Youth Minister*

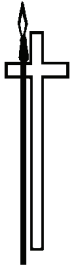


## Mass Intentions

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | Soul of <b>Basilio Rodriguez</b>  |
| Tuesday   | Soul of <b>Anna Cristinzo</b><br>Souls of <b>Jamal, Hanna &amp; Haney</b><br>Soul of <b>Melinda D’Cruz</b><br>Soul of <b>Barbara Fernandes</b><br>Soul of <b>Antonio Bortoluzzi</b> |
| Wednesday | Soul of <b>Julie McQueen</b>  |
| Thursday  | Soul of <b>Margaret Lee</b>   |
| Friday    | Soul of <b>Quiterio L. Dizon</b>  |

### PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to join in praying the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at **7:30 p.m.** in the church. All are invited to come and spend one hour in prayer.

## **The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual**

### **LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY**

**Saturday, March 3rd 9:00 am – 5:30 pm**

**Metro Convention Centre, North Bldg.**

255 Front Street W

Adults \$20.00; Youth \$10.00

Come and be inspired, encouraged, & healed. For tickets or more information please call 416 251-4255 or 905 270-2510 or email: [info@lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca](mailto:info@lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca) Visit [www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org](http://www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org) for more information



## **THORNHILL MINISTERIAL** **LENTEN SERIES 2018**

The Thornhill Ministerial is marking **50 years** of Ecumenical Lenten Services. This year the theme is **Celebrating our Common Faith:**

**A Fresh Look at the Apostles' Creed**

Guest Speakers have been invited to preach

**Sunday February 25 at 4:00 p.m.**

**I Believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
Our Lord**

**Thornhill United Church; 25 Elgin Street**

Speaker: Rev. Paulette Brown

(Offering to Evergreen Hospice)

### **Would you like to experience Prayer in Silence?**

St. Luke's **Christian Meditation Group** is doing just that.

We meet every Saturday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Pastor's lounge above the parish office.

There is no registration or fees required. All you have to do is **COME AND SEE.**

For more information, please visit the Parish website OR pick up an information sheet from the narthex.

February is a big month for us: we are celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **CALL FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN**

The Call for Conscience 2018 Campaign is underway. Cardinal Collins and bishops across Ontario are asking for an email address from every Catholic family in their community, with a goal of 100,000 email addresses collected by the end of February 2018. This information will be used locally by Cardinal Collins and trusted faith partners to communicate periodically (approximately 6-8 times each year) on issues of particular importance for the Catholic community.

The first campaign of 2018 is the Call for Conscience, inviting our elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's) and those seeking office this June to increase funding/access to palliative care, to protect health care workers wishing to abstain from any involvement in euthanasia/assisted suicide and to protect faith based facilities from participation in euthanasia/assisted suicide. The work builds on a similar campaign in 2017.

Please take a moment to provide your contact information at the back of the church on the weekends of February 24/25 and March 3/4. Thank you for living a faith that acts!

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**Friday March 2 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Thornhill United Church**

**25 Elgin Street**

World Day of Prayer is a world wide movement of Christian women, of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer.

Each year highlights a different country.

This year's theme, written by the women of Suriname is: **ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD.**

**All are welcome**



**St. Vincent de Paul**

**EASTER FOOD DRIVE**

**March 10-11 and March 17-18**

***“When I was hungry you gave me to eat, when I was thirsty you gave me to drink.....” ( Matthew 25:35).***

You can help feed the hungry by bringing non-perishable food (canned foods, cereals, pasta, rice, baby food, etc.) to the church the weekends of March 10/11 or March 17/18. Your donations will be sent to the Georgina food bank. Every month, they distribute around 300 hampers of food, helping an average of 800 people.

**THANK YOU!!!**



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