

St. Luke's Parish

39 Green Lane, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6K5 Telephone: 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

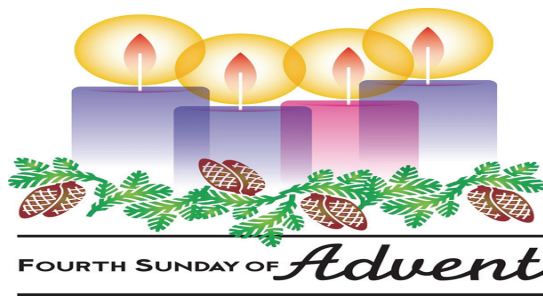
Lay Pastoral Associate: Antoinette Agostinelli - Ext 233

Youth Minister - Alan Lee Hoy - 232



prepare the way...

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Advent is running out of time, Christmas is almost upon us and the today's readings invite us to reflect on the events leading up to that first night in Bethlehem. Matthew views the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Joseph and gives us a remarkable insight into his personality. Joseph was an ordinary working class man called on to respond to God's extraordinary plan. His relationship with God must have been very close because in this time of crisis he trusted God's word and co-operated with God in a decisive manner. Anguished, he may not have understood all that was happening, but he had come to realise that the hand of God was in everything, taking care of all things and he put his trust in that power. With God's help, Joseph got it right and so will we. Once we believe like Joseph and humbly surrender to God there is no limit to what he can achieve in our very ordinary lives.

As we approach this great feast of Christmas, can we say like Joseph that we are ready to reply on God's help and guidance? Joseph's silent presence in the gospel is a testimony of God's great love for all who are quietly faithful to trusting and replying on God in good times and in bad. As Jesus said "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Intentions of Alex Jung
Tuesday	CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday	CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday	Soul of Steven Huta
Friday	Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson

May the sick and the suffering in our community experience the healing presence of Jesus through the kindness of those who care for them, 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

On The Path with Mary and Joseph

I recently had an interesting conversation with some of my friends. We were talking about being parents and I asked them what they felt like their primary job as a parent was. Some said their primary job was to help their children grow into happy and healthy adults, others said that their primary job was to raise successful and contributing members of society and another said their job was to raise their children with a strong faith.

They say the best way to make God laugh is to tell him your plans and I was wondering if God was having a little chuckle as my friends were expressing their aspirations to me. My heart went out to them as I sympathized with all the pressure they must feel, trying to raise children that are happy, successful and faith-filled.

A definition I much prefer comes from child psychologist Dr. Paul Jenkins as he says that a parent's primary job is: "To love their children no matter what and even if," and that's it. When we think about it, what Dr. Paul says makes perfect sense and the research indicates that the only two attributes that consistently lead to happy and well-adjusted children are love and structure. This viewpoint is entirely consistent with our faith as the heart of it is loving unconditionally.

The research also shows that the more we can: 'Help them to do it by themselves' the Montessori Mantra, the happier they will be. We all know this from our own experience that the sharing of our gifts brings us the greatest joy and our children are no different so the more we can help them to experience the internal joy of utilizing their gifts the happier and more fulfilled they will be.

Two wonderful parenting models we have from our faith are Mary and Joseph. In the Gospel this weekend we witness Joseph putting aside personal and societal expectations and loving Mary and his unborn son no matter what and even if at the prompting of the angel. Mary does likewise with her Fiat, setting aside her personal aspirations. We further witness this disposition as Jesus grows and they find him in the temple. Mary and Joseph trust the Spirit active in their Son and rather than seeking to direct his path they trust and treasure it.

In my own experience I have found the subordination of my own desires to God's to be extremely liberating. More and more my focus has become helping my boys to listen to and live by the same Holy Spirit's promptings that I do, regarding them more as companions than followers on the journey. We work together and love each other no matter what and even if God's paths are less traveled than ours. 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.

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 5:00P M 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.

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.

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSAROLES

Just a reminder that the Tuna Casseroles are
due on Sunday December 29th (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

FR. MARK IS TURNING 60!

Please join us in the parish hall after all masses on Sunday
for a Christmas Coffee Social as we celebrate the birthdays
of both Fr. John & Fr. Mark.

2020 ASSIGNED ENVELOPES

If you have envelopes assigned to you, please pick them up
from the narthex. Your name is on them.

If you do not currently use assigned envelopes and would
like to, please complete the lower portion of the bulletin
and drop it in the collection basket.

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