

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



Feast of the Holy Family

Mass for Intentions Week

**** THIS IS A TWO-WEEK BULLETIN ****

Tuesday, December 29th

Deceased Members of the Aust Family

Wednesday, December 30th

Freeman D'Silva

Requested by Chris, Aubrey and Melanie D'Silva

Tuesday, January 5th

Freda Mhusk

Requested by Weekday Mass Parishioners

Wednesday, January 6th

Lydia Osit Santos

Requested by Angelina Ambatali

Thursday, January 7th

Joan Sullivan

Requested by the Shortt Family

Friday, January 8th

Salvatore and Rosaria Buffa

Requested by the Filippi Family

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

LOCKDOWN CONTINUES INTO JANUARY

Our churches and parish offices across the Archdiocese are currently closed to comply with lockdown restrictions from the provincial government. At the time this bulletin was submitted to the publisher, the announcement was made that Toronto would remain in the "grey" zone for another 28 days. We will communicate re-opening plans when they become available. In the meantime, voicemail and email are being monitored on a regular basis.

St. Anselm's Parish – New YouTube Channel

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

Our parish is on Twitter!
Please follow us @stanselmchurch

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLE PROGRAM

The next casserole collection is tentatively planned for **January 16/17th**. Collection details to follow. Thank you to the casserole chefs in our parish! If you would like information about this important parish initiative, please contact the parish office. We provide the pan, lid and recipe – you purchase the ingredients, cook the casserole and freeze it six times a year. It is a simple, meaningful way to get a hot, nutritious meal to the hungry in our city. Each casserole feeds TEN hungry individuals!

2020 DONATIONS TO ST. ANSELM'S CHURCH

Should you wish to submit a donation and have it count toward your 2020 contribution total, please ensure that it reaches the parish office mailbox by **4:00pm on Thursday, December 31st**.

Contributions totaling \$50 or more throughout the calendar year will receive a tax receipt for the full amount.

Donations received after 4:00 pm on December 31st will be credited as 2021 contributions to observe proper accounting protocols.

Thank you to all for your support of the parish during this year, whether it has been through PAG, weekly envelopes or online donations. Should you have any questions about the various ways to support your parish, please call or email us.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Luke 2:22-30

"And a sword will pierce your own soul"



Everyone loves a good story.

From the time we're little children, we become fascinated with stories. At first, we want someone to read to us. Then we start creating our own stories with crayons. Finally, we get to the stage where we begin watching TV, falling in love with certain shows and waiting anxiously until the next episode arrives. The love of stories is why we go to movies and read novels and listen to the latest scoop about whomever. Stories are so important to us, in fact, that one writer has even dared to say that "God made humans because God loves stories."

What this writer is suggesting is that each one of us *is* a story all our own — a story that our God loves to listen to. It's almost like we can picture God saying about each one of us: "Go on. Tell me more."

Luke, the writer of today's Gospel, is one of the great storytellers of all time. He seems to understand at a very deep level that we all love stories because we can place ourselves in them, identify with the characters and make them our own. Christmas is arguably one of the most beloved stories ever told. It's the story of a God who loves each one of us so much that he leaves the heavens and "pitches his tent among us," as one translation puts it. It's the story of how this same God enters fully into our world, and, from that moment on, dwells among us, dines with us, rejoices with us, cries with us, bleeds with us, triumphs with us. In today's Gospel, though, Luke takes the story of the birth of Jesus to another level. He introduces Jesus to the community of faith that his parents are a part of. It now becomes a story that expands the private intimacy of Mary and Joseph into the larger world of the Jewish community and all of society. Luke's story ultimately becomes one that tells the tale of the creation of a whole new spiritual family — the one that we all share. But notice that within the beauty of this story, Simeon, the representative of the entire history of Jewish faith, takes the child Jesus into his arms, turns to Mary, and says to her: "a sword will pierce your own soul...." Gone from this scene are the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest." Gone from this part of the story are the shepherds and their wonder and amazement. Gone is the serenity of the manger. Instead, a note of darkness enters the story.

A primary symbol of who Jesus is and what he will bring to the world is now introduced: a sword. The sword represents the decision that each of us has to make in writing the story of our own lives. Jesus' hope and plea is that we will use this sword in the most positive of ways: as an instrument that will cut through to the very heart of our humanity so that we can be liberated from the slavery of destructive patterns of living. What that sword can do, that sword that is Jesus' own life of love, is give us the ability to bring into our lives a degree of freedom — the freedom to live out those graces that our second reading today emphasizes:

"compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." Our life is a story, a story that God delights in reading. How will yours read?

Filled with the peace and joy of Christmas, let us pray...

Glory to God in the Highest...

For the church, that God may form us into a family of faith that encourages and supports one another in living the Gospel more fully each day...We pray...

For all mothers, that the Son of Mary may help them to love their children unselfishly and encourage them in the Christian way...We pray...

For all fathers, that the Son of the carpenter may fill them with wisdom as they seek to guide and accompany their children toward maturity and wholeness...We pray...

For a deepening of prayer, that the Spirit may guide us in praying together and help us to listen to God's response in the quiet of our hearts and in our experiences of each day...We pray...

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 full name at office@stanselmschurch.com with the subject "Add My Email".

VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE

Our next bulletin will be dated January 10th and will be available online in the bulletin library of our parish website under the "News and Events" tab.

Donations may also be made securely on our website by clicking on "Donate Now" and choosing St. Anselm from the drop down menu.

[St. Anselm's Parish, Toronto \(archtoronto.org\)](http://St.Anselm's Parish, Toronto (archtoronto.org))

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