

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3

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Email: office@stanselmschurch.com Website: stanselmsto.archtoronto.org



PARISH STAFF

Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor

Deacon Daniel McPhee

Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant

Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor

Aloysius Chan, Organist

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

INDONESIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (UKI)

Sunday Mass: 2:00 p.m.

(Second & Fourth Sundays of the Month)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - Friday: 8:15 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

By appointment – Course Required

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements 12 months in advance

Marriage Course is required

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:00-4:30 p.m.

MEDITATION GROUP

Meets in the Parish Hall Tuesday at 8:45 a.m.

PRAYER GROUP

Meets in the Griffin Room Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – noon;

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. Anselm's School

182 Bessborough Drive

Toronto, Ontario M4G 4H5

416-393-5243

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, December 19th, 8:15 a.m.

Deceased Members of the Ford, Dyer and Ashmeade Families

Requested by Barbara Ford and Family

Wednesday, December 20th, 8:15 a.m.

Deceased Members of the Scott-Shea Families

Thursday, December 21st, 8:15 a.m.

Iona D'Silva

Requested by Christopher, Aubrey and Melanie D'Silva

Friday, December 22nd, 8:15 a.m.

Peace and Care of Creation

Requested by EcoAnselm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

4th Sunday - Advent

Saturday, December 23rd

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24th

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Christmas - Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25th

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30th

5:00 p.m. (Confessions 4pm)

Sunday, December 31st

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31st

5:00 p.m.

Monday, January 1st

11:00 a.m.

**** Please note – the last opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Tuesday, December 19th. There are no confessions on December 23rd. There will be no weekday morning Mass on Tuesday, December 26th.**

COFFEE SUNDAY

All are welcome to join in the Millwood lobby **THIS SUNDAY, December 17th** after the 11:00 a.m. Mass for coffee and some special treats for children to mark Gaudete Sunday! Thank you to our volunteers for organizing this parish gathering.

ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, the Advent Week of Confessions will take place at various parishes from December 10 – 23.

At St. Anselm, our Day of Confessions will be **Tuesday, December 19th**. Confessions will be heard at:

9:30-10:30am; 2:00-3:00pm; 6:00-7:00pm

For a list of other locations offering different dates and times, visit <https://www.archtoronto.org/confession>



PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you to all parishioners who support the offertory and building fund through monthly pre-authorized giving or with weekly contribution

envelopes.

Your donations are responsible for keeping your church going 365 days a year.

As we near the end of 2023, PAG bundles were mailed out this week. Boxed sets of weekly envelopes will be available to pick up in the Millwood lobby as of this weekend. If you had a box in 2023, your box number will remain the same for 2024.

Please let us know if you have moved so we may issue your 2023 receipt to the correct address.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

**** Any donations received up to 4pm on Sunday, December 31st (including at the 9am and 11am Masses that day) will be credited toward your 2023 tax receipt. Donations received after 4pm on December 31st, (including at the 5pm Vigil Mass that evening) will be considered 2024 donations. In accordance with CRA regulations, donations submitted by Canada Post must be postmarked by Canada Post by December 31, 2023 to be eligible for a 2023 tax receipt. Thank you for your support of the parish. ****

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our gathering of children during the 11:00am Mass is taking a short break for the holidays. We will be back as of **Sunday, January 14th**. Thank you to Fernanda and her team of helpers for heading up this ministry.

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Prayer Service 2024

Sunday, January 21, 2024, 4 p.m. ET

Venue: St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral (455 Ferrier St., Markham, Ont. L3R 5Z2)

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

Join Archbishop Francis Leo and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.

Isa 61:1-2, 10-11 1 Luke 1

Thess 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU!



Certain Sundays take their names from the first Latin word in the entrance antiphon of the Mass. Gaudete Sunday does just that. The first words on this day are taken from Philippians and command us to

"Rejoice in the Lord always." The word "rejoice" was originally used to mean "to enjoy the possession of" something. What priceless treasure has each of us received that gives such enjoyment? Today's readings give us instruction in how to nurture this precious gift. In the first reading, Isaiah overflows with joy and wonder. He recognizes himself as anointed and understands his purpose. He is commissioned to bring good news to the oppressed and to bind up the brokenhearted. In the responsorial canticle, Mary is equally overjoyed. She too recognizes herself as blessed and God's goodness as infinite. In the Gospel, John the Baptist identifies himself as the one crying out in the wilderness to make straight the way of the Lord. He recognizes himself as the one Isaiah foretold. He knows his place and his relationship with the One who is to come. Our three faithful forerunners knew deeply that they were loved by God. This knowledge bubbled within them, giving them great cause to rejoice. They also understood their unique and essential vocations. Their lives were not easy. They forged new paths and believed in a coming yet unseen. Despite all of

their hardships, they had clear joy and belief in their ultimate purpose. What about us? Do we recognize that we are loved by God? Can we also recognize that we are anointed with a particular purpose that is granted to no one else? Isaiah, Mary and John have starring roles in the salvation history of the world. While our roles may not be noted in the ages to follow, dare we believe we are no less important? This is no ordinary time in the church year — there are 34 Sundays reserved for that. Advent is an extraordinary time, a time when the church asks us to pray, repent and wait with joyful anticipation. Take some time this coming week and prayerfully reflect on the gift of your own life. In this Advent season, recognize your gifts and, even more importantly, recognize from where these gifts flow. You are a beloved child of God, a person with a unique and essential purpose.

John the Baptist's identity, his role, his mission and the character of his baptism are clarified yet again in today's Gospel from John, the fourth evangelist. He attests that John was a witness to the light who is Jesus. As living light, Jesus dispelled the darkness of the human condition in order to empower humanity to find its joy in God. As we celebrate the God of our joy who comes into our lives, our liturgy might seem out of touch with a world so darkened by war, poverty, famine, injustice and natural calamities of every kind. As we come to this holy place and join this holy gathering, our hearts might be cynical, jaded, devoid of a sense of eager expectancy. It might seem heartless and unsympathetic to give ourselves over to joyous celebration when so many have no reason to smile, let alone rejoice. But the church has a different cure. By virtue of the gift of hope, we are able to see and to move beyond present difficulties because we are grounded in the reality that Jesus, who came once in the form of humble humanity, will come again in glory and power. In the meantime, we press forward to the future by anticipating here and now the gifts we have been promised. We hope and rejoice and deal courageously with the present because we know that the future does not simply consist in more of the same but is an eternal communion with "One whom we have heard, whom we have seen with our eyes ... and touched with our hands ... the Word of Life, Jesus" (1 John 1:1).

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