

# *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**



*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.*



## How Fearing God Can Lead to a Life of Peace and Contentment

If you know Jesus, he should terrify you; not because of the reasons you might be thinking. A couple of generations ago Sisters “so and so” and Fathers “so and so” may have tried to scare you into believing in Jesus with the threat of hell. Don’t get me wrong, hell – a state of eternal separation from Jesus – is real. Jesus speaks about hell quite clearly. However, hell ought not be our primary motivation for believing in Jesus. It leads to a faith based on utility, not one based on authentic love. Fear of hell tends to result in treating Jesus like tyrant who always needs to be pleased. On the other hand, fear of Jesus can lead to conversion of heart. Fear can lead us to “wake up and smell the coffee” per se.

### Fearing Change

An encounter with Jesus is scary. I remember when I first encountered Jesus in university I was challenged to discard many beliefs and most importantly confess my sins. No excuses. Just all out in the open. It’s not about me anymore, it’s all about Jesus, even if there is a price to pay.

This is the kind of fear King Herod is faced with. Herod knew of the prophecies that a new king will be born for Israel so he began to fear losing his power to this new born king. Instead of patiently waiting to see the new life this boy had to offer him, his fear drew him into a tyrannical hissy fit, killing innocent newborn children in Judea.

When I was a child I threw countless hissy-fits out of fear of not getting my way, but I was never able to “win” against my parents. Arguing with God is just delaying the inevitable; a call to conversion.

### We all need motivation

Fear can also be a great motivator for good. My grandfather once revealed to me that he used to be a chain smoker in his younger years. He was also a competitive swimmer. Upon realizing that the smoking was threatening his health he instantly stopped. My grandpa feared missing out on living a healthy life with his family. Similarly, my fear lies in missing out on the life that God has planned for me. Moreover, I feared Jesus because I did not want to change. I felt comfortable thinking I had everything figured out. I had control. Once I overcame the fear of letting go of control it was liberating. I still don’t have everything figured out, but I know Jesus does (since he’s God), so I know he’s got my back. I got nothing to fear.

In Christ,  
Greg Garda, *Youth Minister*

The message of the Epiphany is that God wants to show forth his extravagant love to all peoples without exception. His mercy, forgiveness and compassion are not restricted to an exclusive elite but are offered to everyone. All nations are called to share in Christ’s glory. He is here for all and no one is excluded from his offer of peace. The Christian gospel is intended to reach across boundaries and speak to every human heart. Foreigners and outsider are embraced with the same love as everyone else. While most of us travel to God by routes charted out by previous generations of faithful Christians, we should have the greatest respect for those who make the homeward journey in sincerity of heart by a different route. We meet God in each other especially in our frailty and brokenness.



## Mass Intentions

- Monday Intentions of **Joanna Chun**
- Tuesday Soul of **Julie McQueen**  
Soul of **Robert DeGrace**  
Mass of Thanksgiving – **Chola Dela Cruz**  
Intentions of **Roza & Tony de Camara**  
Soul of **Carmela Maria Tambosso**
- Wednesday Intention of **Monsignor Gregory Choir**
- Thursday Soul of **Keun Yong Lee**
- Friday Soul of **John Frederick Jack Wilson**

**PRAYER REQUEST LINE**

905 881-2786 ext. 250



## MOSAIC INTERFAITH

*Annual Program in Honour of the Birthday of Dr.  
Martin Luther King Jr.*

**Sunday, January 13 - 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Temple Har Zion  
7360 Bayview Ave.**

Faith and Social Justice:

The Story of the Interfaith Coalition to Fight  
Homelessness.

**Presenter: Rafi Aaron**

For more information please call  
Natalie at ext 235

## Ecumenical Prayer Service

*TO CELEBRATE*

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019

Theme: **JUSTICE, ONLY JUSTICE, YOU  
SHALL PURSUE** (Deuteronomy 16:20)

Organized by the Greater Toronto Area Christian  
Council of Churches, the prayer service will be led by  
Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox bishops, along with  
leaders from Christian churches in the GTA.

**WHEN: Sunday January 27, 2019 AT 4:30 PM**

**WHERE: St. James Anglican Cathedral,  
106 King St. East, Toronto**

## York Catholic District School Board Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration begins **January 7, 2019** in  
all York Catholic schools. You can review the  
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For more information contact

[www.ycdsb.ca/adminissions](http://www.ycdsb.ca/adminissions)

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON DROP

**Will resume Friday, January 11th.**

**2:00 – 3:30 pm**

*All are welcome*



As we begin a New Year, and prepare to close our  
books for 2018, please ensure the office has your most  
current information. If you moved in the past year, or  
changed your telephone number or email address we  
would like to update our records.

If you are not already registered but attend St. Luke's  
Parish on a regular basis, please contact the office. The  
office can also arrange to assign numbered envelopes  
for you or set up Pre-Authorized Donations.

Contact Lois Henderson at 905-881-2786 ext 221.

Thank you!



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