

# ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3

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Email: [stanselparish@bellnet.ca](mailto:stanselparish@bellnet.ca) Website: [stanselmsto.archtoronto.org](http://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

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

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

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

**Dear Parishioners – we are here for you. Email is being monitored regularly at [stanselparish@bellnet.ca](mailto:stanselparish@bellnet.ca) You may also leave us a voicemail message at 416-485-1792.**

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*Acts 1:1-11*

*Ps 47*

*Ephesians 1:17-23 Matthew 28:16-20*

***Alleluia. Alleluia. Go make disciples of all nations; I am with you always, to the end of the age Alleluia.***

#### ***I Am With You Always...***



Getting down to the mission is surely part of the message found in the readings this weekend. The scene reminds us of the transfiguration when Jesus told Peter that they didn't have time to camp out on the mountain because there was work to do and much to learn.

Nevertheless, we could imagine an alternative scene at the end of the Ascension story. What if one or two of the disciples had the nerve to answer back when the angels spoke? (those two men in white robes). Speaking back is not out of the question. After all, at the very beginning of the Gospel of Luke, Mary questioned an angel — as did Zachariah with less positive results. A Peter or Martha might have said, 'He told us it's not yet time! We're supposed to stick around for whatever's coming next?' Others might have gotten the courage to chime in: 'Why are we looking up? Probably because we don't know what's about to happen! Where else are we supposed to look? We need to see beyond this spot where our feet are sinking in the mud of fear and confusion. All around us we see nothing but signs of all that went wrong in the past few weeks.' If there was a possibility of anyone being on the side of the angels, it might have been Mary Magdalene. Having understood that she couldn't cling to Jesus, she could have encouraged the

rest: 'Come on guys, I know you can't just take it from me, but he said he would remain with us ... Don't you get it? This is just like when Elijah went off in the fiery chariot ... he left Elisha with a double dose of his spirit. So, for once, let's try doing what he told us!' While that appeals to the imagination, Luke's story does portray the tension between looking heavenward and getting down to earth. Thinking about it, we can well imagine how unprepared those disciples must have felt for their mission. The Letter to the Ephesians offers a description of the gifts the disciples needed to move forward. In today's selection from that letter we hear the prayer "May the God of our Lord ... give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened that you may know the hope that belongs to his call ... the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe..." What a prayer for semi-willing, mostly confused disciples! That prayer begins by grounding us in our faith, reminding us that the will of God the Father, "our Lord," and the Spirit is always for our good. When it asks for a "spirit of wisdom and revelation," it opens us to the Spirit that gives us the ability to read the signs of the times, to recognize how God is luring us forward through the people and events of our days. To pray that "the eyes of our hearts be enlightened" pleads for a God-sized vision, for hope that will go further than all our imaginations put together. We can celebrate the Ascension as an invitation to imagination that leads us to ask for such a blessing. We are invited to stand with the disciples who heard the promise, who knew they wouldn't see Jesus anymore but who were still charged with carrying on his mission. Like them, we must face the very real dispiriting events of our times, the circumstances that cannot and should not be ignored. We may share their desire to simply stand, looking heavenward for a solution, but we will also hear angels or prophets who remind us that prayer is only one part of the equation. If we have the audacity and courage to pray for the blessings of wisdom, revelation, knowledge of God, enlightened hearts and Christian hope, we will be impelled to action. The really good news is that Christ has promised that as we go to the ends of the earth, he will be with us until the end of the ages. This prayer is our

prayer today as we move forward to face the gradual opening of our economy and take ever cautious steps forward in our journey to wholeness and health and the ability once more to gather safely together to offer praise and glory to the God who is ever-faithful. What action is being called forth on our part? Could it be as simple as the willingness to show our love and care for one another by wearing a mask to protect each other? Is it the call to follow the instructions of our health leaders by respecting the need to practice physical distancing? Have we considered assisting those who are forced to depend on the local foodbanks by making an online contribution? Have we made every effort to spend time with our children and assist them to complete homework assignments? Are we reaching out to friends, neighbours and family members isolated during this time of pandemic? Let us pray this week for a spirit of revelation and enlightenment in our own lives so that we too may be the hands and feet that God calls us to be in this world.

**Let us pray for hearts and minds open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our church, in our communities, in our families and in ourselves.**

*For the Church: that, empowered by the Spirit, we may faithfully give witness to the Gospel and continue Christ's mission of bringing hope and healing to those in need...We pray...*

*For all our beloved dead, especially those who have died as a result of Covid-19, that they God may welcome them into the heavenly banquet in the company of all the saints...We pray...*

*For the sick, especially for all those suffering from Covid-19, that God may surround them with his compassion and healing love...We pray...*

*For all who work to restore life and bring healing, especially for those serving Covid-19 patients, that God may guide them as they journey with those in pain and preserve them from harm...We pray...*

*For government leaders, that God may give them insight and courage as they develop plans to*

*preserve the health and safety of society and to reopen the economy...for the mind of Christ...We pray...*

### **GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE PROVIDE-A-MEAL PROGRAM**

Thank you to all our faithful casserole chefs who have contacted us asking about casseroles for the Good Shepherd Refuge. At this time, we ask that you do not prepare casseroles for the program as they are not being collected from parishes.

Our building (office, church, basement) remains closed and we cannot collect or retrieve casseroles that are dropped off. Furthermore, the Good Shepherd Refuge has suspended serving the communal meals that come from these casseroles due to the current health situation. Instead, they have been serving "boxed lunch" type means with single serve foods such as granola bars. The Good Shepherd may still be accepting donations delivered directly to them – should you wish, please call them directly at 416-869-3619 to inquire about what they are able to accept and which items are most needed.

We look forward to the day when we can resume this parish ministry safely. Until then, thank you for keeping your vital role in the provide-a-meal program in your mind and close to your heart.

*Both Barrig and I were on webinars sponsored by the Archdiocese last week. Both sessions dealt with how we were going to re-open our churches and church offices when health officials say it is safe to do so. At this point in time, we do not have dates for either opening the church or office. It was impressed upon us that there must be a consistency of practice throughout the Archdiocese when that day comes. What we can say for sure is that we will be operating differently.*

*For those who are planning to celebrate Confirmation and First Eucharist – at this time, nothing has been decided by the Archdiocese as to when or how these celebrations are to take place.*

*We will continue to update you as information is conveyed to us.*

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