

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. 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

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"/>



John the Baptist stands out as a beacon pointing others to God's Son. There was only one light and he was witness to that light. By virtue of our baptism, we, in our day, are also witnesses to Christ. On this Advent morning, John challenges us to change our ways and make room for the light of Christ in our lives. In small but important ways, we can bring the light of Christ into the lives of those around us by simple acts of kindness. People can come more easily to believe in God if they experience goodness from those who profess to have faith. Christmas has always been a season for generosity, for sharing and showing good will to those less fortunate than ourselves. It is a time of year when we try to make the festive season happen for those experiencing hardships by supporting charitable causes, welcoming people into our homes and visiting the lonely and housebound.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of Rose Amodeo
Tuesday	Soul of Lina, Peter & Ivan Soares Soul of Julian Peñoso Soul of Evelyn Alde Soul of Dexter Sarmiento Mass of Thanksgiving – Susan Hannan
Wednesday	Soul of Michael Lau
Thursday	Soul of Brandon McElhinney
Friday	Mass of Thanksgiving – The Cruz Family

Please pray for the sick in our community, especially:
 Tony da Camara Jr., Jairus Papio, Nicholas Lepone, Marita Salvosa, Mary Holt, Angie Capriccio, Austin Delaney, Edana Pelliccione, Angela Missaghian, Rosalina Bustamante, Claude & Rebecca Hau, Stuart Wright, Benedict Pius and baby Rebecca Grace Silva

PRAYER REQUEST LINE
 905 881-2786 ext. 250

Red Ink

The other day my son brought his test home from school that I needed to sign. I could see his teacher had worked hard in marking it as it was covered in red ink. I asked him if he wanted me to review it with him and he said: “no way”. Puzzled I asked him why not, don’t you want to learn where you went wrong and he said: “no it’s too painful.”

At his age I remember ignoring all the teacher’s corrections for the same reason, it was too painful. The notorious ‘red ink’ highlighted my failures and rather than enhance my learning experience turned me away from it.

The same experience I believe can be had with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reflecting what our sins are in preparation for the sacrament can feel like the teacher’s red ink carving up our lives and can make us feel like failures rather than the good people we think we are. I think if we adjust our perspective and view our sins as opportunities to deepen our relationship with God and neighbour then perhaps we will look upon reconciliation in a more positive light.

But to see our sins in a different light first we have to regard ourselves in a different light. For most of my life I have seen myself as a relatively good person and have tried to live up to this identity by good works. The difficulty with viewing myself this way is that the acknowledgment of sin contradicts my perception and causes pain so I have for the most part avoided the celebration of the sacrament. More recently I am coming to accept how fundamentally broken I am and incapable of doing any good on my own. Rather than deny the sin in my life I am beginning to celebrate it as a mark of my humanity and need for a saviour.

I am beginning to accept that Jesus is the source of my goodness and the goal in my life is to make more and more room for Jesus so that I can grow in him. Sin is when people see me and not Christ acting in me. Acknowledging my sin in this way helps me to be more honest and merciful with myself and consequently with others.

This is perhaps why St. Bernard of Clairvaux describes the 3 most important virtues as: “humility, humility, humility” and why St. Augustine says that if humility does not precede all that we do, our efforts are fruitless.

As human beings we feel the need of making something of our lives when in reality we make something of our lives by unmaking them and being made in Christ. Only then can we accept the red ink that is the healing Blood of Christ which blots out our sins and makes us whole once again--the greatest gift anyone could receive this Christmas.

John Humphries.

Points to Consider Before Coming to Weekend Mass

1. **Our washrooms are closed.**
2. Masks or face coverings are now mandatory.
3. Sanitizer is required when **entering** the Parish. You are welcome to use your own sanitizer but please apply it in front of our greeters.
4. An usher will escort you to the next available seat.
5. Please stay in your seat once seated except for communion.
6. **Please no singing during mass.**
7. Communion is still being distributed in the hand only.
8. There will be no collection during mass. Offerings may be left in the baskets in the narthex or you can donate on-line or drop off in the mailbox at the north doors.
9. No handshakes during the sign of peace.
10. No touching of statues.
11. Holy water fonts will be empty.
12. Bulletins are now available but are not permitted in the sanctuary. Please pick up a copy on your way out.
13. You are welcome to contact the Parish office on weekdays to purchase Missals, Mass Cards or if you require Holy Water refills.
14. Most areas of the parish building remain closed including the hall, our washrooms, the kitchen and the north entrance. Please do not enter any of these areas without permission.
15. When mass is over we ask that you leave the building immediately to permit sanitizing for the next mass.
16. Please follow the directions of our ushers and volunteers at all times. Thank you for your patience.
17. Due to limited spacing, please only attend mass once each weekend.
18. If you are not feeling well, please do not come to the parish.

MASKS

Masks or face coverings are mandatory **inside** all public places in York Region. Upon entering the parish building, please wear a mask or face covering and wear it correctly – **covering your mouth, nose and chin** for the duration of time you are in the parish.

If for any reason you are unable to wear a mask or face covering, please do not enter the parish.

Advent Reconciliations

Advent Reconciliations will take place following the Tuesday evening mass on **December 15th**.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has beautiful knitted items for sale again this year. Please contact Helen at: 905-770-7823. All proceeds will go to the Georgina Community Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!



St. Vincent De Paul
To our Generous
Parishioners

Despite the pandemic, our Christmas Basket program was again a huge success in helping many families in our own parish community celebrate the Christmas season in difficult times.

Thank you and God Bless You!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Luke's Parish Council 4393

Join the Knights of Columbus or renew memberships on line at <https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/about-membership/index.html>

2021 DONATION ENVELOPES

The 2021 donation envelopes are available for pickup. Please contact Lois at ext. 221

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS

To ensure compliance with COVID-19 restrictions, our Christmas and New Year masses require modifications this year. There will be no children's pageant, no midnight mass and as you are aware, seating is very limited. To accommodate as many parishioners as possible, attendance will be by **RESERVATION ONLY**.

Reserve on-line at: <http://stlukesth.archtoronto.org>
The reservation line will be open at 9:00 am on Tuesday, December 22nd for Christmas Eve masses and 9:00 am Wednesday December 23rd for Christmas Day masses and the same day & time the following week for New Year masses. Please see the insert for the mass times.

For those who are unable to attend the parish we will be livestreaming at 8:00 pm Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at 10:30 am.


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