

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



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 - Alan Lee Hoy - 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

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

Name Phone.....
Address Postal Code.....
Children & Dates of Births:
.....
New Parishioner ☐ Envelopes ☐ Change of Address ☐ Moving out of Parish ☐



As a patron of the Advent season, John reminds us that if God is to come into our lives we have to prepare for his arrival by mending our ways. Through the words of Matthew's gospel we hear him calling us to conversion inviting us to take a journey inwards, to the spiritual self, which is thirsting and hungering for God. Unfortunately, the hustle and bustle of each day puts us under such stress that we are inclined to live on the surface of things with precious little time to reflect on what is most important in life. Christ's hope is coming to us all of the time and we receive it when we open the door to him in prayer but we should be careful not to let this living contact fade. We need to make this Advent journey to get in touch with ourselves and with our God.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of Daisy Suero
Tuesday	Soul of Eleanor Van Tassel
	Soul of Alice Van Patten
	Soul of May McPhee
	Soul of Cely Crespo
	Soul of Ita Sutikno
Wednesday	Soul of Nellie Parker
Thursday	Deceased members of the Bintinger Family
Friday	Souls of Lina, Peter & Ivan Soares

We pray for the sick, the suffering and the homebound in our community, that God will ease their pain and heal their wounded spirits, especially:
Ave Warren, Brian Dorrian, Tony da Camara Jr., Tracey Hutchinson, Kevin Arcand, Jairus Papio, Grant Kennedy, Ashling Reilly, Timothy Hourigan, and Elona

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250

Receiving God's Gifts

In life the saying goes: 'It is better to give than to receive' but that is not the case in the spiritual life. In the spiritual life and especially during Advent it is all about receiving but we do have to give something and that is our attention.

This is the message that I gave to the children who celebrated their First Reconciliation Saturday morning. For many of the children it was their first sacramental encounter that they are conscious of, being baptized as babies so I encouraged them not to miss Jesus coming in the sacrament because it is so easy to be caught up with protocol, with remembering the opening: 'Bless me Father for I have sinned this is my first reconciliation and these are my sins' and the sins themselves. We all face similar challenges each Advent as we can easily miss the coming of Jesus as we get caught up with the protocol of the season.

One of the blessings of Advent and Christmas is that we get a chance to spend time with family and the people who are closest to us so it is important to embrace the opportunity. A friend of mine was sharing what he found remarkable about the Sister's of Life and that was when you are in their presence you feel that you have their undivided attention which speaks to our inherent dignity and divine value.

I tried this the other night with my middle son as he was whittling away on his homework. Normally I would be checking emails or sport scores as he scribbles down his answers but this time, I simply beheld his beauty. What a gift it was and as he finished writing his answer, he looked up at me and could tell that I was beholding something so he blushed and gave me a big hug and kiss. It was a wonderful and intimate experience between the two of us, who thought that homework could be so fulfilling.

This same inherent beauty we see in others, also proceeds from ourselves so it is helpful to be aware of this as we interact with others. When we can step back into a metacognitive position and see ourselves as divine gift to others, it helps us to see how beautiful we are and to reconcile with ourselves. It also helps us to appreciate how God is utilizing our gifts.

This advent then let us begin opening our gifts early as we fully receive all who come into our lives for each are filled with divine light and beauty. Let us make straight their paths into our hearts as we join Elizabeth saying:

'Blessed are you and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus,'

John Humphries.



ST. LUKE'S CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Tues. December 24th

4:00 p.m. with pageant, 8:00 p.m., and 12 midnight

** Our choirs will welcome parishioners ½ hour before each Christmas Eve mass

Christmas Day – Wed. December 25th

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

New Year's Eve – Tues. December 31st

5:00 p.m. Mass

New Year's Day – Wed. January 1st

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

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - LITTLE BLUE BOOK

We still have a few of the *Little Blue Books* left if anyone wants to purchase one. Please see Lois in the office.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

Children from grades 2-12 are invited and encouraged to sing in the children's choir and perform in the pageant for the family mass on Christmas Eve. This is a very special event that enables the children to help us all celebrate the joy found in this holy season. All abilities are most welcome. The choir and pageant will hold rehearsals on Sunday afternoons. Thank you!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

This is the last weekend for donations of non-perishable foods, such as canned food, cereals, pastas, rice, flour etc. and small toys. Donations will be picked up Sunday by the Georgina (Keswick – Sutton) Food Bank to help feed those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for Advent will be celebrated at the parish on Wednesday December 11th from 6:30–7:30pm.

CHILDREN – TREE DECORATING!

As we journey through the Advent season, we would like the children of our parish to help us decorate the two Christmas trees in the narthex.

Handmade decorations are most welcomed! Our theme? **“What Christmas Means to Me”**

ROSARY BEFORE THE 5:00PM MASS

Come pray the Rosary each Saturday evening before the 5:00 mass. Beginning on December 14th at 4:30 we will pray the Rosary for peace in our world. Our Blessed Mother has assured us that through the power of the Rosary, miracles can be accomplished. Let us listen to her. The Rosary before the 8:45 mass will continue to be available.

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 dinner/dance at a very affordable price. The evening begins at 7:00 pm with hors d'oeuvres while you are settling in and socializing with your family and parish friends. At 8:00, you will be served 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. 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 or at 647-296-6851.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Special collection envelopes will be in the pew pockets for donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Basket program until Sunday, December 8th.

Each year your donations enable needy families in our community to participate in this joyous season.

Thank you for your continued support.

* Tax receipts issued by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Monday morning December 23rd we will be decorating the church for Christmas and are looking for volunteers to help.

This is a good time for students to earn hours!

Please contact Lois in the office if you can assist.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Please join us **Monday, December 9th** at 7:30pm for an evening of Praise & Worship in the parish hall. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

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