

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

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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



Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, December 22nd

Jo Kostovcik

Requested by Mel Kostovcik

Wednesday, December 23rd

Iona D'Silva

Requested by

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

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

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".

Merry Christmas

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16 Rom 16:25-27

Ps 89

Luke 1:26-38

Forever I will sing of your Steadfast love, O Lord.

Saying Yes...



Does the Incarnation interrupt history or overtake it? Advent offers believers two different ways to wait for God. One is to focus without expectation of God's intervention; the other is to look within for a mystery

already present and only waiting for our openness to emerge more fully. The scriptures support both views. The coming of the messiah is a long-awaited fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham, and repeated by the prophets, that a leader would rise from within the House of David, or that a special Servant would appear to accomplish God's plan to save his people. This heavenly figure, the Son of Man, would arrive riding on the clouds to bring justice and peace. Or, in the second view, God's Word, already present within creation as its designer and initiating source of all, was advancing within history through the long genealogy of God's covenant with his people to emerge in the fullness of time, the Son of God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Mary, perfect model of faith, receives the already ever-present Word so completely in her mind and heart that it becomes flesh in her womb. The late theologian Edward Schillebeeckx once put forward the idea that Mary might have been reading Isaiah 7:14: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which means, 'God with us'" at the moment of the Annunciation. She contemplates the passage and feels the Spirit moving within her. She consents, and the Word becomes flesh. What an interesting possibility to ponder within our own hearts! Matthew names this passage as being fulfilled in the birth of Jesus (1:23). Luke has Mary say to the angel, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (1:38). As we enter into the prayer of the church in Advent, how inspiring it is to contemplate that the Word of God is also coming to us. The Incarnation is not just a one-time event but an ongoing invitation to welcome God into our lives.

As baptized members of the body of Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit and nourished by both Word and Eucharist, are we not God-bearers, temples of the Trinity, extensions of the presence of God in time and space? The scene of Mary in her house in Nazareth gives special importance to reading God's Word with faith. Where else but from his mother did Jesus learn the habit of reading the scriptures with the expectation that God's Word is always alive and becoming flesh? Thirty years later, Jesus would come home to Nazareth to stand at the lectern in the synagogue, reading from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor" (61:1). Jesus then startled his hearers by saying, "Today this passage of scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). Standing before them was the Incarnation, the Word made flesh. Advent is our time to ponder the promise that God is among us, that the Word is asking our consent to become flesh in our lives. Mary invites us to share in the mystery she carried and bore in her human life. The church invites us to say yes to the same overshadowing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that gave birth to the church, extending the life and mission of Jesus in history. This is a momentous invitation, and it will change our lives forever. Christmas is our time to say yes. "Let it be done to me according to your Word."

For all believers, that we, like Mary, may ponder God's invitations to us and give our full yes to all that God asks of us...We pray...Our God will come to save us...

For a listening heart, that our hearts may be stilled and quieted so that we may hear the Word of God as it comes to us in word, event and experience each day...

We pray... Our God will come to save us...

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLE PROGRAM

The next casserole collection is tentatively planned for **January 16/17th**. Collection details to follow. Each casserole provides a hot, nutritious meal for TEN hungry individuals. Thank you to the casserole chefs in our parish!

A Christmas Message



Once again we are celebrating the great feast of Christmas. The Incarnation reminds us that our God is a God who saves - a God who sees the sufferings and struggles of his people and says enough - God who makes himself totally vulnerable to human experience - a God who walks with us - a God who restores us and points us in the right direction. We have much to celebrate and we have much to fill us with joy. It is a joy that is to be shared with others and should be visible on our faces and in all that we do for others. Even in these trying times, our God continues to surround us. The Incarnation does not speak to us about limitations, but about possibilities. May our challenge and gift from God this year lead us to think of him in wonderful ways that we have not imagined before and bring us to a deeper appreciation of how loved and cherished we are by God. May the joy, peace, hope and love of this holy season fill your hearts and your lives and bring you into a deeper relationship with the Lord of Life. Happy Christmas from the priests who serve you, Deacon Dan, who has joined our pastoral team and Barrig, who makes it all run smoothly.

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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