

St. Luke's Parish

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

Website: stlukesth.archtoronto.org

Email: 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

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 ☐



The Lenten call to repentance is as relevant today as it was to those who first flocked to hear Jesus preach some two thousand years ago. We may enjoy more prosperity than any previous generation, yet our sense of emptiness increases as our reliance on material possessions blocks out spiritual values. Almost without knowing it, we stray off course, acquire sinful habits and lose our moral direction. To repent involves a willingness to change, to turn away from everything that chokes us off from things spiritual. Repentance enables us to become more dependent on Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. This Lenten period is a time to turn to God with our whole heart and focus on the values and attitudes that help us live as Jesus would have us live. It is a season of grace when the church invites to leave ourselves free to be loved once more by God who cares for us totally.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of George Pinto
Tuesday	Soul of Ivor Fernandes Soul of Frank Zerucelli Soul of Marika Schmoll Soul of George Pinto Soul of Leda Dal Cin
Wednesday	Soul of Philip Kim
Thursday	Soul of Richard Farrell
Friday	Soul of John Gallagher

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, Ed Tan, Carl Rampersad and Elizabeth Liversidge**

Lent is about a Person

An excerpt from 'The Ascension Lenten Companion: Waling with Jesus to Jerusalem:

In the first paragraph of his first encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI writes, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, *a person*, which **gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.**" The piercing simplicity of these words is deeply moving.

Being Christian is not about me. Being Christian is not about my choice for God. Being Christian cannot be defined by rules or rituals, nor can it be summed up in policies or piety. Of course, all these things are a part of the "holy order" of Catholicism. But being Christian is essentially about a person – and his name is Jesus.

Christianity is about *Jesus, a person*. It has been this way from the beginning. When Jesus called his disciples, his invitation was "*Follow me*" (Matthew 4:19; Luke 5:27; John 1:43). When he taught them the truth, he explicitly said, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me*" (John 14:6). No other religious leader in history has intentionally placed the focus on himself. However, Jesus continually places himself at the center of faith.

When we encounter this person, our lives change. For each of us, an "encounter with an even, *a person*," gives life "a new horizon and decisive direction."

If Christianity is about a person, that means Lent is also about a person. Lent is not simply about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Those disciplines help us focus on what we need to focus on: namely, *a person*. Lent is about a person. Lent is about Jesus.

I invite you today, and over the next forty days on a journey to spend your life with *a person*. Eat with him, walk with him, and laugh with him. Listen to his words of mercy and witness sinners' hearts transformed. See him push boundaries and expand your understanding of love. Feel the liberation of those who were bound and taste the shock of the religious authorities. Come to love this person, Jesus, who will ultimately be betrayed, imprisoned, tortured, and crucified.

This is your invitation. This is your Lent, an encounter with *a person* who gives life "a new horizon and a decisive direction."

-Alan Lee Hoy

**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 or for more information contact vocations@archtoronto.org.

**FREE CATHOLIC ESTATE PLANNING
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Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

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3. send an email to:
Development@ArchToronto.org and write "webinar February 24" in the title line + your name(s) in the body of the message.



40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer, fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.

This year, St. Luke's is participating in the 40 days for Life campaign. The goal is to have a minimum of two St. Luke parishioners praying peacefully 50 meters from the abortion clinic between the hours of 7am-7pm on **SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024**. This peaceful witness will occur in front of the parking lot of St. Charles Borromeo Church located at 811 Lawrence Ave West, North York.

Please consider committing to 1 hour. To sign up for a spot, please register on the 40 days for life website:

www.40daysforlife.com/en/toronto.

**THORNHILL MINISTERIAL ECUMENICAL
LENTEN SERIES 2024**



For 54 years, the Christian churches of Thornhill have been celebrating our common belief in our one true Father, God, and Jesus Christ His Son, our Saviour.

The services that we have shared over the years during the Lenten Season have enabled us to enjoy wonderful fellowship with our Christian neighbours. This year you have an opportunity to participate in this Ecumenical outreach in the three services that are taking place. They are all on a Sunday and begin at 4:00. The celebration is about 45 minutes and there is a lovely social time after.

The theme for this year is **"The Faithful Christian"**.

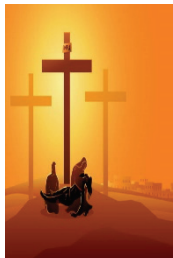
The first gathering is this **Sunday, February 18** at the Thornhill Baptist Church where the Reverend Dr. Heather Vais from Thornhill Presbyterian Church will speak on ***"The Struggle to Be Faithful Christians"***.

The second service is **Sunday, March 3** at Holy Trinity Anglican Church and our own John Humphries will be sharing his thoughts on ***"The Importance of Being Faithful Christians."***

The final time that we all come together is right here at St. Luke's on **Sunday, March 17**. The Reverend Leigh Olson from Thornhill United Church will give us her insights on ***"The Joys of Being Faithful Christians"***. This is also the service where, for the last 15 years or so, all the churches bring their choirs to us and collectively we raise the roof in joyful, powerful song!

You are all invited to these celebrations of our common faith, and, like any celebration, the more that attend the more memorable the event will be!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Beginning Friday, Feb 16th, you are invited to join in praying the Stations of the Cross each Friday morning during Lent beginning at 9:30 am following mass. All are invited to come and spend one hour in prayer.

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