

# 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

## 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, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

Jean Stovell

Requested by the Family

**Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

Nancy Lunney

Requested by Paul & Patricia Kennedy

**Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Chang Joon Yu

Requested by Brian & Angela Oh & Family

**Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

Joan Sullivan

Requested by the Geerts 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.

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – REQUEST**

Our Vincentians have received a request from a family in need in the Thorncliffe Park community. They are expecting a baby in the spring and will be in need of a car seat in good condition for a newborn. If you have one you are ready to part with, please call our St. Vincent de Paul volunteers at 647-376-3400 and pick up will be arranged.

### **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 office mailbox (please call or email ahead to arrange) or when the church re-opens to the public.

Should you wish to submit cheques before you are able to up your 2021 envelopes, please be assured that you will receive full credit for your contributions as long as you place them in an envelope with your name and full mailing address (if not displayed on your cheque).

***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](mailto:office@stanselmschurch.com) with the subject "Add My Email".***

### **GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLE PROGRAM**

Thank you to all our casserole chefs! The Good Shepherd Refuge was grateful to receive meal contributions from our parish. Despite pandemic restrictions, we were able to safely collect and submit frozen casseroles to feed the hungry. During the cold winter months where the need for a warm meal increases, this was especially good news. We will continue to collect casseroles and will communicate Group B's date in the coming bulletins. Please email Yvonne at [yvonne.gray@bell.net](mailto:yvonne.gray@bell.net) in advance if you require a pan and lid.

### **CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER PLEASE RESERVE BY PHONE OR EMAIL**

The church will be open for private prayer on **Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00.**

At this time **only 10 people are permitted in the church at one time.** That means nine parishioners and our custodian Jun makes it an even ten.

**You must reserve either by phone or email and Barrig will confirm with you.** We cannot allow walk-ins as we may end up exceeding limits. Jun will check you in and show you where you may sit. You are to wear a mask and follow all the protocols that were in place when the church first reopened. Thank you for cooperating and keeping others safe.

### **St. Anselm's Parish – 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".

**Jonah 3:1-5**

**Psalms 25**

**1Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20**

*Alleluia. Alleluia! The kingdom of God has come near: repent and believe the good news! Alleluia!*

### **God Chooses Everyone!**



In both the First Reading and the Gospel, people are given a direct invitation to do God's will. Wouldn't it be wonderful for you and for me if we had such a direct summons? Instead of going about in a fog and trying our best to

remember how to live, maybe how to pray once in a while and to get to Mass at least on Sunday, wouldn't it be great to be caught up into a command that focused everything in our lives, drew us on like a far-shining star? Maybe! But in the First Reading, Jonah was quite repelled by the call God gave him. And in the Gospel the disciples surely had no idea what they were getting themselves into when they dropped everything and followed Jesus. Would they have been so quick if they had known about the crucifixion?

In order to get the point of this allegorical story, it is probably best to start the story of Jonah at its beginning, several chapters earlier than our reading. God says to him, "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and preach against it; their wickedness has come up before me." Jonah does exactly the opposite. He drops everything and runs away. He races to Joppa and boards a ship to Tarshish, trying get as far from God's will as possible. The story is well known: God sends a terrible storm. Jonah admits to the crew that he is the cause of their trouble because he is fleeing the command of God. "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea and then the sea will calm down for you, for I know that this great storm has come upon you because of me." When nothing else works, with great reluctance, they toss him overboard. The sea is quieted. Jonah in turn is swallowed by a "large fish," usually referred to in tradition as a whale. Residence in the whale's interior gives Jonah ample time for retrospection. He prays psalms about what he has done. God saves him and tells him a second time to go to the great and sinful city of Nineveh to announce the Lord's message. Jonah submits at last and in today's reading, the whole city is

converted. Why in the world didn't Jonah just follow God's command instead of running in the opposite direction? One speculation is that Jonah did not want Nineveh, the pagan city, to convert and be saved because this city was an enemy of the Hebrews. But you and I know what it is like to run from what God asks, so we can make our own speculations. As for the apostles, they didn't run away at all. Almost impulsively they followed Jesus. Possibly they wanted political action. With Jesus' gentle guidance they found out gradually what following the Messiah really meant. Where Jonah had imagined the worst and ran away, the apostles imagined the best and followed Jesus into the worst - the passion and crucifixion. Luckily the resurrection followed. Lucky for us all, since suffering seems to be inevitable in human life. So are you running away or running toward? Either way you will have suffering. Either way God will keep after you, pulling you out from fishy entrails, pushing you, pulling you, over and over, to learn in your flesh what love is really all about in relationship with God. When God intervenes dramatically in your life, he puts your whole life immediately at a major cross-road. You can either ignore him and continue stubbornly with your old life, as if God didn't really matter, or didn't really care what you did, or maybe didn't really exist at all. Or you can open yourself to God. You can respond to him with trust and a willingness to obey. But if you do this, you will be leaving your old life aside, for a new life that might well have been unimaginable to you beforehand. You won't be who you were before. You will be a new person, in him and for him. This week's Scriptures invite us to deepen our appreciation of what God offers us in Jesus. Jonah's story tells us that God isn't interested in crime and punishment. The God of Jesus invites us to genuine faith in a hope-filled vision of what God desires for creation. Jesus' disciples offer us one example. So again, the question only you can answer – are you running away or running toward?

*For greater authenticity in our lives, that in our ordinary activities and duties, we may manifest the values and virtues of Christian discipleship... We pray...*

*For prophetic awareness, that our actions and decisions may be guided by the awareness that the reign of God is happening now... We pray.....*



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