

# *St. Luke's Parish*

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

*Website: [stlukesth.archtoronto.org](http://stlukesth.archtoronto.org) Email: [stlukesth@archtoronto.org](mailto:stlukesth@archtoronto.org)*

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

**Associate Pastor: Fr. Sávio Antonio Bruto da Costa - Ext 232**

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

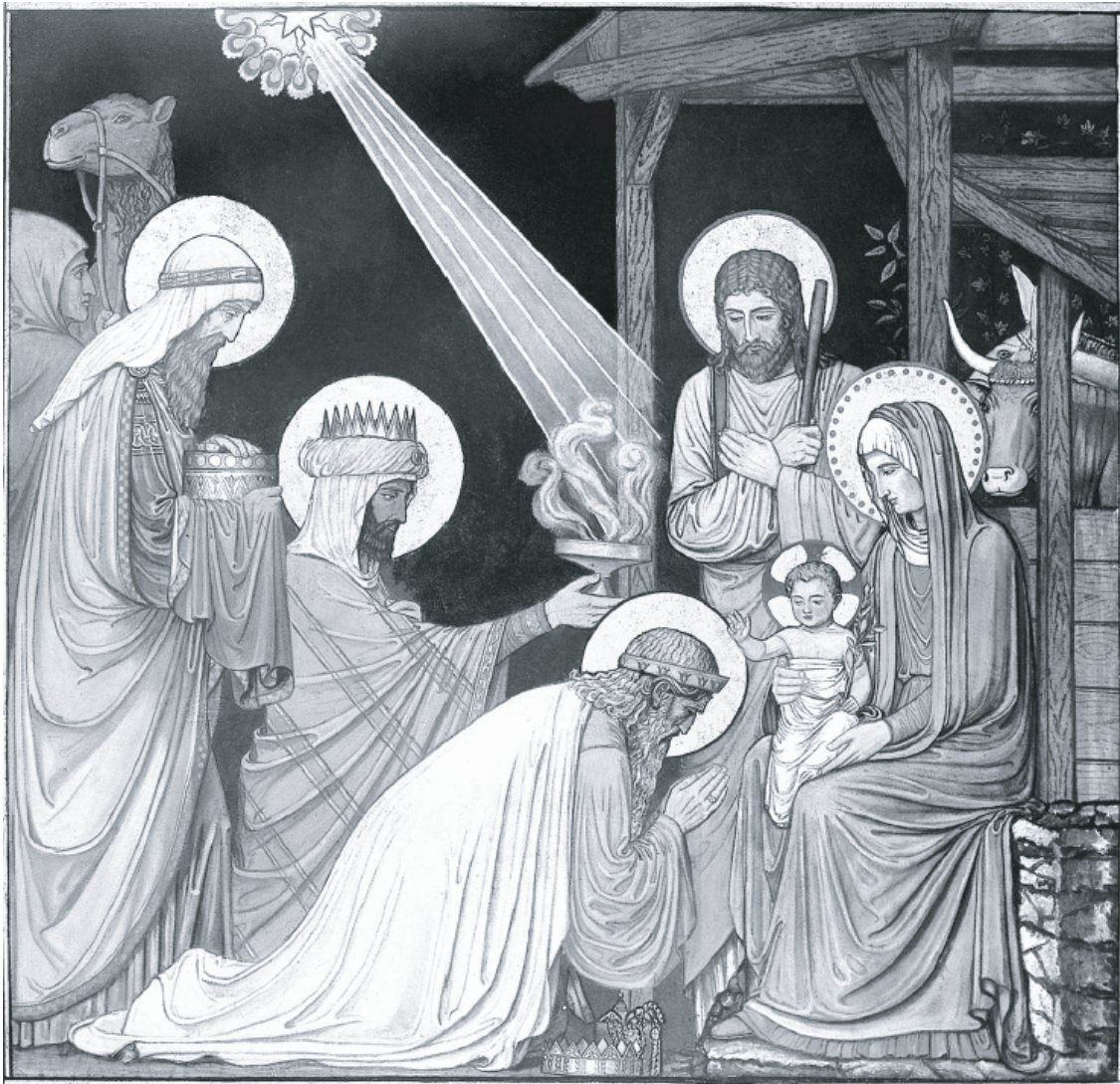
**Secretary: Lois Henderson - Ext. 221**

**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**



*Feast of the Holy Family*

# FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



For many of us the image of the Holy Family is a trouble free one where nothing ever went wrong, where peace and harmony prevailed. The truth is otherwise, because like every family before or since, Joseph & Mary had their own share of difficulties.

