

St. Luke's Parish

39 Green Lane, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6K5 Tel: 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
In Residence: Fr. Sherwin Holandez
Secretary: Lois Henderson - Ext. 221
Pastoral Associate: John Humphries - Ext 226
Lay Pastoral Associate - Alan Lee Hoy - Ext 226
Youth Minister - Krishna Santhakumar Ext 226

PRAYER REQUEST LINE - 905-881-2786 Ext 250

Masses: Saturday - 5:00 P.M. Sunday - 8:45, 10:30 and 12:15 P.M.
Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. - 9:00 A.M., Tue. - 7:00 P.M.

Devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Tuesday - after mass

First Friday Devotions - after morning mass First Saturday Mass & Devotions – 8:30 A.M.

Confessions: Saturday 4:00-4:45 P.M. and Tuesday after Devotions

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. 905-881-2786 Ext 221

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|----------|---|---|--|---|
| 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 ☐

Envelopes ☐

Change of Address ☐

Moving out of Parish ☐



As a religious season, **Advent** has many themes and distinctive qualities. It speaks of darkness and light, despair and hope, anxiety and joy, waiting and arrival. Isaiah is the prophet of Advent and he conveys to us in the first reading Israel's long wait for the coming of the Messiah. This is a lament and a profound plea for help, which was slow in coming.

While in exile, the people's constant prayer was that the Lord would break the heavens open and come down to save them. The celebration of Christ's entry into our world on the first Christmas Day was the fulfillment of that promise. The arrival of Christ in our midst after a long period of anxious waiting is reason enough to feel hopeful, as it is a sure guarantee that he will come again. The gospel encourages us to keep this in view, with its stern and direct message to make a conscious effort to ready ourselves for the coming of the day of the Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | Deceased members of the Laino & Lacaria Families |
| Tuesday | Soul of Virginia Gorizzan Soul of Tom Schmoll Soul of Sheila Durkin Soul of Maria Lai Keok Kwee Souls of Mamie & Brian Yu |
| Wednesday | Soul of Leticia Villacorta |
| Thursday | Soul of Daisy Suero |
| Friday | Soul of Lydia Bustamante |

Please pray for the sick in our community.

May the healing power of God touch their hearts and ease their burdens, especially **Raffael Hang Cheong Lee, Khader Khawager, Derek Hamilton, Maria DiRienza, George Pinto and Nolito Reyes**

SL ShareLife

*Helping the whole community
through Catholic agencies*

Our 2023 parish goal - \$149,000.00

Raised to date - \$123,887.80

Live the Gospel by supporting ShareLife

Beholding the Holy Spirit

As I was praying about what to reflect on for this column the word 'behold' kept popping into my head. Behold is a word we frequently hear associated with Advent so consequently I decided to reflect on how this word applies to the coming of Christ. Behold appears 1298 times in the Bible and is derived from the Greek word: 'Eido' which has the literal translation of: "be sure to see" or "don't miss".

What is it about Advent that we should be 'sure to see' or 'not to miss'? The 3 primary things the Church wants us to be sure to see is how God comes to us throughout Salvation History, how God comes to us in the present moment and how God comes to us at the end of time.

First is to look back throughout history and see how God continually comes to us and refuses to take no for an answer. So often we witness people in the bible and the Church turn away from God, yet God's pursuit of them and us is constant. I think it's helpful to take some time to think about all the ways God has come to us over the past year and further. Who is this God that despite our rejection and hardness of heart continues knocking on the doors of our hearts? And how is it that this God decided to come to us as a baby to be held by Mary. Through Mary we all have an intermediary through which to hold baby Jesus just as God has held us for all time.

The second way in which we behold Jesus is in the present moment. Every moment God comes to us and wants to be in a mystical union with us. What God is this that always desires to dwell in our hearts and become an integral part of us as we pray and celebrate the sacraments? How blessed we are to have a God that loves us so much that his greatest desire is to be in us and us in him. It certainly is something not to miss.

The third way God desires to be with us is at the end of time. Throughout the scriptures we see God telling his people to keep awake and be ready. It appears almost 200 times in the bible. Sometimes we fear the end times and God's punishment for all the ways we have disobeyed Him but this perspective could not be farther from the truth. God does not desire to punish but came that we may have life and have it to the full. We experience suffering and judgement as a result of our own free will. God's desire is that we be with him forever in heaven and this is something to behold.

As we make our way through Advent and the busy Christmas Season let's try to put some time aside to be behold the three primary ways that God comes to us. There is no greater gift we can receive or share with others than the gift of beholding the Holy Spirit.
John Humphries.



St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Baskets

This is the final weekend for donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Basket program. Let us all be reminded of the less fortunate and how we can make a difference in their lives. Specially marked envelopes are available in the narthex and pew pockets for your convenience. Your generous donations assist in providing food gift cards to needy families in our community, enabling them to participate in this joyous season. We will be distributing the gift cards to our needy families the week of December 10th. Thank you for your annual support of this program.

Please make cheques payable to: St. Vincent de Paul.

* Tax receipts will be issued by St. Vincent de Paul



St. Luke's CHOIR CONCERT SATURDAY DEC 9th - 7:00 PM

Once again, the choirs of St. Luke's will be ringing in the Christmas season as only music can. Come join us as the 4 choirs (yes the kids are included) of our parish sing both individually and together the delightful songs of the season to help prepare your

hearts for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus. The concert is free but a basket will be available for a free will offering. Light refreshments will follow in the parish hall.



Good Shepherd Casserole Program

Mathew in Chapter 25 quoted Jesus as having said *"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink.....whatsoever you do for the least of my brethren, you do for Me"*.

It is in that spirit that we are pleased to inform you that the Tuna Casserole Program at St. Luke's will recommence in January 2024. These casseroles will feed the homeless and those in need out of the Good Shepherd Centre in downtown Toronto. If you would like to contribute or donate to this program, please contact Debbie Araujo at 647-884-3744, or Margaret Hanley at 905-881-1837 for further information. Thank you.



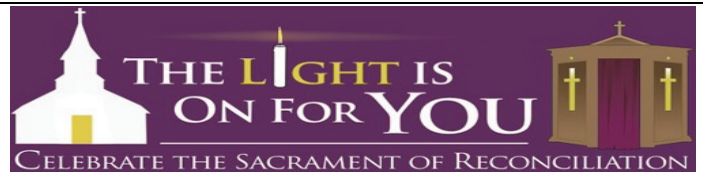
Please see the entrance doors, the information table or the website stlukesth@archtoronto.org for our Christmas & New Year mass times. Thank you.



Children's Christmas Eve Family Mass

Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Children from grades 2-12 are invited and encouraged to sing in the youth choir and perform in the pageant for the family mass on Christmas Eve. This very special event enables the children to help us all celebrate the joy found in this holy season. All abilities are most welcome. The choir and pageant will hold rehearsals on Sunday afternoons in the church or the hall. To sign up, please see the posters in the narthex. Thank you!



ADVENT SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for Advent will be celebrated at the parish on:

Tuesday, December 5th at 7:30 pm and

Wednesday, December 6th at 9:30 am



Handicraft Holy Land Christians

This weekend, we will welcome our special guest Paul from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique, hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase in the parish hall.

Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

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