

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. 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

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

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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:

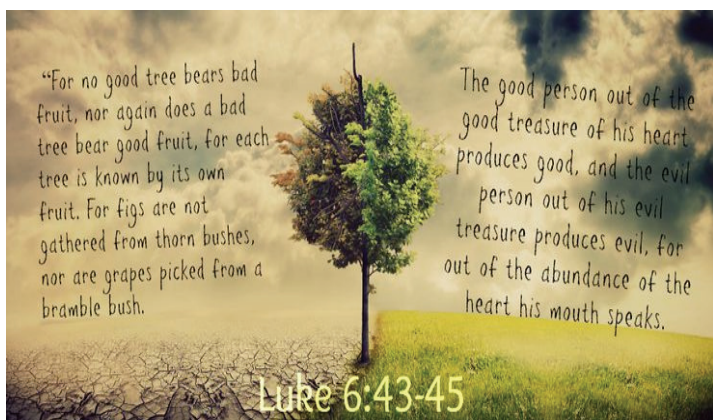
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New Parishioner

Envelopes

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish



In today’s readings, which are a series of sayings, Jesus invites us to be radically honest when we ask ourselves “What sort of person am I, what is the fruit of my life, what effect do I have on others, and how do I use my words?” These are all challenging questions and to answer them honestly is even more challenging because we might just see in ourselves something that we really do not like. There is a shadow side to all of us that we would rather keep to ourselves. We hide behind masks because our capacity for self-deception is quite remarkable. Jesus describes as hypocrites those who notice faults in others, but who are blind to their own shortcomings. We are all guilty of hypocrisy when we put down others for the very faults we have ourselves. Since we never know the pain and struggle others may be experiencing, we are ill equipped to act as their judge. In this regard, the Sioux Indians have a very apt saying: ‘Great Spirit, help me never to judge another until I have walked in his moccasins.’ As followers of Christ, we must be people of integrity and avoid being judgmental.

<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>	
March 2 - 7	
Monday	Soul of Bernard Hannan
Tuesday	Soul of Leo Ceolin Soul of Robert Brain Soul of Leonard Sandrasagra Intentions of Jessie Schmoll Intentions of Miguel Pacheco
Wednesday	Soul of William Patrick Myers
Thursday	Soul of Major Christopher Henry Sullivan
Friday	Soul of Romulo Tibor

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, Aileen Simone Crean, Ann Bozabalian, John Nugent and Emily Baker

Fasting: A Doorway to Divine Grace

I still remember the first time I fasted. I was about 9 and knew nothing about the faith but my older brother had recently become Catholic and told me about Lent. My older brother was fasting so I thought I would give it a try and fast with him. It certainly wasn’t easy, but I managed and lasted the 40 days. We attended the Easter Vigil that year and though I had little idea what was happening I knew I was participating in something profound.

Following Mass, we went to a convenience store and my brother purchased two ice-creams and gave one to me. Confused I asked why we weren’t waiting till Easter the next day and he chuckled informing me that Easter had already started during the Vigil, and I was now free to enjoy the ice-cream. Enjoy I did and never before or since has anything tasted so delightful.

Lent starts again this Wednesday, and it is a good time to pray on how the Lord is inviting us to fast, pray and alms give this year. All Christians are called to fast as Jesus says in Matthew chapter 9 when asked why his disciples do not fast: “they do not fast because the wedding-guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them but the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.”

Fasting is difficult and it is understandable why many of us avoid it, but Fr. Leon Pereira says that without fasting it is impossible to master ourselves. Fr. Leon also adds that it is important to pray for the grace to fast and rather than focus on the pleasures we are foregoing, focus instead on the spiritual delights we are feasting on. Fr. Leon also encourages us to tell Jesus while we are fasting that we love Him more than our food and comforts.

The benefits of fasting are many, both physical and spiritual. Such spiritual benefits include freedom in our souls, conversions in our families, and the ability to work miracles and stop wars as Our Lady reminds us. We also witness in Mark’s gospel that certain impure spirits can only be removed through prayer and fasting.

