

St. Luke's Parish

39 Green Lane, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6K5 Telephone: 905-881-2786

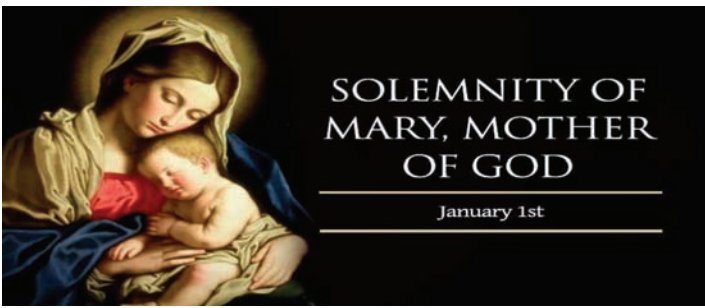
Website: <https://stlukesth.archtoronto.org> Email: stlukesth@archtoronto.org

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
Youth Minister - Alan Lee Hoy - 226



*May the Blessings of this
Holy Season be with you Always.*

Solemnity of Mary – Holy Mother of God



Today we celebrate the Motherhood of Mary, an aspect of the life of Our Lady that many of us can relate to. In today's Gospel, shepherds visit Mary, Joseph, and Jesus and reveal to them that Jesus is the Messiah. Mary ponders this. She has known from the beginning who Jesus is, but now he is a newborn, her own child lying serenely beside her. She may not really know what "messiah" means for him and for their family. She could have been worried. She could have immediately started to plan for all eventualities. We all might have done these things, however Mary recognizes that God's plan is a beautiful gift. She looks to the future with peace and confidence, despite not knowing all that it holds. She can do this because she trusts God and gives him his rightful place – as the one in control of the future. Contemplating the future can be scary. God has a plan for each of us, but he unfolds it little by little. None of us knows the full picture or implications. Let us pray to have Mary's trust, peace and confidence as we contemplate the year ahead.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Intentions of Sandra Lee
Tuesday	Soul of John Thomas Nugent Intentions of Nelia Pablico-Dela Vega Soul of Roza da Camera Soul of Steven Schmoll Soul of Rose Reinhold Soul of Leo Ceolin
Wednesday	Soul of Vicente Del Rosario
Thursday	Soul of Patricia Sullivan
Friday	Soul of Romulo Tibor

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250

Please pray for the sick in our community.

May the healing power of God touch their hearts and ease their burdens especially: **Maria DiRienzo, Donna Shen, Marie McCarron, Rosaria Lee, Magdalene Ki, Tita Mateo, Marie Ceolin, Justin & Teddy Givens, Victoria Chimenti, Nelia Pablico Dela Vega and Luc Balogun**

Mary Our Faithful Mother

Mary was and will be for all time, an authentic follower of the Christ. In the same way the humanity of Jesus obeyed his mother, the humanity of Mary obeyed her divine Son. She is and will be for all people of goodwill, a genuine holy person whose sanctity lies simply in her humble love for God. Unlike other sages, there are no enigmatic "words of wisdom" nor dramatic "acts of heroism."

She lived an ordinary life under the same conditions of difficulty in which we struggle with our own, yet she faced these conditions with an extraordinary trust and spiritual maturity worth emulating in the midst of our troubled world. She is a saint anybody can imitate and follow.

Mary is also a silent saint. Though scant in detail, the Gospel stories indicate the character of a unique woman who thinks quietly, and acts quietly. In spite of the silence, her deep love for God is evident, for her actions always signify the presence in her heart of a nurtured and intimate relationship with the Spirit, a relationship founded on faithfulness to God's will, even if at times it cannot be fully understood.

She is a saint everybody should imitate and follow. May you therefore be guided by these seven principles in following Mary:

- 1) Meditate regularly on the goodness of God, so that we are wholly conditioned to a complete trust in his will, and to the certainty that whatever he desires or allows to happen for us, will be for our own good.
 - 2) Like the Virgin Mary, we ought to commit ourselves to the careful observance of the teachings and example of our Lord Jesus Christ. She followed her Son, not fully comprehending the scale and purposes of his mission, yet she loyally remained at his side, until the end.
 - 3) Like the Apostle John, let us accept Mary as our own spiritual mother, sharing in her joys and sorrows, not only for the sacrifice and glorification of her Son, but also for the sufferings and renewal of our world.
 - 4) In the same way Mary searched for the boy Jesus in the Temple, so should we also search for him in the confusion and complexities of our human condition.
 - 5) Remain in the protection of the Holy Spirit, that we may be guided to a mindful listening and reflection on the plans of God. May we always ponder with great care what he wishes us to think and do for his kingdom.
 - 6) In the same way Mary struggled to care for Elizabeth in spite of her own burdens, so should we persevere in a patient and charitable service of those in need.
 - 7) Be ever hopeful that a life of honest and humble service for the kingdom of God will culminate in a sharing of heavenly eternity with the Beloved! This is a solemn promise.
- John Humphries, adapted from post by Br. Jess Matias.



Today, New Year's Day, we begin the year with the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. We come into the New Year with the hope that things will continue to get better. It is our faith that gives us hope and Mary is a model of faith. Let us pray to her when we feel doubt and ask her to lead us to her son Jesus our Lord.

Padre Pio said "Pray, Hope, Don't Worry, Have Faith". If we say to the Lord, as Mary did, *your will be done*, we can face anything with hope, for our Lord will be with us and our Mother will protect us each day.

Happy New Year & God Bless
Fr. Mark



ALPHA at St. Luke's
Starting February 23rd 2023
Sign-up Weekend Jan 14th / Jan 15th

What is Alpha? Alpha for Catholics is an opportunity to explore life's most important questions, the meaning of life and the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

St. Luke's community welcomes you to join us in a series of interactive online video sessions where we can engage in conversations about faith, life and Jesus.

Date: February 23rd to May 11th
Time: Weekly each **Thursday @ 7:30 pm**

All are welcome! May all who come as Guests, leave as Friends.

For further details, please contact the St. Luke's Alpha team at stlukesalphaseries@gmail.com

Merry Christmas from the York Catholic DSB

Dear Parishioners of St. Luke's Parish,

As I start a new term as your Catholic School Trustee, I want to introduce myself and thank you for your support. Catholic Education is a great gift for Ontario's faithful and I am grateful to those who have registered as Catholic school supporters.

At Christmas, we get to see how joyous the integration of home, school and parish can be. There is always great excitement when the clergy celebrate Advent Masses in the parish schools. Many parents/guardians come into the schools for special faith-filled Christmas activities. And I am so proud of our schools' generosity in organizing food drives, warm clothing donations and raising funds for Catholic charities.

Merry Christmas to you all! I hope you feel the warmth of knowing that Christ so loves us that he came into the world to be one with us.

Yours in Christ,
Carol Cotton
Trustee, Markham Area 1



FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

Next Friday, **January 6th** is the first Friday of the month so there will be a one hour Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 9:30am. All are invited to come and spend one hour with Jesus.

FIRST SATURDAY – January 7, 2023

Please join us Saturday, January 8th for First Saturday mass beginning at 8:30 am.



With thanks & appreciation for the thoughtful gifts and warm Christmas & New Year wishes we have received at the parish. God Bless you all as we begin 2023!
Fr. Mark, Fr. Wen, Fr. John & the parish staff.

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