

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

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 8th

For the Deceased Members of St. Anselm's CWL

Wednesday, December 9th

Lillian Blackwell

Requested by the Family

Thursday, December 10th

Freda Mhusk

Requested by the Berry and Smolej Family

Friday, December 11th

Peace and Care of Creation

Requested by Eco Anselm

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".

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 **Saturday, December 19th**. Please bring your frozen casserole to the church parking lot between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. on that day.

If you would like to participate but require a pan and lid, please email Yvonne at yvonne.gray@bell.net and she will arrange to get one to you in the coming days.

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.

PAG 2021 BUNDLES

Parishioners who support the church through pre-authorized giving will receive their special collection bundles in the mail this week. Thank you for supporting the material needs of the parish through this reliable method of giving, especially this year where our offertory fell by unprecedented levels.

Those wishing to learn more about PAG, please email us to request information. Enrollment is quick and easy. Withdrawals take place on the 20th of each month from your bank account in the amount of your choosing. This method of supporting the parish allows us to budget for our ongoing expenses, as well as for unforeseen circumstances such as the current closure. Thank you for considering pre-authorized giving.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalms 85

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Alleluia. Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

Is This Enough? Reflection on Mark 1: 1-8



Love always wants to share itself. And God is love. So God always wants to share himself. God made planets and black holes and galaxy clusters, and bestowed himself upon every

microscopic atom of this exhaustive creation he had caused to be. What a privilege, what a sharing. Surely this would have been enough. But the planets and asteroids could not know they were receiving God. They were unable to willingly love God in return for his presence. Their manner of reception was only a relishing of their rough, craggy existence, being exactly what they are created to be. So God made a new beginning. He thought up a miraculously intricate trail by which something called life could come about. He chose a small blue planet circulating insignificantly around a very small star, within what would later—millions of years later—be called the Milky Way. God caused life to eke its way out of the seas onto shore and then into trees, amoebae, chimps, and more. It chose as its home the highest mountains, the coldest high specks of space, the hottest flaming deserts, and even the oceans' depths. God loved this abundant "life" as a mother loves her children. What a delight! God enwrapped them with love, a love in which they basked—but did not know it. If you had taken one look at the dinosaurs and apes and fishes and birds, you would have seen that: This miraculous creation would have been enough. But still there was room. God's overflow of love discovered more space for being received. God scooped out "openness" in various living creatures. These now could receive knowingly the affectionate love God was bestowing upon them, and could give love back to God! As a result, the human race inched—slowly, cumbrously—into being. Don't ask me the number of Cro-Magnon species that came about, or how hunting turned into farming and cooking, or how weaving and building and fences and fire burst onto the scene. They did. And God took time to deepen

out the spiritual hollow inside these newly fashioned humans in which they could, even in fear and distraction, actually receive God's Glory—not passively like a rock does the sun, but actively and knowingly, welcoming unto themselves the great gift of God's life, love and presence. We are those human beings. Each of us is able to open in this way, each of us standing at the apex of such a long history of God's love for us. Advent is the treasured time to ask quietly, humbly, how we can love in return. Will we take time to treasure this opening deep within ourselves? Will we let it thrive? That would mean bringing patience to bear on our nervous, bothersome life, letting God's presence be enough. It might mean living in a new way. It might mean celebrating at Mass in a new way, a way of patient listening and receiving instead of holding our watches ready so we can time the homily. And that would be enough, would it not? Maybe, but what if God's tender love wanted to make its way out of the church and into the world? Wouldn't that be quite a birth of the child Jesus? We would carry the love placed in our hearts out to the whole world. Wouldn't that be enough? Oh, the wonder of it all.

Who is John the Baptist?

Henri Nouwen said that "A man of prayer is one who is able to recognize in others the face of the Messiah and make visible what was hidden, make touchable what was unreachable. The man of prayer is a leader precisely because through his articulation of God's word within himself he can lead others out of confusion to clarification." (*The Wounded Healer*, Doubleday, Garden City NY 1972). This description certainly describes John the Baptizer, whose life of prayer, penitence and preaching drew his contemporaries and continues to draw believers to Christ. Mark, who originated the literary genre we call Gospel, began by presenting John as one whose mission and message had been announced centuries before. Mark is, in effect, announcing a new intervention of God through the persons and the ministries of both John and Jesus. John is the preparer of the way and his message makes it clear that he was the messenger and the voice, but Jesus was the Word of God made flesh. We believers are challenged by the courage and commitment of John to be strong in our faith and truthful in the witness we offer in our thoughts, in our words and in our works.

For the prophets in our day...for those who call us to face the truth, live the truth, and

speak the truth to one another, that they may be strengthened by the Spirit of God and faithfully serve the Word of God...we pray...our God will come to save us...

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