

# St. Luke's Parish

39 Green Lane, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6K5 Tel: 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**

**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

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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: .....

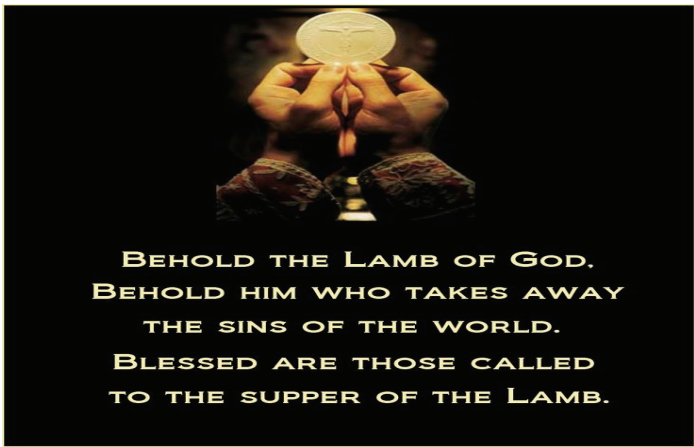
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New Parishioner ☐

Envelopes ☐

Change of Address ☐

Moving out of Parish ☐



Today’s gospel reminds us of the crucial role we play in leading others to Christ. If God is in our hearts, he goes wherever we go. We are called to bring a deep commitment to Christian principles to a society with shifting values. For the truth of God to be clear to others, our lives must not be restricted to church and worship but must spread out into our neighbourhood and workplace. The Christian calling invites each generation to hand their faith to the next. As Christ becomes the centrepiece of our life, we sense the importance of being in touch with him through prayer and an honest admission of our failures to become his instruments of salvation. Following Christ is not easy, but there is no room for a half-hearted effort. It demands nothing less than absolute loyalty and a complete commitment. **‘Here I am Lord, I come to do your will.’**

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b> <b>January 19–23, 2026</b>	
Monday	Intentions of <b>Rosa Jung</b>
Tuesday	Soul of <b>Marika Schmoll</b> Soul of <b>Eufemia Azuela</b> Soul of <b>Vincent &amp; Philomena D’Souza</b> Soul of <b>Frances Stevens</b> Soul of <b>John Nugent</b>
Wednesday	Mass of Thanksgiving – <b>Honesto, Yolanda, Mark Anthony &amp; Holy Anne Pena</b>
Thursday	Soul of <b>Ross Fairwell</b>
Friday	Intentions of <b>Sandra Lee</b>

*Please pray for the sick in our community.*  
May the healing power of God touch their hearts and ease their burdens, especially: **Maria Kumar.**

**Choosing Sides**

Recently some extended family have come to live with us which means our household of six has become a household of ten. Living in a townhouse with nine other people, things are certainly cozy. Prior to the family arriving my wife and I sat down with our kids and encouraged them to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth. The first few weeks went well, and the cousins really enjoyed spending time together. It was like a long-extended sleepover.

After about three weeks we encountered our first challenge. The younger cousins were playing at a neighbour’s and there was concern that our youngest, Savina, wasn’t fully included. When Savina’s three older brothers heard about this they ceased teasing her for a few minutes while they shared their concern and disapproval of the situation. In response, they decided they would behave in the same way and exclude the cousins from play at school and within the home, following the code of Hammurabi, an eye for an eye. It was nice to see the boys so defensive of their sister, but I was concerned with the walls they were planning to build.

I told them they were free to do as they wished and appreciated their concern but encouraged them to be aware of whose team they were choosing to be on. We know from the Bible that the devil scatters and God gathers so this should be kept in mind. They didn’t say much, and I haven’t observed any retribution yet.

Such challenges happen all the time in everyday life. We disagree with a person or a group and are left with a choice to follow the path of reconciliation or division. We often choose division because it feels like the right thing to do, given our inherent sense of justice and fallen nature. What we often fail to reflect on is whose camp we are choosing when we make this choice.