Families are not perfect, but it is in that setting we experience the greatest delights and bitterest disappointments with people whom we know and trust. Nowhere else is our character more deeply fashioned, our basic belief systems more strongly developed and our fundamental feelings about religion, life and the world more deeply imprinted. The family is the first school of social living. In the family, we are taught how to give and take, to argue and make up, how to work out frustrations, resolve tensions and what it means to loose graciously. In a family setting, we grow, develop and find the encouragement and support to achieve our dreams. It is love that makes the family a real community of persons, each giving and taking according to ability and each regarded by the other as a gift from God to be accepted and cherished.

## A Treasure of Surprises

A time of the year especially synonymous with surprises is Christmas. I am sure everyone can recall the feeling of opening an unexpected gift and the joy that it brought. Our God is a God of surprises and inspires us to share our love in new and unexpected ways.

Mary and Joseph’s lives were full of surprises too. One such surprise is found in our Gospel this weekend where Jesus remains in Jerusalem after his family’s departure. After searching for 3 days Mary and Joseph were astonished to find Jesus sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Despite her anxiety, Mary treasured this in her heart.

Pope Francis speaking of the “God of Surprises” in a homily in Rome reflects on how the doctors of the law of Jesus’ time had an unfortunate inability to recognize that God is always new and fully trusted in the law unlike Mary who saw the law as a pedagogy towards Christ.

In our own lives, are we open like Mary to God’s spontaneity or are we closed like the doctors of the law? I think a lot depends on our perception of God. Often our perception is that of an elderly person sitting stoically on a throne, but the Holy Spirit is anything but stationary, moving constantly and always bringing new life.

As we continue reflecting on the incarnation this Christmas let us pray for the grace for a renewed incarnation. May we welcome the Spirit and entrust ourselves to the journey of surprises that lies ahead. Amen. John Humphries.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Soul of <b>Aldwin Pedro Sr.</b>
Tuesday	<b>New Year’s Eve</b>
Wednesday	<b>New Year’s Day</b>
Thursday	Intentions of <b>Sandra Lee</b> Soul of <b>Elizabeth Cheung</b>
Friday	Intentions of <b>Caroline Chau</b>

## **SL ShareLife**

*Helping the whole community through Catholic agencies*

**Our 2024 parish goal - \$140,000.00**

**Raised to date - \*\* \$149,630.54**

**Live the Gospel by supporting ShareLife**

***Please pray for the sick in our community.***

May the healing power of God touch their hearts and ease their burdens, especially:

**Elizabeth and Tonya Liversidge,  
Chantal Soriano, Wilfredo Soriano, Ann Bozabalian  
and Aileen Simone Crean**



The Parish office will close Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at noon & re-open on Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Happy New year everyone!





**MASS TIMES  
NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY**

**New Year's Eve – Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
5:00 pm**

(Note: No morning mass)

**New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
10:30 am & 12:15 pm**

The 10:30 am mass will be livestreamed.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!**

**DONATE AND SAVE!**

A quick reminder that the tax-deductible deadline for 2024 is almost here. Donations **must be received at the parish** by December 31<sup>st</sup> for donations to be included in your 2024 tax receipt.

Update  
your  
Information



With thanks & appreciation for the thoughtful gifts and warm Christmas & New Year wishes, we received at the parish. God Bless you all as we begin the New Year 2025!

Fr. Mark, Fr. Sávio, Fr. Sherwin, Fr. John & the parish staff.



**NEW YEAR'S EVE POT LUCK PARTY**

Help us ring in New Year 2025 with a variety of delicious food, music, dancing & good company!

**Where:** Our parish hall

**Bring:** Family & friends  
Your favourite dish to feed a few people  
Your favourite dance song requests

**Dress:** As you wish

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Cost:** \$10.00 per person for decorations  
There will also be a cash bar

**Sign Up:** Sign up at the table in the narthex

**Contact:** Greg Benoit  
Email: [greg.benoit@rogers.com](mailto:greg.benoit@rogers.com)  
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