

St. Luke's Parish

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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 - Alan Lee Hoy - 232



Feast of the Holy Family

We Are Family



Just a few days ago on a bright and sunny afternoon I was praying before a beautiful crèche at the Toronto Catholic School Board office. It was wonderfully laid out and as I gazed upon the infant Jesus in the centre a great sense of peace and contentment overshadowed me and all my Advent longings gave way to the light of Christ flooding my soul.

As I continued to pray I realized that not only did my Advent desires find fulfillment in this scene but all the desires off my heart were satiated by what I beheld. The body language of Joseph and Mary in the scene invited my shared participation in their undivided attention and love for their son and I realized that the intimate relationship they had with their son prevented any sin from entering their family. This is evident in Joseph's unquestioning cooperation to uproot his family and move to a strange land for the sake of his son that we encounter in the Gospel reading this weekend.

St. Augustine's words never felt so true: Our hearts are restless, until they rest in you. And in the moment I realized that I needn't be at war with the desires of my heart for Jesus is the Prince of Peace not just of the external but of the internal too. My desires simply needed a little realignment from time to time for when our desires are in line with God's, a bandwidth of cosmic proportions is opened up.

Gazing upon the Holy Family I realized that my family's desires too must also be in line with the desires of the Holy Family with a constant focus on Christ at the centre. As Victor Frankl so aptly quoted: 'If you don't go within, you go without' so I began praying about what practices I can incorporate into my family to help it more resemble the Holy Family. How can we trust as the Holy Family trusted? How can we serve as the Holy Family served? How can we obey, as the Holy Family obeyed?

As hard as it is to believe the Holy Family was a real family and still is. Our families are not meant to be separate from the Holy Family but rather grafted and nourished by it, the lifeblood and divine source of all families. At every Mass we recall the Holy Family and our union with it, as the Mystical Body of Christ.

So let us go forth today as one Holy Family baptized and bound by the same Holy Spirit. Let us call on Mary and Joseph as we would our own parents for advice, consultation and support and let us welcome the eternal youthfulness of the Christ-child, bringing newness, bringing life, bringing love. John Humphries.

There isn't a family that does not have its fair share of trouble from time to time. Suffering seeps under every doorway. When families are faced with unexpected sorrow and unbearable stress, what better model can we call upon for inspiration and comfort than the **Holy Family**. Joseph's role was that of guardian and protector, while being a mother to Jesus was Mary's most important vocation. One of the most notable things about them as a family was that they had many problems. They lived their lives in the deep shadow of the cross. During Christ's infancy, they fled the country in fear and sought help in Egypt as refugees in order to keep out of harm's way and avoid the violence of King Herod. They were a family away from home, lost, lonely, terrorised and afraid. Things did not get any easier as Jesus grew up and until he breathed his last on the cross, scriptures tells us that a sword of sorrow kept piercing his mother's heart. When we endure sleepless nights because of our own problems the Holy Family offers us hope in our pain and understanding in our plight. To recognize their presence in our lives can transform our deepest fears. May God bless your family with health and happiness in the coming year.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of Aldwin Pedro Sr.
Tuesday	NEW YEAR'S EVE
Wednesday	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Thursday	Intentions of Annie & Malcolm McAvoy
Friday	Intentions of Sammi & Loufti

May God's love bring hope and comfort to those living in the grip or worry and despair, 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



ST. LUKE'S NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

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.

**** Thursday, January 2nd mass will begin at 9:00 am**

ROSARY BEFORE THE 5:00 PM MASS

Come pray the Rosary each Saturday evening before the 5:00 mass, as we 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

There is still time to plan 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.

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSAROLLES

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: stlukesthy@gmail.com

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.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION

Next Friday, **January 3rd** is the first Friday of the month. Please join us for Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 7:30 pm.

All are invited to come and spend an hour with Jesus.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The many knitters who make up our Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to thank everyone who purchased their knitted items this year. Covenant House, the Yellow Brick House and Good Shepherd will share the \$1800.00 that was raised.



On behalf of myself, Fr. Wen and the parish staff we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!
God Bless,
Fr. Mark

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