

# ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3

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

Email: [office@stanselmschurch.com](mailto:office@stanselmschurch.com) Website: [stanselmsto.archtoronto.org](http://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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass  for Intentions Week

Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

Paul Parent

Requested by the Family

Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

Kathleen Carlson

Requested by M.G. McCollam

Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

For the Special Intentions of Lucia and Ed Oh

Requested by Brian and Angela Oh and Family

Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

Nora Ryan

Requested by Theresa Ryan

*Fr. Moore will continue to celebrate Mass intentions privately each day.*

**IN-PERSON MASS**  
**TEMPORARILY CANCELLED**

Due to the current lockdown measures, we are now permitted a maximum of 10 people in the church at any time, including the presider. Therefore, Cardinal Collins has temporarily cancelled the public celebration of Mass in the Archdiocese of Toronto in order to comply with these restrictions. The dispensation from Sunday Eucharist remains in place. Once we receive information regarding re-opening, we will share it via e-blast and through the bulletin uploaded to our website at [stanselmsto.archtoronto.org](http://stanselmsto.archtoronto.org)

We encourage everyone to stay safe and stay home wherever possible until we are able to gather once again.

**PROVIDE-A-MEAL CASSEROLE MINISTRY**

**Casseroles** for the Good Shepherd Refuge – Group “A” casseroles will be collected **SATURDAY, MAY 15<sup>th</sup>** in the church parking lot. If you need a pan/lid, please contact [yvonne.gray@bell.net](mailto:yvonne.gray@bell.net)

We are grateful to our casserole chefs for continuing their dedication to feed the hungry. Thank you to Yvonne and her helpers who have been accepting casseroles in the parking lot for the past several months, allowing us to continue with this important ministry. Should you wish to join the casserole program at any time, please

contact the parish office. We provide the pan, lid and recipe!

**OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

The church will be open Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00am – 10:00am for private prayer. As we are permitted only 9 visitors at a time, we ask that you please register your attendance ahead of time by emailing [office@stanselmchurch.com](mailto:office@stanselmchurch.com) or by calling 416-485-1792.

**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 participate in the Rosary virtually on their YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheRosaryApostolateInc>

Video links for Grades 1 to 3: First Glorious Mystery – One Decade

<https://youtu.be/KFNOURFTtRg>

Grades 4-12: The Glorious Mysteries

<https://youtu.be/J0XfOo3zAdE>

***Sacraments that were to take place in the Easter season have not been forgotten. Once places of worship are moved into the “red” zone and we can safely accommodate everyone, First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation will take place for all children who have been preparing this year.***

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 9: 26-31

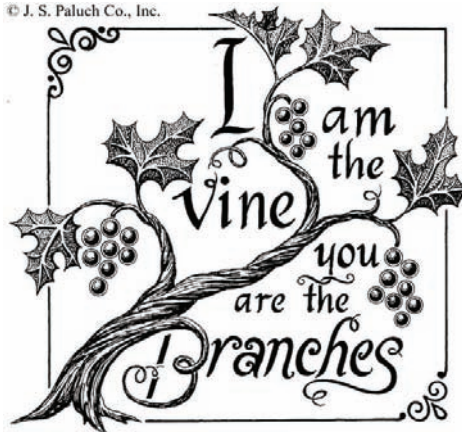
Ps 22

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

***Alleluia. Alleluia. Abide in me as I abide in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.***

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Today’s Gospel story of the vine and the vine grower is basic to our understanding of our lives as Christians. This story is so important that it is part of Jesus’ farewell discourse at the

Last Supper. Jesus is instructing his disciples about their relationship with him and with his Father. Jesus is himself the vine; those who believe in him are the branches. The vine, the trunk, does not produce fruit. It is the branches, Jesus' followers, who bear the fruit. But the branches are only able to do that because of the life they receive from the vine: "Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me" (John 15:4). In the story there is also the vine grower: Jesus' Father. The vine grower ensures that the vine and branches produce the best fruit. This means that at times the vine must be pruned. With pruning, unproductive branches are removed so that the life and productive power of the vine can more successfully produce good fruit.

Now, you and I benefit from hearing and reflecting on this story of Jesus. There are others who, without actually knowing the story of the vine and vine grower, came to understand its lessons of relationship to Christ from the experiences of their lives. One of those persons we hear about today: Paul, the Pharisee-turned-disciple of Christ. Paul came to know Jesus and his Father through a series of extraordinary experiences. In today's first reading, we encounter Paul, then called Saul, trying to become part of the community of disciples in Jerusalem. Saul had undergone a conversion experience while traveling to Damascus. The strange thing about it was that at the time, Saul was on his rounds determined to destroy the church. Saul considered nothing but violence and death for the disciples of the Lord. The Lord evidently saw in Saul a potential partner in the spread of the good news. But it required knocking Saul to the ground and taking away his sight to get his attention. That was the beginning of a lifetime of "pruning" for Saul. Saul would be pruned of his arrogance, his violence, his self-will and whatever stood between him and the message of Christ, which he was to preach by word and example. At long last, Saul was pruned to the point that he bore the fruit of repentance and conversion to Christ. Saul became Paul, a disciple. But there was still more to be done. As we heard in today's first reading, Paul's pruning included mending fences with other disciples. He had to acknowledge his sins and faults and become one with the community of

believers. Later on, Paul would also have to face rejection from many who would not accept the message he worked so hard to share with them.

Each one of us, too, is faced with pruning so that we can come to full and fruitful life in Christ. Like Paul, we may carry the dead wood of missed opportunities, barren branches of self-will and arrogance, or many other faults. These need to be stripped away so that we can bear good fruit for the reign of God. If pruning sounds difficult, even harsh, we have the assurance that God is working in and through us. As St. John says, if we live in Christ and his words stay part of us, we can ask him for what we need and it will be done for us. And then, like Paul and the others, we will be faithful disciples, and God will be glorified in our bearing much fruit.

And, finally, it is important to recognize that there is also Eucharistic significance in this Gospel. Set within the context of the lengthy Last Supper discourse, the motif of the vine and branches illustrated the unity with Jesus that would mark their Eucharistic gatherings in the future. In this instance, the cut-away and withered branches would refer to those who rejected Christ and the Eucharistic assembly in favour of their own ideas and pursuits. However, even those who adhered to Johannine tradition and remained faithful to Christ and the community would be pruned or trimmed clean so that they could bear more fruit. Some scholars understand verse 2 as a reference to Jesus' earlier action of washing his disciples' feet and declaring that they were "clean" (13:10). Jesus went on to say that his disciples were also "trimmed clean" by means of the word he spoke to them (v. 3). Future believers would also be "trimmed clean" by the word in the waters of their baptism, which initiates them into the life of Christ and the community of the church. In every stage of growth and development, the vine and the branches, i.e., Jesus and his followers, are to remain in one another. From this union will flow good works and authentic witness.

***For the grace to surrender, that God will help us to let go of those things which need to be pruned so that God's life and love may blossom in our lives... We pray...***

***For an end to the pandemic and for safe and fair distribution of the vaccine... We pray...***

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