

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3

Phone: 416-485-1792 Fax: 416-485-4920

Email: stanselparish@bellnet.ca Website: stanselmsto.archtoronto.org



PARISH STAFF

Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor

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

Monday through Friday: 8:15 a.m.

Saturday: 11:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

By appointment – Course Required

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements 12 months in advance

Marriage Course is required

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. - 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 1:00 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday: 9:00am – noon;

1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.

St. Anselm's School

182 Bessborough Drive

Toronto, Ontario M4G 4H5

416-393-5243

Mass for Intentions Week

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve - no 8:15 a.m. Mass

Tuesday, December 25th

Christmas Day – no 8:15 a.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 26th, 8:15 a.m.

Jo Kostovcik

Requested by Mel Kostovcik

Thursday, December 27th, 8:15 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of the Aust Family

Friday, December 28th, 8:15 a.m.

Mark Poole

Requested by Barry & Dianne McDermott

Saturday, December 29th, 11:30 a.m.

Doris & Ernest Ashmeade & Francis Ford

Requested by Barbara Ford & Family



PARISH SUPPORT

Due to advanced printing of our bulletins ahead of the holiday closure at Liturgical Publications, we are unable to provide up-to-date information until January. Thank you for your generous support of the parish, including PAG, special Christmas offerings, weekly donations and Church Improvement contributions.

CHECK IT OUT! Our parish is now on **TWITTER**. Follow us @StAnselmChurch

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If so, we ask that you take a moment to ensure that your mailing address and contact information are correct and up-to-date with the office. This will save headaches when it comes time to send out charitable donation receipts early in the New Year.

During the Season of Advent, what better way to help someone in need than to give someone the gift of sight. Please donate any used eyeglasses you may have by placing them in the box located at the back of the Church and we will ensure that they are given to someone in need. EcoAnselm

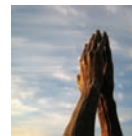
2019 DONATION ENVELOPES

Boxed envelopes for 2019 are in the Millwood lobby. If you currently have a box in 2018, your number will remain the same. Boxes are in alphabetical order by LAST NAME. Please include your name and address on the first 4 envelopes of 2019.

Should you wish to submit donations to be credited toward your 2018 donations, please note that our books will close on December 31st prior to the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

PAG participants - special collection bundles have been mailed and should be received shortly.

If you would prefer to switch to our Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG), simply complete the registration form (found in the lobby or available through the parish office) and provide us with a void cheque. Thank you for your support!



For the sick who have asked for our prayers, especially Mary Hanna, Rachel Moxam, John Crescitelli and Sharon Batke, that the healing love and consolation of God may surround them and bring them strength in their illness, we pray...



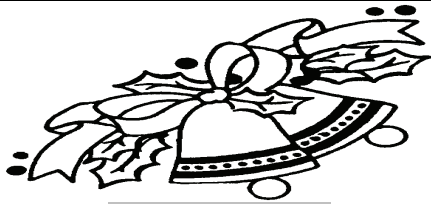
Monday, December 24 – CLOSED
Tuesday, December 25 - CLOSED
Wednesday, December 26 - CLOSED
Thursday, December 27 - CLOSED
Friday, December 28 - 9am – 12 noon

The parish office will be closed during the week of December 31st – January 4th. We will re-open at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 7th. Parish office voice mail will be checked regularly for emergencies. All other inquiries as well as all email messages will be answered during the second week of January.



On Monday, December 31st, morning Mass will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. New Year's Eve Mass will be at 5:00 p.m. and New Year's Day Mass (January 1st) will be at 11:00 a.m. There will be no 8:15 a.m. Mass on January 1st. Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th

Mass

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Carols

7:30 p.m.

Mass

8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25th

Mass

9:00 a.m.

Mass

11:00 a.m.

Mighty Big Thanks!

Fr. Moore and the parish staff would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their cards, gifts and wishes for the season. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are truly appreciated.

Thank you to all parishioners from the St. Vincent de Paul volunteers in our parish. The Angel Tree and Family to Family gifts were delivered to very grateful recipients last week by our hard-working Vincentians. We are grateful to them for their efforts, and to the parishioners who made these initiatives a success with their generosity.

TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Gospel narrates a cherished family story about two mothers-to-be and their encounter. Mary, after being with the Angel Gabriel, cannot sit still. Unlike Zechariah, Mary didn't ask Gabriel for a sign, but pointed out that her virginity might be an impediment to the pregnancy that the angel announced. In



response, Gabriel reminded her that nothing was impossible for God. Then, giving her a sign that she had not asked for, Gabriel announced that God was already creating something new in the pregnancy of the aged Elizabeth. This spurred Mary to rush to visit her relative, to witness and revel in the incredibly wonderful things that were happening. Thus we hear that she "went with haste" to that unnamed town in Judah's hill country. Luke tells us that at the very moment Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, "the child leaped in her womb." Luke's vocabulary here was carefully chosen. He was not describing the normal movement of a child in the womb; the word he used could as well be translated as "danced." Here this family story makes its first theological point: John, even before he was born, was prophetic in drawing attention to the good news of Christ's coming. "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" That exclamation was Elizabeth's reading of the signs of the times proclaiming that God's Spirit was active in every player in this drama. Elizabeth, whose priest-husband had been struck dumb, spoke as a prophet and pronounced the first beatitudes of the Gospel. With that declaration, Elizabeth proclaimed that what was most holy had become present right there in her very own home. God was visiting the people through Mary's simple obedience, the utter self-giving of a woman who opened herself to mystery. Indeed, she would be called blessed, and blessed too the fruit of her obedience. Elizabeth's third beatitude summarizes the life of Israel, of Christ and the vocation of Christians: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." From the days of Sarah's laughter and the grumbling pilgrims in the desert, faith in God's presence among them had been Israel's great religious challenge. Facing what seemed to be physical impossibility or overwhelming military power, the people had fallen time and again to the temptation to put their trust in the puny gods of human imagination rather than the ever creative, mind-boggling power of God's love. Elizabeth recognized that Mary overcame that temptation when she accepted Gabriel's assurance that nothing is impossible for God. The Letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as the one who was faithful, the one who fulfilled the promise of God through obedience. Therefore, Elizabeth's prophecy about the mother spoke of the son as well. Today's readings teach us about faith in the Incarnation, the process of believing in God's promise and giving flesh to God's love. This faith process consecrates history and brings it to fulfillment. As we prepare for the story of the Incarnation of Christ, these readings remind us first of all that God's ways are not the ways of the world. If we want to discover God's workplace, we need to leave the center of Jerusalem, where the pomp can blind us, and look to little Nazareth and Bethlehem. In those and other apparently insignificant places, we will meet the people of faith who understand their powerlessness well enough to be open to God's surprises. With their help and example, we may become blessed and unsophisticated enough to join in their shouts of joy.

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