A key meditation in Ignatian spirituality is the “Two Standards” where retreatants imagine two armies on a battlefield: one led by Christ (offering poverty, humility, and service) and the other led by Lucifer/Satan (offering wealth, honour and pride). The meditation calls for choosing which side to be on. I was surprised when I did the meditation how difficult the decision was. We are unable to choose Jesus’ camp without God’s grace as our natural inclination is to sin.

When choosing sides, I also find it helpful to bring to mind the devastation committed by the fallen side and the fruits brought about by people who serve God to help inform my decision so I am aware of the weight and importance of my choice.

In the Gospel this weekend, we witness John the Baptist inviting us to behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It is only through Jesus that we can join his camp. This is because he has taken on all the world’s injustices freeing us to be merciful with ourselves and neighbour.

The next time we feel the need to harden our hearts and teach someone a lesson let us behold the face of the Lamb saying to us: ‘Forgive them for they know not what they do and join me today in paradise.’ Amen.

John Humphries.

York Catholic District School Board  
**Kindergarten Registration for the 2026-27  
school year began January 5, 2026**

The York Catholic District School Board is now accepting registrations for Junior Kindergarten for children born in 2022. York Catholic provides a Christ-centered, innovative Catholic Education in its 102 schools across York Region. The YCDSB is consistently ranked one of the top performing school boards in the province. You can visit their website, [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca) to register for classes starting in September.

**CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

Sunday, February 8, 2026  
St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica  
65 Bond Street, Toronto  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

As part of **Marriage Sunday 2026** celebrations, Bishop John Boissonneau will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries (25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60+) in 2026.

All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their commitment during the mass. The Mass is open to all, but due to space restrictions those wishing to attend are asked to register online. Milestone anniversary celebrants will be assured of reserved seating. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. 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. Register at:  
[www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage)

**17th Annual Dynamic Women of Faith Conference  
Saturday March 21, 2026**

*Le Treport Banquet Hall, Mississauga*

Johnnette Benkovic Williams from EWTN - What does it Mean to be a Woman?

Sister John Mary SV - Learning to Listen in a Distracted World

April Smith from North Pole Alaska - Live Adventurously, Live Virtuously

Dorothy Pilarski - One Mother's Heart - One Mother's Fiat

Natalie Regnier - Brick by Brick: Building a Strong Family

Bishop Ivan Camilleri will be celebrating the closing Mass



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S  
LEAGUE**

The CWL will be holding a general meeting on **Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** in the parish hall at **7:00 pm**. Members are encouraged to attend and non-members are most welcome.



*Mosaic Interfaith presents:*  
**"HOW TO BE A PERFECT  
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FROM BIRTH TO  
DEATH

Part 1; Religious ceremonies to welcome a new child.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026**

Vishnu Mandir Temple

8640 Yonge St., Richmond Hill

Complimentary lunch at 12:30 pm

Tour of the museum at 1:30 pm

Presentation at 2:30 pm

Please RSVP by January 14<sup>th</sup> to confirm if you will join us for lunch, the tour and presentations.

Have you ever been invited to a life-cycle event that you were unfamiliar with?

Did you ever wonder about the service & its significance?

Did you wonder what was the correct thing to say or do?

Did you wonder what you should avoid doing?

Did you ever want to know how long a service might be?

If you should bring a gift and if so, what would be appropriate?

We will answer these and any other questions that you might have as we share rituals and ceremonies from birth to death. "How to Be a Perfect Stranger" is inspired by the award winning book of the same name, edited by Stuart M. Matlins and Arthur J. Magida. An RSVP by Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> will help our hosts prepare.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Fran Isaacs: [thisisfran@yahoo.com](mailto:thisisfran@yahoo.com) or

Shabnees Siwjee: [shabnees@yahoo.ca](mailto:shabnees@yahoo.ca)





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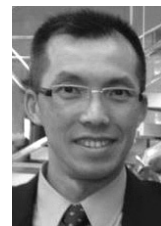
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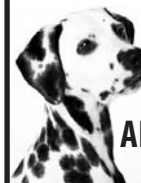


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