

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, March 16th

Aida Fahoum

Requested by Naguib, Jennifer and Beth Gouda

Wednesday, March 17th

Richard Ryan

Requested by Theresa Ryan

Thursday, March 18th

Sister Helen Blodgett

Requested by M.G. McCollam

Friday, March 19th

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.

At the time this bulletin was sent for uploading, our churches in Toronto remain closed for the public celebration of Masses.

An e-blast will be sent out with up-to-date information when restrictions are changed.

The parish office remains closed to the public however voicemail and email are being monitored on a regular basis.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The St. Vincent de Paul Society's Bundle Up Weekend is scheduled for **April 10 & 11**. The truck will be in our parking lot to collect gently used clothing and linens. Please keep this worthy collection in mind!

Please note: we cannot accept books, mattresses, furniture, dishes, construction materials or video tapes. For more information, please visit www.ssvptoronto.ca

Help!

We have received requests for an electric heater and an infant car seat (in good shape and not expired). Please call the parish office if you can help!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

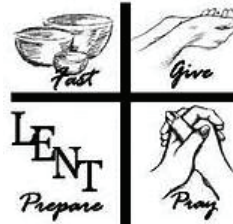
Psalm 137

Eph 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

Praise to you Lord, King of Eternal Glory.

RICH IN MERCY AND LOVE



In explaining himself and his mission, Jesus alludes to a very odd story from the Exodus tradition. When venomous snakes attacked the discontented people in the desert (Numbers 21),

the God who had forbidden the people to make images and who condemned Aaron's golden calf as an idol, told Moses to mold a serpent of bronze that people could look on and be healed.

The images are quite different: the calf represented a foreign god and the serpent a demonic figure. But why would God command the people to gaze on the serpent? Jewish mystics have explained looking at the serpent as looking upon evil in order to turn away from it. Gazing on the repulsive, frightening serpent was a symbol of admitting sin and seeking God's help. It's almost an anticipation of the first six of Alcoholics Anonymous' 12 steps which take people in recovery from recognizing their powerlessness to asking God to transform them.

The symbolism of this drama demonstrated that just as Moses could fashion a model snake, so God the Creator could control death and life. The story also suggests that people can face what they most fear and not be overcome if they believe in God's life-giving power. That leads into Jesus' explanation that the Son of Man must be lifted up. But now, unlike in the time of Moses, the action of the people is not just to see and be cured, but to believe. The result will not be a return to health, but a movement to eternal life. In his commentary on the Gospel of John, biblical scholar Juan Mateos translates the word "believe" as "adhere," indicating that to believe in the Son means to hold onto or cling to him to the point of becoming one with him (*El Evangelio de Juan*, Cristiandad: Madrid, 1992). Thus, believing in the Son of Man lifted up implies accepting the astonishing manifestation of Christ crucified. Believing in him confers eternal life.

MARCH 14, 2021

Because that teaching is so dense, we can be glad that John has Jesus continue to explain. First, as opposed to an image of a punitive God, Jesus reveals God, the lover of humankind. God is not the death-dealer, but the eternal life-giver. All of Jesus' emphasis is on God's great love: the Son was sent by God to save the world. We are saved by believing in and adhering to the Son, and the result is eternal life. The Son was sent with no mission but to save. Those who choose faith in another god, those who cling to an image of divine vengeance, those who reject the light offered by Christ, condemn themselves and are left with exactly what they have chosen: They separate themselves from God by their own stubborn attitudes, and it becomes increasingly difficult to save them from themselves. In this fourth week of Lent, we are invited to remember that salvation is more than a theory, and it often has nothing to do with physical safety. We are saved by the great love of God, manifest in the one lifted up to show the way to eternal life. Those who believe in Christ lifted up are God's handiwork, saved by sharing his life and continuing his works. Today's Gospel talks about a light that penetrates into the depth of our darkness. It talks about a God who "so loved the world that he sent his only Son." It talks about a hope so glorious — eternal life with God — that it can lift the human spirit and connect it to the Source of all life. John's Gospel is all about the One sent by the Father precisely to reignite the fire of compassion within our hearts so that we can find the energy to believe again, to re-embrace life, to cast out the demons of darkness. And even more than all this, the good news is: It's not about what we have to *do* to earn this. Instead it's all about what God gratuitously *does for us*. He sends his Son. He sends his Son so that we can see with our own eyes what St. Paul talks about in our second reading today when he describes our God as being "rich in mercy," when he describes you and me as being "brought to life in Christ" and when he tops it all off by calling each of us God's "handiwork."

May God give us the grace this Lent to rediscover the depths of God's love for each one of us in the hope that we can create a sense of mission in our world to overcome the pandemic that has crippled our lives and taken so many from

our midst. May we hear God calling us to do all that we can to persevere in our battle to control this disease so that we may rebuild our world one step at a time.

For the Church, that we continue to grow in our relationship with Christ and manifest God's unbounded love for the human family by our deeds of light...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
PLEASE RESERVE BY PHONE OR EMAIL

The church will be open for private prayer this **Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 10:00am.**

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.



Group "A" casseroles for the Good Shepherd Refuge will be collected on **Saturday, March 20th from 4-5pm** in the church parking lot. If you would like a pan or recipe, please email yvonne.gray@bell.net. Thank you for your continued commitment to feeding the hungry!

St. Anselm's Parish - YouTube Channel

We invite parishioners to visit and subscribe to our parish **YouTube Channel**.

[St. Anselm's Parish Leaside - YouTube](#)

The Rosary Apostolate invites you to view videos and participate in the Rosary virtually on their YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheRosaryApostolatelnc>

We are communicating updates through the bulletin (currently online only) and by email (via e-blasts). 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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