

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3

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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

Please call for appointment.

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

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00am – noon
(Voicemail and email checked regularly)

St. Anselm's School

182 Bessborough Drive

Toronto, Ontario M4G 4H5

416-393-5243

Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, December 1st

Josephine Rohe

Requested by Her Sisters

Wednesday, December 2nd

Evan & Philip Hruszowsky

Requested by Theresa Ryan

Thursday, December 3rd

Dorothy Brunelle

Requested by the Berry & Smolej Family

Friday, December 4th

Freda Mhusk

Requested by Barbara Ford & Family

Weekday Mass intentions will be celebrated by our pastor Fr. Moore each day as scheduled during the closure.

Our churches and parish offices across the Archdiocese are currently closed to comply with lockdown restrictions from the provincial government. Voicemail and email are being monitored on a regular basis.

Please contact us at anytime and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Our bulletins will continue to be published on our website in the Bulletin Library under the News and Events tab found at <https://stanselmsto.archtoronto.org/>

St. Anselm's Parish – New YouTube Channel

We invite parishioners to visit and subscribe to our new parish **YouTube Channel**. We hope to share Masses with you during our closure. You can search for it on YouTube by entering "St Anselm Church Leaside" in the search bar.

Please ensure that we have up-to-date contact information for you by letting us know if you have moved or changed phone numbers. We will be communicating updates through the bulletin and by email – if you haven't received emails from us but would like to, send us a message with your name at office@stanselmchurch.com with the subject "Add My Email".



FIRST SUNDAY OF **ADVENT**

Isa 63:16-17, 19, 64:2-7

Ps 80

1 Cor 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

Beginning of Cycle B

Happy New Year!



Human beings mark the beginnings and endings of all sorts of years: the calendar year, the fiscal year, and the year that changes with each new birthday to name a few. Today, as another season of Advent begins, we celebrate

the start of a new liturgical year. The sacred texts and their authors offer Advent believers a different course to take – one that begins with our surrender to a plan other than our own. Isaiah gives eloquent expression to this surrender in today's first reading, where he admits to God, "we are the clay, you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Instead of carving out a future of our own making and carefully plotting every step of our journey, we are called to acknowledge that we do not belong to ourselves but to God. We are earthen vessels given over to God, who kneads and shapes and refines.

Advent is also a time of remembrance and expectancy. It focuses our spiritual lives, bringing together our past, our present and our future. On our Advent journey, we revisit the spiritual yearning our ancestors felt as they awaited the first coming of the Messiah. Strengthened by their faith, we renew our own belief in Jesus' presence and love in our present-day lives. Finally, we prepare for his second coming. We ready ourselves to rejoice in a glory as yet unseen. Waiting is not a popular pastime – yet if we don't learn how to wait well, we

will never be prepared for Christ's coming. Advent teaches us how to cultivate and maintain a spirituality of waiting. So, how do we wait? First, we recall the goodness of God. This is not an easy task, particularly if our lives are filled with harshness rather than goodness, abandonment rather than love. Sometimes, we have to rely on the remembrances of others. In today's first reading, Isaiah reminds us that God is a Father, a Redeemer, a Potter intimately involved in the unfolding of our lives. Other scriptures provide us with similar glimpses of God's goodness.

The Advent season is filled with stories of faithful waiting. If we dare to sit with Isaiah and Hosea, Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zachariah, Anna and Simeon, our vision will be forever transformed. Empowered by their unwavering faith in the goodness of God and their ardent desire for the coming of the Messiah, we will see the world anew. And we need to see the world anew if we are to interpret today's Gospel correctly. Here, Jesus implores us three times to "keep alert" or "stay awake." Jesus is inviting us to maintain an alertness that recognizes the goodness of God both around and within us. While we recognize the faith of our spiritual ancestors, it is also essential that we acknowledge our own sacred story and stay alert to our own very unique salvation history. Keep alert: Who are your relatives, friends and acquaintances that demonstrate the divine in your life? Keep alert: Which elements of nature illustrate the divine most forcefully for you? Keep alert: Your true vocation is written upon your very heart. Can you identify your divine purpose in this world? Are you clearly engaged in that purpose?

This type of alertness – alertness to the world around us, alertness to the world within us --- makes us great disciples. This alertness is based upon hope rather than fear; it is active rather than passive waiting. We believe that what we wait for is already planted deep within us and will take root and bloom. We continue to live in the present moment and remain focused on the love of God. We prepare for our inevitable death. During this Advent season, immerse yourself in the spiritual stories of your faith-filled ancestors. Have the courage to write your own salvation history. Hold this history with open hands. Allow your waiting for God, and God's waiting for you, to transform the

world in which you live. Allow this Advent, the coming Messiah, this arrival, to transform your life.

For greater alertness, that the Spirit may guide us to reflection and recognition of all the thoughts, feelings, hopes and dreams that are planted deep within our hearts... We pray...Our God will come to save us...

For a spirit of expectation, that we may live with the awareness that our salvation is drawing close and God's reign is being manifest through hearts that are just and lives that are poured out in love...We pray....Our God will come to save us.

For all who have died, especially family members and friends who have died during the past year, that God may lead them into eternal light and peace...We pray... Our God will come to save us...

For all who are sick, particularly for those suffering from Covid 19, for all caregivers and for all working to combat this disease, that God may surround them with comfort and strength...We pray... Our God will come to save us...

GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE PROVIDE-A-MEAL PROGRAM

Thank you to all our casserole chefs (including some new participants!) for making and dropping off your meals for the Good Shepherd last weekend.

The next casserole collection will take place on December 19th – more information to follow.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

St. Vincent de Paul members would like to thank parishioners for their inquiries regarding support for their annual Christmas activities. Due to the pandemic, we cannot collect toys for the Angel Tree this year. Should you wish to support the families in need in our neighbourhood, you may submit a cheque made payable to St. Anselm – St. Vincent de Paul and put "Christmas" in the memo line or on the envelope. The funds will be used to purchase gift cards for families as well as to make a donation to St. John XXIII School.

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