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 SCHOOLS:	St. Anthony's	St. Rene Goupil/St. Luke	St. Robert C.H.S.	Saint John Paul II
	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

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

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. . . . . .

New Parishioner ☐ Envelopes ☐ Change of Address ☐ Moving out of Parish ☐

The Ascension celebrated a significant turning point in Jesus' relationship with us. He is returning to the Father so that he can be present to the church in a more accessible manner. While on earth, his ministry was limited to Israel. After the Ascension, Christ in his glorified state has a power whose outreach is universal. The good news is that he is present in the church through the Spirit - the Lord - the giver of life. What appeared as a departure was only a means to a more intimate and lengthy universal stay with us. It is the assurance that the church will always enjoy the living presence of Jesus. At moments when we feel hopeless and abandoned, the words "I am with you always; yes to the end of time," give us the consolation that Christ is still with us, watching over us, caring for us and hoping that we do not wander out of his sight.

This feast calls us to deepen our faith in the many ways that Jesus is present amongst us. He speaks to us as we listen attentively to the reading of the scriptures. He is alive in our hearts when we do our best through acts of charity – making his gospel real in our lives.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of **Lin Tong Gam**
Tuesday	Soul of **Edward Somers**
Wednesday	Soul of **Vincente LaCaria**
Thursday	**Departed Soul**
Friday	**Departed Soul**

Please pray for the sick in our community,
especially: Tony da Camara Jr., Jairus Papio, Ashling Reilly, Nicholas Lepone, Marita Salvosa, Mary Holt, Angie Cappriccio, Austin Delaney, Edana Pelliccione, Angela Missaghian, and baby Rebecca Grace Silva

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
905 881-2786 ext. 250

The Ascension of the Lord

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, this week, and the seventh Sunday in Easter, we read about the Ascension of the Lord, not about Jesus leaving us, but the completion and culmination of the Easter event, Jesus is now raised up to a full participation in the life of God.

The readings leading up to Pentecost, next week, have been in a way preparing us to receive the Holy Spirit, who is the love between the Father and the Son, which is the entire point of salvation. Jesus came and ascended to the Father so that we might be gathered into the love that He and the Father share, into the Holy Spirit.

In the first reading this week we hear that the disciples are doing what Jesus told them to do after he ascended, to wait in the city to be clothed with power from on high.

So, they gathered in the upper room and prayed that the Spirit might come. This was the beginning of the Church, the start of its mission. As I read the scriptures, I imagine a time like we are in now, a time isolated with the people closest to us and as it was then, I wonder if this is also a beginning of something, perhaps the beginning of a mission?

So, who are these people that God called? Peter, who denied him three times; Matthew, who for most of his life was a notorious sinner; Thomas, doubted that the Lord had been raised; Simon, the zeolite who'd been a violent revolutionary; John, who lusted after power, these were people not capable on their own of realizing this great mission of the Church. These people remind me of me and you, sinners who are unworthy of their mission, but that is why they prayed and why we must pray.

No matter what we accomplish in our life, no matter how great or small, it is of no value unless it is filled with the Holy Spirit, the fuel of the Church, the life force and energy of the body of Christ. And we can't get the Spirit through any heroic effort, it can only be received by asking for it. So, we must ask for it, we need to pray for Him, Come Holy Spirit, Veni Sancti Spiritus.

As we pray Veni Sancti Spiritus, let us prepare to receive Him into our heart, mind and soul, let us allow Him to move us so that we might bring the glory of God to all our friends, family and people of the world.

Reflect: Spend time with our Lord and ask, Veni Sancti Spiritus, then wait and see how our Lord will come into your life.

Alan Lee Hoy, *Youth Minister*

NOTICE

OUR PARISH REMAINS CLOSED

In order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to comply with the Government of Ontario's regulations requiring that all non-essential workplaces close, the church and the parish office continue to remain closed to the public until further notice. If you have any questions or concerns during this period of closure, please leave a voice mail at 905-881-2786 x221.

Good Shepherd Casserole Program

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting the Good Shepherd Casserole program, which has been suspended due to the COVID-19 virus. They appreciate your donations of **Mayonnaise, Mustard, Canned Tuna, Peanut Butter, Bottled Water, Small Juice Boxes, Sliced Bread and Individually Wrapped Cookies.** Your kindness allows them to provide bagged lunches to the many homeless people in Toronto.

Thank you from Good Shepherd Ministries!

ShareLife

Helping the whole community through Catholic agencies

2020 PARISH GOAL - $141,000.00

Amount raised to date: $30,683.00

Living the Gospel by supporting the Deaf community

Imagine you are a deaf child and your parents do not know sign language. Your parent could gesture in a rudimentary way, but how do you share your joys, fears and needs? Silent voice, a ShareLife agency teaches American Sign Language and Deaf culture to families so they can share a common language. "I'm so passionate about Silent Voice, "says one grateful parent, "because their Family Communication Program rescues children from social isolation." Last year more than 700 deaf people and their family members received help through Silent Voice.

Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

RISING AGAIN

A REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS

Pope says that like the disciples after Jesus' death and burial in the tomb "*we live in an atmosphere of pain and uncertainty" We* ask, *"Who will roll away the stone?*" The Pope reminds us *"we are not alone; the Lord goes before us on our journey and removes the stones that paralyze us. This is the hope that no one can take from us."*

The disciples discovered something new that we are now learning*: "No one is saved alone …we need to act as one … for better or worse all our actions affect others because everything is connected in our common home"*

We are to be open to the Spirit who *"can inspire us with a new imagination of what is possible."*

The Pope states: *"an emergency like this is overcome by the "antibodies of solidarity."* It enables us to respond not only to this pandemic but also *"to respond together to the many evils that are affecting so many of our brothers and sisters across the globe"* - evils such as hunger, war, poverty, refugee crisis. Pope Francis expresses the hope that in light of the resurrection *"we would encounter the necessary antibodies of justice, charity, and solidarity"* to change the world.

Natalie Doucet

It has certainly been a challenge maintaining parish operations without the weekly offertory collection so *THANK YOU* to everyone who is able to support our parish during these unprecedented times.

Ten weeks have passed since we last celebrated Sunday mass as a community and as I walk through the parish each day, I am reminded how quickly and without much warning, this building was silenced and just how much I miss the weekly activity and seeing everyone on the weekends. With the warmer weather now upon us, let us all continue to practice social distancing and stay safe.

God Bless, Fr. Mark

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