

# St. Luke's Parish

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

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

Email: [stlukesth@archtoronto.org](mailto:stlukesth@archtoronto.org)



**Pastor: Fr. Mark Van Patten - Ext. 222**

**Associate Pastor: Fr. Wenceslao Abalos - Ext. 232**

**In Residence: Fr. Sherwin Holandez - Ext. 231**

**Secretary: Lois Henderson - Ext. 221**

**Pastoral Associate: John Humphries - Ext 226**

**Lay Pastoral Associate - Alan Lee Hoy - Ext 233**

**Youth Minister - Krishna Shanthakumar - Ext. 233**

**Knights of Columbus - St. Luke's Council 4393 - Ext. 235**

**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 mass & devotions

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

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

SCHOOLS: 141 Kirk Dr.

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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](http://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 ☐



In today's gospel, Jesus comes to Simon's mother-in-law, stretches out his hand and cures her. Christ gives us no answer about suffering nor does he try to explain why people have to suffer but he showed us the importance of turning suffering into joy. By identifying himself with the sick and the dying even to dying himself on the Cross, Jesus clearly revealed that suffering is part of God's mysterious plan. It all depends on how we shoulder our cross, for, by uniting our trials with Christ's we can enjoy his victory. Whatever happens to us, all things will work together for those who love God and share in the passion of Christ. The gospel does not guarantee our freedom from suffering but gives us the assurance that God is with us however great our suffering may be.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of <b>Ken Steer</b>
Tuesday	Soul of <b>Eric Brochu</b> Soul of <b>Chan Law Fung Chun</b> Soul of <b>Annie Yao</b> Soul of <b>Rowena Pereira</b> Intentions of <b>Jessie Schmoll</b>
Wednesday	Soul of <b>Dr. Thomas Augustine Mundmatfam</b>
Thursday	Soul of <b>Violet Lim</b>
Friday	Soul of <b>Violet Lim</b>

#### ***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, Nolito Reyes and Ed Tan**

### **Surprised by Birthday Joy**

A few weeks back my birthday fell on a Sunday and I was treated to one of the greatest gifts I have ever received. At the end of the 12:15 Mass the choir director Greg Benoit led the entire congregation in singing me 'Happy Birthday'. I was overwhelmed by the gesture and hearing the congregation sing with such love my heart was filled with immense happiness and joy. I don't know if I have ever felt so elated in my entire life.

The joy was so intense I experienced a sense of pain at receiving so much love. In my deepest thoughts I was thinking I'm not worthy of receiving so much love from these people, most of whom I've done nothing for.

It's interesting that just the week before this occurred, we saw Jesus commencing his public ministry and asking the people to repent and believe the good news. I've often thought of repentance meaning I need to change my behaviour and try to be a better person but perhaps it is more important to change my way of thinking and receiving the grace of God. To pray for the assistance to better receive the unconditional love of God and neighbour. This is why the sacrament of confession is so vital as there is no better means with which to open our spiritual arteries to the flow of God's love and to clear the blockages only God can clear.

The greatest blockage of our spiritual arteries is pride. We think by our own means we can somehow earn the acceptance of our neighbours and God. This is impossible and is not our fault as we are fundamentally broken due to the effects of original sin. It is only through Christ's salvific act that we are brought back into right relationship with God. Therefore, we have nothing to be self-loathing about because our free will was skewed from the beginning. Anything good we manifest is thanks to our Baptism and incorporation into the Body of Christ. At the same time, we have nothing to take pride in as all our good actions are the result of Holy Spirit animating us.

I find this truly liberating. One of my greatest challenges is self-regret but realizing I was bankrupt to begin with and anything good I do is on account of God's grace frees me from the judgement of neighbour and self. For if I am judged I am judged on brokenness or grace, not on what I have solitarily made myself to be. Therefore, I trust in God and in God alone and this is the essence of faith.

As St. Thérèse of Lisieux so aptly describes we must remain small and docile in the loving arms of Jesus: "The elevator which must raise me to heaven is Your arms O Jesus! And for this I had no need to grow up, but rather I had to remain little and become this more and more. O my God, You surpassed all my expectation. I want only to sing to Your mercies." And birthdays too! John Humphries.

