

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, December 15th

Josephine Rohe

Requested by Her Sisters

Wednesday, December 16th

Dae Hyun Chung

Requested by Brian & Angela Oh & Family

Thursday, December 17th

Herbert and Margaret McGroarty

Requested by the Family

Friday, December 18th

For the Living & Deceased Members of the Ford, Ashmeade and Dyer Families

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.

UPDATE REGARDING CHRISTMAS

As the current lockdown in the City of Toronto continues, our church remains closed. If you are wondering what that means for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, you are not alone.

We are awaiting word from the province and health officials on their plans for safely re-opening places of worship.

If we are permitted to re-open in time for Christmas, there will most certainly be restrictions on capacity once again. Not knowing whether we will be able to gather, and in what numbers, means we are in a "wait and see" situation.

We will do our best to update parishioners via an e-blast as soon as we have verified information to share regarding re-opening plans. If you haven't been receiving email communications from us, please send an email to office@stanselmschurh.com with the subject "Add My Email".

Our parish voicemail (416-485-1792) will also be changed to reflect any updated information.

2021 BOXED ENVELOPES

If you had a set of boxed envelopes in 2020, your donor number will remain the same for 2021. Boxed sets will be available for pick up from the Millwood lobby on ***Tuesday, December 15th and Thursday, December 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.*** We would be grateful if you could come during these times and every effort will be made to ensure proper distancing.

St. Anselm's Parish – New YouTube Channel

We invite parishioners to visit and subscribe to our new parish **YouTube Channel**. You can search us on YouTube with key words "St Anselm Church Leaside".

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 Luke 1 (Magnificat)

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia.

Rejoice in the Lord always...



It is a time for rejoicing: The Lord is near! The earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. We again encounter John the Baptist echoing

Isaiah's oracle: "Make straight the way of the Lord!" This time it appears alongside Paul's ringing exhortation: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." It also appears—quite significantly—alongside two passages that speak of salvation for the lowly. The First Reading has Isaiah tell of being sent "to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners." The responsorial psalm is Mary's song from the first chapter of Luke: "The hungry he has given every good thing, while the rich he has sent empty away." The Alleluia follows this with a rewording of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord ... sent me to bring Good News to the poor." The message of today's liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with joy will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly, not the rich and powerful. Each of the

sacred texts this Gaudete Sunday calls forth joy. Unlike happiness, which is a temporary response to circumstances in our lives, joy is a keen awareness of the presence of God. Despite the circumstances, this joy wells up from the depths of our being, to assure us that even in the midst of loss, pain, struggle or fear, God is near. As Roland Faley puts it, "Joy is more than merrymaking, a fleeting laugh or a bit of euphoria. True joy retains composure, a peaceful smile in fortune or misfortune. It looks at mountains and oceans and sees God's imprint. It looks at teeming metropolises and sees an immense amount of good. Joy looks at Christ and knows he is there." (*Footprints on the Mountain: Preaching and Teaching the Sunday Readings*, Paulist Press, New York: 1994). But the cultivation of authentic and deep joy is not instantaneous. On the contrary, joy is a learned response that requires time, patience and considerable struggle. Let's look at the examples of Moses from the Old Testament and Mary from the New Testament to flesh out what it means to develop joy in our lives. When Moses stood before the burning bush and realized that he was being called to liberate his people from Egypt, he did not rejoice. He questioned! He doubted the wisdom of God's choice. He cited his own inabilities. Mary, like Moses, also questioned the message of the angel. Caught unaware, she was a long way from joy as she put her care before God: "How can this be?" Yet despite their doubts and insecurities, Moses and Mary gradually acquiesced to God, and in that surrender, they found joy. They affirmed the fact that joy is elusive. It cannot be summoned forth like an actor's tears or laughter. Joy is a response that grows deeper, stronger and truer each time it is tested by sorrow or pain. Joy evolves when, by grace, we are able to glimpse holiness in those thin places of our lives and are reminded that we are not our own — or *on* our own. 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 the effects of this pandemic. 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, until we remember that we are a people of hope. 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). **Lord, give me the strength and courage to reach out to those who are in most need of my help.**

For each one of us, that we, who have been created in the image and likeness of God and destined for eternal life with God, may always find joy in our relationship with Christ... We pray... Our God will come to save us....

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLE PROGRAM

The next casserole collection will take place NEXT WEEKEND 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. Please email Yvonne at yvonne.gray@bell.net if you require a pan and lid.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

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.

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@stanselmschurch.com with the subject "Add My Email".

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