

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...

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Message: This week, in the fourth Sunday of Advent, I'd like to share with you a reflection from Word On Fire by Bishop Robert Barron.

“Today’s Gospel shows how Mary became the mother of all the members of the Body of Christ.

In Depth: At the Annunciation, the angel declared to the maiden of Nazareth: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.” The two persons required for the Incarnation were, in other words, the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother.

Then we recall that, from the cross, Jesus pronounced this word to St. John: “son, behold your mother.” He was giving Mary not only to John, but through John to the whole Church. Mary would be the mother of all the beloved disciples of Jesus up and down the centuries.

Now we can make the connection: in becoming the mother of Christ, Mary, by extension, would become mother of all of those members of Christ’s Mystical Body across space and time. Just as the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother were required to bring about the Incarnation in history, so those same two agents are required to bring about the birth of Christ in our souls.”

St. Irenaeus, one of the Church Fathers, provides this insight on the Gospel this week:

‘Just as Eve was led astray by the word of an angel... so did the Virgin Mary by the word of an angel receive the glad tidings that she should bear God, through obedience to his word. If the former disobeyed God, the latter was persuaded to obey God and thus become Eve’s advocate. Just as the human race was subjected to death by means of a virgin, so it is rescued by a virgin; the scales were rebalanced when a virginal obedience redressed a virginal disobedience. The coming of the serpent is conquered by the harmlessness of the dove, and the bonds that firmly bound us to death were cut.’

As we approach Christmas in a very different world than one in previous years, let us rely on the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother to bring about the birth of Christ more vividly in our own soul.

Reflect:

How can you rely on the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother to bring about the birth of Christ more vividly in your own soul?

Alan Lee Hoy, Youth Minister



Christmas is almost upon us and, on this **fourth Sunday of Advent**, our thoughts turn to Mary our mother, who is the model of listening and waiting for the Lord to come. As she turned over in her mind what the angel’s greeting could mean she came only gradually to understand the message and the mystery of Christmas. God not only wants to become one of us, but his reason in doing so is that he wants us to become like him. In listening to the Word of God, Mary shows us an aspect of our Christian life, which is of special importance. To be a Christian is to be a person who keeps their ears open to what God is calling them to do so that they can answer that call. We can ask her to help us have her attitude of listen and responding to God’s call so that we can be as ready and as willing to bring Christ into our world as Mary was.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of Mary Rivard
Tuesday	Soul of Steven Huta Intentions of Michael Bursey Soul of Barbara Nugent
Wednesday	Intentions of John & Theresa Lee
Thursday	Christmas Eve
Friday	Christmas Day

Please pray for the sick in our community, especially:

Tony da Camara Jr., Jairus Papio, Nicholas Lepone, Marita Salvosa, Mary Holt, Angie Cappriccio, Austin Delaney, Edana Pelliccione, Angela Missaghian, Rosalina Bustamante, Claude & Rebecca Hau, Stuart Wright, Benedict Pius, Lily Pinto and baby Rebecca Grace Silva

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS

All public masses have been temporarily cancelled due to the current lock-down, which is expected to last until at least Jan 11th. This includes Christmas & New Year masses. You are encouraged to view the many online/livestream/televised masses. A full list is available at www.archtoronto.org and Cardinal Collins will continue to celebrate the livestreamed mass each day from St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica at 7:30am. Please visit our website or MyParish App for private prayer schedule.

REVISED OFFICE HOURS DURING LOCK-DOWN PERIOD

Lois will be in the office on Monday, Wednesday & Friday during the lock-down period. The office hours are weekdays 8:30am to 4:30 pm. Closed from 12:00-2:00 for lunch.

The parish office will close Dec 24 at 12:00 for Christmas and re-open on Wednesday, Dec 30 at 8:30 am.

If an urgent situation arises, please leave a voice mail at 905-881-2786 x 221 or email st.lukesparish@rogers.com

The parish building will be locked at all times so please call before arriving to arrange masses, pickup envelopes, missals or holy water. Upon entering the parish lobby, 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.

Reconciliations

During the lock-down, please contact Fr. Mark at ext 222 or Fr. Wen at ext 227 to arrange an appointment for reconciliation.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

You can still purchase beautiful knitted items from the Prayer Shawl Ministry in time for Christmas. Please contact Helen at: 905-770-7823. All proceeds will go to the Georgina Community Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!

2021 DONATION ENVELOPES

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

**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>

**Virtual "Simbang Gabi"
December 15 to 23, 2020**

As part of the Toronto celebration of the 500th year, Anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines, and in preparation for the birth of our Savior, an online airing of a nine-day "Simbang Gabi" (Filipino for "Night Mass") and Novena from various participating parishes will be held from December 15 to 23 at 7 pm. It will be livestreamed at www.ph500toronto.com and at: www.facebook.com/500yocTO. For details, visit: www.ph500toronto.com/events.html. The 9-day Novena and Mass is a much-revered Advent tradition in the Philippines but everyone is welcome to join virtually as we prepare for Christ's joyous birth.

DONATE AND SAVE!

A quick reminder that the tax deadline is almost here. December 31st is the deadline for donations to be included in your 2020 tax receipt.



Soon we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus. This has been a challenging year for all of us but the one thing that gives us hope is that we know in the end, because Jesus came to us, we all will be happy. Each day no matter what happens, remember to pray to Jesus to guide your every step and tell him what you feel each day, he wants to shoulder our burdens and give us some peace. Fr. Wen and I will be here everyday to celebrate and pray for all of you and along with Fr. John and the parish staff wish you a very Merry Christmas. God Bless, Fr. Mark


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