

Living the  
**Gospel**

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**SL ShareLife**

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## *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)*



**Found Alive Again**

“In today’s First Reading, God forgives “the reproach” of the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the Promised Land, Israel can celebrate the Passover, the feast of God’s firstborn son, with a clean heart. Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story of Jesus tells in today’s Gospel. The story of the Prodigal Son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer. In baptism, we were given a divine birthright, made “a new creation,” as Paul puts it in today’s Epistle. But when we sin, we’re like the prodigal, quitting our Father’s house, squandering our inheritance and trying to live without Him.”

The Father in today’s gospel is the picture of God, all the time watching, waiting and reaching out in love to his erring children with extraordinary warm-hearted forgiveness. There are no words to describe God’s goodness and how his presence gives courage and dignity to broken lives. Whether our hurts are great or small, his healing grace is stronger than sin and always there for the asking. No story tells us more about the extent of God’s compassion, the scope of his merciful love and the extraordinary length he has gone to, to restore our broken relationship with him. God holds no grudges. His power is in kindness and no sinner is ever written off or considered beyond redemption. While harsh judgement belongs to this world, infinite compassion belongs to God who never gives up on his family. The parable challenges us to act like the father and let people see in our own lives something of what God is like.

“Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in Baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses, to make our way back to the Father, as a prodigal does. But only God can remove the reproach and restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from the slavery to sin that causes us, like the prodigal, to see God not as our Father, but as our master, one we serve as slaves. God wants not slaves, but children. Like the father in today’s Gospel, he longs to call each of us “My son,” to share His life with us, to tell us: “Everything I have is yours.” ”

“The Father’s words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance. This is part of what Paul today calls “the ministry of reconciliation” entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and then Church. Reconciled Like Israel, we take our place at the table of the Eucharist, the homecoming banquet the Father prepares for His lost children, the new Passover we celebrate this side of heaven. We taste the goodness of the Lord, as we sing in today’s Psalm, rejoicing that we who were dead are found alive again.”

“The young son in this Gospel passage intends to repair the damage he has done by serving like a hired worker. He undergoes a process roughly paralleling a penitent’s three acts in the Sacrament of Penance: he repents, feeling sorrow for his sinful actions; he confesses that he has sinned; and he states intention to make amends.”

*The sacrament of Penance is a whole consisting in three actions of the penitent and the priest’s absolution. The penitent’s acts are repentance, confession or disclosure of sins to the priest, and the intention to make reparation and due works and reparation. (CCC 1491)*

“It was unreasonable for the young son to leave the way he did. He found himself seeking below the dignity of his human nature – believing he’d be better off living like a swine. His solidarity with various people, especially father and brother, was wounded by his sin.”

*Sin is an act contrary to reason. It wounds man’s nature and injures human solidarity. (CCC 1872)*

-Scott Hahn & Ken Ogorck, *Breaking the Bread*. p.98-100

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**March 31 – April 4**

Monday	Soul of <b>Richard Farrell</b>
Tuesday	Soul of <b>Steven Huta</b> Soul of <b>Jerry Ambrozic</b> Soul of <b>Tom Schmoll</b> Soul of <b>Alcides Batista</b> Mass of Thanksgiving – <b>The D’Sylva Family</b>
Wednesday	Soul of <b>Ignatius Mathias</b>
Thursday	Soul of <b>America Gorizzan</b>
Friday	Soul of <b>Leo Ceolin</b>

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

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

**Message for Lent 2025 from His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo**

To access the message, go to the website below  
<https://www.archtoronto.org>

### LENTEN CONFESSIONS



Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> - following the 7:00 pm mass  
Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> - following the 9:00 am mass



*One Body,  
Many Parts*  
**Thornhill Ministerial  
Lenten Series 2025**  
Sunday, April 6 at 4:00 pm  
St. Luke's Parish

Join us at St. Luke's Parish for the final service in the series titled - **The Work of the Body**. The guest speaker will be The Rev. Mini Choi



During Lent, all are welcome to join us Friday mornings following mass as we pray **The Stations of the Cross**, a devotional journey through the last hours of Jesus' life.

**The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed** for adoration until 11:45 am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday following mass. Tuesday evenings, following mass & devotions, **the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed** for adoration until 8:45 pm.



**St. Vincent de Paul  
EASTER FOOD DRIVE**  
March 29/30 and April 5/6

***"When I was hungry you gave me to eat, when I was thirsty you gave me to drink"*** ( Matthew 25:35).

You can help feed the hungry by bringing non-perishable food (canned foods, cereals, pasta, rice, baby food, etc.) to the parish the weekends of March 29/30 & April 5/6. Your donations support the Georgina Community Food Pantry. Every month hundreds of food hampers are distributed to the hungry & needy in their community.

**THANK YOU!**

### Holy Week Schedule



#### April 12th – April 20th

**Palm Sunday** - Saturday, April 12 - 5:00 pm  
Sunday, April 13 - 8:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm

**Holy Thursday** – April 17– 7:00 pm - *Mass of Our Lord's Supper including Washing of the Feet and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 pm*

**Good Friday** - April 18 - 10:30 am - *Children's Way of the Cross* and 3:00 pm - *Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord*

**Holy Saturday** - April 19 - 8:00 pm - *Easter Vigil Mass including Baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion & Confirmation of adult candidates.*

**Easter Sunday** - April 20 - 8:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm

### SL ShareLife

*Helping the whole community  
through Catholic agencies*

**ShareLife Sunday** marks the first collection of our parish's annual campaign; however, ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need.

As a family of faith, we lift each other up from our lowest moments. Nick's life had an easy start. He came from a good home, where he was raised with a strong work ethic, and he welcomed a son, but living with a mental illness, he struggled more than some. Deep inside, he felt like something was missing and he devastatingly fell into addiction. With your helping hand, he rose up through the DARE Program at Good Shepherd.

"By the grace of God, I am still alive," he proclaims. "I'd love to be able to give back what was so freely given to me. I am taking on roles of service, giving back as much as I can. I was afraid I'd never be able to feel the way I feel. I am grateful that I have been given this opportunity to be sober." Thanks to your support, he is no longer just surviving – he is thriving, with a heart full of hope and a future filled with promise.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

*Our parish goal for 2025 is \$174,000.00*

**Jo Carroll**  
Sales Representative  
Parishioner



*People come first & it shows!*

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