

# *St. Luke's Parish*

*39 Green Lane, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6K5 Telephone: 905-881-2786*

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**Pastor: Fr. Mark Van Patten - Ext. 222**

**Associate Pastor: Fr. Wenceslao Abalos - Ext. 227**

**Secretary: 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**

## *prepare the way...*



# **ADVENT**



The meeting of the young Mary with the older Elizabeth was an extraordinary encounter. Good news becomes great news when it is shared. No two women ever met, before or since, with greater expectations. They are caught up in the drama of God’s unfolding promise. Before Jesus came to the rest of the world at Christmas, Elizabeth had the extraordinary privilege of having the Christ child play her a visit in the womb of Mary. It was so great an honour that the child she herself was carrying leapt for joy. That child would be named John and would grow up to be the last and greatest of the prophets – the messenger preparing the way for the coming of the Saviour. He was destined to be a man linking the old to the new and a beacon pointing people to God’s son.



## Mass Intentions

Monday	Christmas Eve
Tuesday	Christmas Day
Wednesday	Soul of <b>Steven Huta</b>
Thursday	Soul of <b>Margrita Bernal</b>
Friday	Soul of <b>John Frederick Jack Wilson</b>

**PRAYER REQUEST LINE**  
905 881-2786 ext. 250

## Why Unleashing the Holy Spirit Will Lead You to a More Joy-Filled Life

This Christmas can be the moment when you start living a more joyful and fulfilled life. In my experience all Catholics have received the Holy Spirit, but most Catholics have kept him locked up in a spiritual closet.

This Christmas is the time to open that spiritual closet and allow the Holy Spirit to consume you and teach you significant insights into living a more joyful and fulfilled life.

### Seeing Jesus in Others

In today’s Gospel the pregnant Mary visits the pregnant Elizabeth’s home. Upon Elizabeth greeting Mary, the gospel reads, “...and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit...” (Luke 1:41). This is followed by Elizabeth recognizing whom Mary is pregnant with. Of course Elizabeth knew that Mary was pregnant with a boy named Jesus, but it is only through the Holy Spirit that she could comprehend who Jesus is, referring to him as “my Lord.” Remember, many could not, or outright refused to accept this reality even when facing Jesus face to face.

Herein lies the first lesson that Elizabeth teaches us about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us recognize Jesus Christ in others. The Holy Spirit allows us to see what our eyes alone cannot. The Holy Spirit allows us to see Christ in our whining children, in our annoying spouse, in the drivers during rush hour and in the homeless on the streets.

### Seeing Jesus in Yourself

The second key to a more joyful life is seeing Christ in ourselves. The world tells us that we are only good as our utility or the letters following our names. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit shows us that the only letters that matter to God are the “S” and “T” before our names. The Holy Spirit helps us see ourselves as temples of Christ.

### Seeing Jesus in the Mass

Finally, there is no greater spiritual privilege for us as Catholics than the Mass. Before I became Catholic one of my main objections to going to Mass was because it was “boring.” A friend of mine bluntly told me, “Maybe it’s you who’s boring.” I now agree. We’ve lost a sense of the wonder awe that is before us at mass. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ becomes present in body, blood and divinity in the Eucharist. If we recognize this, we can finally have our hearts opened to receive the grace Jesus wants to give us. If there is one thing I’d like you to take away is that the Holy Spirit will make life anything but boring. In fact life will become more fulfilling and joyful.

In Christ,  
Greg Garda, *Youth Minister.*



## TUNA CASSEROLES:

The Tuna Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Ministries are due on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your continued support during 2018.

## MANY THANKS

*From the*

## Society of St. Vincent De Paul

The Christmas Basket Program was a huge success again this year. Donations from parishioners as of mid-December amounted to \$2820.00.

The recipients were given gift cards for use at Food Basics and Walmart so they can choose what to buy for Christmas Dinner and also to purchase gifts of clothing or toys for their families.

## “WARMTH & COMFORT DRIVE”

Thank you to everyone who has brought in socks to support CWL's **Warmth & Comfort Drive**. To date we have collected over \$400 pairs of socks but are short of our goal of 2019 pairs!

The drive runs to December 31<sup>st</sup> so let's see that number rise!



As we come to the end of another year, St. Luke's would be a great place to make any last minute tax receipt donations. All donations made before December 31<sup>st</sup> qualify for a tax receipt for the year 2018!

On behalf of myself, Fr. Wen and the parish staff we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

## ST. LUKE'S DECEMBER 2018 SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. with pageant, 8:00 p.m., and 12 midnight with carols starting ½ hour before each Mass

### Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>

10:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m.

### New Year's Eve – December 31<sup>st</sup>

5:00 p.m. Mass

### New Year's Day – January 1<sup>st</sup>

10:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m.



## NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Now is the time to start planning for your New Year's Eve celebration! We are continuing our tradition of having a high class served dinner and dance for a very affordable price. The evening begins with arrival at 7:00 and hors d'oeuvres served while you are settling in and socializing with your family and parish friends. Then at 8:00 you will be served at your table your choice of Prime Rib of Beef or Chicken with all the trimmings. Dancing follows to the music of the DJ Greg Benoit so bring your requests! Champagne and party favours are included in your ticket. There will be door prizes and a bar to purchase your drinks of choice. Tickets will be on sale this weekend so reserve your table early. The whole family is invited! Prices are: Adults \$45 Seniors \$30 Children 11 and under \$20. For further information contact Greg at [greg.benoit@rogers.com](mailto:greg.benoit@rogers.com) or at 647-296-6851.

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