# **SL ShareLife**

*Helping the whole community  
through Catholic agencies*

The 2024 ShareLife Parish Campaign begins on  
Wednesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>.

Your support for ShareLife brought the hands of Christ to those in need. Because of you, ShareLife agencies annually help more than 150,000 people.

- You eased the struggles of more than 13,000 people by providing over 45,000 mental health services;
- You offered quality care and companionship to over 2,800 vulnerable senior;
- You invested in our church's future by supporting 62 seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary in the 2023-2024 academic year;
- You helped sponsor 708 refugees on their journey to safety and freedom in Canada;
- You extended a helping hand to over 1,600 young parents and their children; and
- You provided accessible, dignified support to over 2,300 people with special needs and their families.

*Thank you for living the Gospel by providing for those in need!*



**The CWL & the Knights of Columbus** will be hosting a pancake breakfast this **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** after all masses in the parish hall. Come together with fellow parishioners to enjoy a hearty breakfast of eggs, sausages and more for only \$6 per person or \$10 for 2 breakfasts. All are welcome so bring your family & friends.

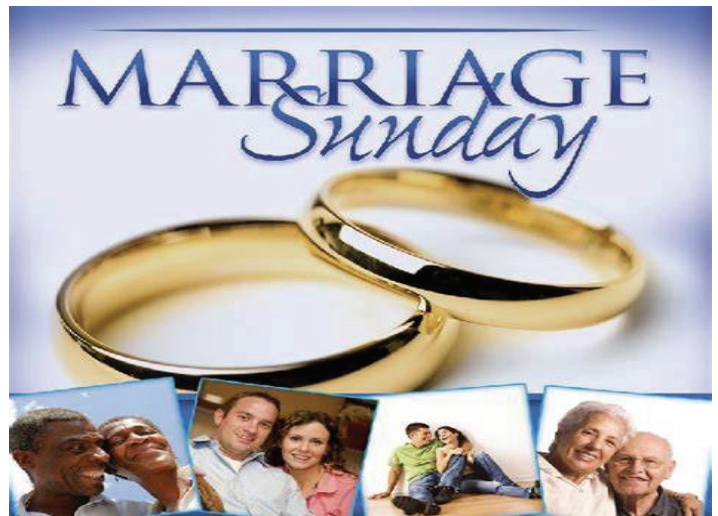
We look forward to seeing you there!

## **2023 TAX RECEIPTS**

Tax receipts for qualifying 2023 donations made directly to the parish have been processed and you should receive them in your mailbox on or before February 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have not received your 2023 tax receipt, please contact the parish office. Only donations made **directly** at the parish are included in this tax receipt. Separate tax receipts are issued for all On-line donations and donations made to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Georgina Community Food Bank.

## **2024 Refugee Sponsorship Program for Parishioners**

The Archdiocese's Office for Refugees is excited to announce the commencement of its 2024 Refugee Sponsorship Program for Parishioners. This initiative is designed to aid parishioners interested in sponsoring family members seeking refugee resettlement. If you are a parishioner and wish to sponsor a family member, kindly reach out to the parish office to arrange a meeting with the pastor. Interested parishioners will be asked to provide the necessary funds required for sponsorship.



## **CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024 @ 3:00 pm**

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica

65 Bond Street, Toronto

As part of **Marriage Sunday 2024** celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, especially those celebrating milestone-wedding anniversaries (25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60+) in 2024.

All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass. The Mass is open to all, but due to limited capacity, seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Online reservations are now closed.

Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass here:

<https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/> The broadcast will begin at 2:15 pm.

## **OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

### **DISCERNMENT WEEKEND RETREAT**

The office of vocations will be hosting a Come & See Weekend Discernment Retreat for men 18 years and older at St. Augustine's Seminary Friday, March 15 until Sunday March 17. Please register online at

[www.vocationstoronto.ca/comeandsee](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca/comeandsee) or for more information contact [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org).





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