Fasting is not practiced for its own sake but is always practiced to bring us closer to God. For example, if we chose to fast from breakfast we can use the extra time for quiet prayer. The goal of fasting is to be more liberated and joyful so if fasting makes us more irritable it would be good to reflect on our method of fasting.

Fasting is an opportunity to share in the sufferings of Christ and to participate in the world’s redemption as Paul reminds us, so let us pray for the grace to fast well this Lent so when we eat that ice-cream after the Easter vigil it will have an eternal flavour to it. Amen. John Humphries.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY
Jubilee 2025

Under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Sávio Bruto da Costa, Associate Pastor of St. Luke's Church we welcome you to join us November 6 – 18, 2025 as we travel to Italy to celebrate Jubilee 2025.

Space is limited.

A detailed itinerary is available on the information table and

International Heritage Tours will be providing more information & answer any questions in the parish hall March 2nd beginning at 1:45 pm.



St. Luke's CWL Lenten Retreat

Join us for a CWL Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 8, 2025, from 9:00

AM to 3:00 PM, led by Fr. Frank Carpinelli. The retreat will focus on the theme of "Suffering" and will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Registration is free, and complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided.

To get a sense of Fr. Carpinelli's reflections, you can watch his previous Lenten Mission homilies on "Knowing How to Suffer."



One Body, Many Parts
Thornhill Ministerial
Lenten Series 2025
Sundays at 4:00 pm
March 9, March 23 & April 6

March 9 – **Unity of the Body**
Thornhill Baptist Church, 8018 Yonge Street
Speaker: the Rev Maria Ling

March 23 – **The Diversity of the Body**
Thornhill United Church, 25 Elgin Street
Speaker: The Rev. Paul Gibbon

April 6 – **The Work of the Body**
St. Luke's RC Church, 39 Green Lane
Speaker: The Rev. Mini Choi



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Luke's Council 4393
Men's Lenten Retreat
Saturday, March 15th

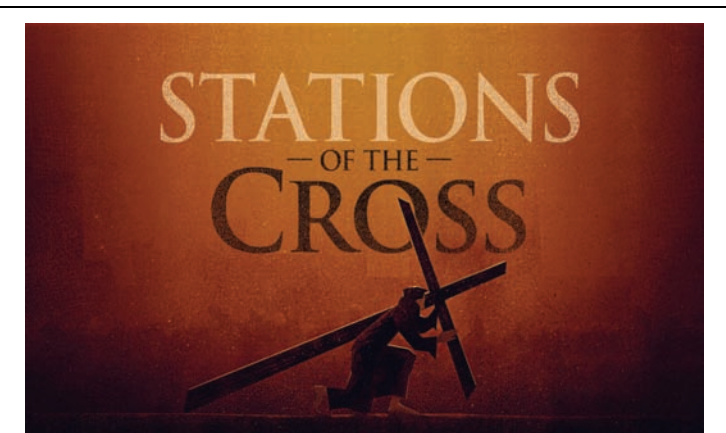
On Saturday, March 15, the Knights of Columbus from our District are sponsoring a Men's Lenten Retreat at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Thornhill. Father Martin Hilbert from the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri will lead the retreat. The event is no charge and lunch will be served. You do not have to be a member of the Knights of Columbus to attend and there is no requirement to join the Knights of Columbus following the retreat. Please see the brochure on the information table for details.



Lent begins with **ASH Wednesday** on March 5, 2025. We are reminded of the meaning of Lent as a time of prayer, repentance and change of heart.

Ash Wednesday mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am and again at 7:00 pm.

During Lent, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 9:30 until 11:45 and Tuesday evening following mass until 8:45 pm.



Join us each Friday morning during Lent, immediately following mass for The Stations of the Cross, a devotional journey through the last hours of Jesus' life, while adoring the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Jo Carroll
Sales Representative
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