

# 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: 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. Thornhill 905-889-7420	135 Green Lane Thornhill 905-881-2300	8101 Leslie St. Thornhill 905-889-4982	155 Red Maple Rd. Richmond Hill L4B 4P9 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"/>	Envelopes <input type="checkbox"/>
Change of Address <input type="checkbox"/>	Moving out of Parish <input type="checkbox"/>



## Il Presepio / The Christmas Manger

On this Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, it is a time to light the pink candle on the advent wreath. This day reminds us of the joy that is to come and the hope we have as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord as well as the mission of John the Baptist and his connection with Advent.

In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of Joy", and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you."

The theologian Henri Nouwen writes that joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God's unconditional love for us. Joy does not simply happen to us, it is a choice we make every day based on the knowledge that we belong to God and have found God in our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death, can take God away from us.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of <b>Elsa Ballesteros</b>
Tuesday	Soul of <b>Evelyn Alde</b> Soul of <b>Dexter Sarmiento</b> Soul of <b>Julian Peñoso</b> Soul of <b>Alice Van Patten</b> Soul of <b>Ita Sutikno</b>
Wednesday	Soul of <b>Susana Kim</b>
Thursday	Soul of <b>Roger West</b>
Friday	Soul of <b>John Frederick Jack Wilson</b>

**May the sick and the suffering in our community** place their trust in Jesus, the Divine Healer, who brings comfort and peace to all who believe, especially: Ave Warren, Brian Dorrian, Tony da Camara Jr., Tracey Hutchinson, Kevin Arcand, Jairus Papio, Grant Kennedy, Ashling Reilly, Timothy Hourigan, Nicholas Lepone and Elona

### **PRAYER REQUEST LINE**

905 881-2786 ext. 250

In the 13th century, Saint Francis of Assisi originated the practice of depicting the Nativity scene. Francis wanted to bring to life the story of the birth of Baby Jesus. Prior to that time, there were paintings of the Nativity known from as far back as the year 380 C.E. But Francis wanted to recreate in a natural environment the scene of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem with real live characters of his time. He invited people to participate and to recreate the scene. In a little town of Greccio, Francis built a stable with a manger and some straw. He added a living Madonna, Joseph and shepherds. He had actual live cattle, sheep and donkeys; the animals that, as the story goes, once warmed the infant Jesus with their breath.

This tradition continues to this day in some churches throughout Italy. They are called "Presepi viventi" or "Living Mangers or Creches". It can be as simple as a stable with only the major figures or as elaborate as with all the live animals, shepherds and Magi. However, most common in today's homes, the Presepio or Mangers are recreated by using a small wooden stable and small-painted plastic figurines.

In some homes in Italy, the manger scene serves as the center of the family Christmas tradition and children play an important part in setting up the manger. For some, this is an annual ritual of unpacking the statues, tell a story about the figures unpacked, such as the shepherd with his sheep, and remember what he was doing on that special night so many years ago when they heard Angels singing with the good news of the birth of a child. Or of the Magi who followed the star from their own far away land to Bethlehem. In any culture at Christmas, however, it is the heart and the spirit that must prepare to receive the newness of Jesus. Advent gives us a chance to clean our spiritual house, and eliminate the excesses and ugliness so that we can be clean and open to God's Word. What needs to be removed or cleansed in our hearts and lives so Jesus can be welcomed in our hearts and home? The Manger is where Jesus was born, and we are the mangers where he lives.

One activity for the family can be setting up a manger scene together. Having the children help with putting together the Nativity Scene and at the same time talk about each figure and its significance to the Nativity. Encouraging the children to talk about the role that each character played, how they may have felt, and where they fit in the overall picture. And if Jesus was born today, who might be in the Nativity scene and why? Place the manger in a prominent place in your home and gather to pray over the manger  
*Adapted from Camels, Carols, Crosses and Crowns by Shiela Kielly and Sheila Geraghty*

Antoinette



**ST. LUKE'S CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve – Tues. December 24<sup>th</sup>**

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 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

**New Year's Eve – Tues. December 31<sup>st</sup>**

5:00 p.m. Mass

**New Year's Day – Wed. January 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

**Please note there will not be an 8:00 a.m. mass on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> or Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS**

Children, if you are in grades 2-12 you invited to sing in the children's choir and perform in the pageant for the family mass on Christmas Eve. This very special event enables you 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!

**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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:greg.benoit@rogers.com) or at 647-296-6851.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

Monday morning December 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL - Christmas Food Drive**

**THANK YOU** to Our Generous Parishioners!

As you know, your food donations go to the Georgina Community Food Pantry. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated and important to the work of the Pantry. Also our Christmas Basket program was, again, a huge success in helping many families in our own parish community celebrate the Christmas season.

God Bless You

**GOOD SHEPHERD CASSAROLES**

Just a reminder that the Tuna Casseroles are due on Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> (last Sunday of the month). Thanks for your support.

**FINAL CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2019/2020 PARENT INFORMATION SESSION**

If your child will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the year 2020 and you have not attended a parent information session yet, there will be a **final** session in our parish hall on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:45 pm (following mass).

Please see our website for further details. You can also register at: <http://bit.ly/StLukesConfirmation2020>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Alan Lee Hoy  
Email: [stlukesthym@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesthym@gmail.com)

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE SOCIAL**

Please join us in the parish hall after all masses next Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> as we celebrate  
**Fr. Mark's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday!**



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