

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.

FALL OFFICE HOURS

By appointment.

St. Anselm's School

182 Bessborough Drive
Toronto, Ontario M4G 4H5
416-393-5243

Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, December 6th, 8:15 a.m.

Barry Brown

Requested by Barbara Ford and Family

Wednesday, December 7th, 8:15 a.m.

For the Intentions of Becky Doyle

Requested by Vicki and Richard Garnett

Thursday, December 8th, 8:15 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of St. Anselm's CWL

Friday, December 9th, 8:15 a.m.

Salvatore and Rosaria Buffa

Requested by the Family

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES

GROUP B

Group B casseroles for the Good Shepherd Refuge "Provide a Meal" program will be collected on **Saturday, December 17th** from 4-5pm in the church parking lot.

Thank you to our parish casserole chefs for another year of providing hot, nutritious meals for the less fortunate. Thank you to Yvonne and her helpers for collecting the casseroles come rain or shine!

Should you wish to join the casserole program in the new year, please contact the parish office.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH THROUGH PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG) to assist you in your support of the work of the Parish through your regular parish offerings.

To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, parishes depend ***entirely*** on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-authorized giving allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly to the parish account.

To switch from envelope or loose cash support to pre-authorized giving once a month in the amount of your choosing, please contact the parish office.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

The Angel Tree – some angels still remain in the Millwood Lobby. Those who wish to give a gift to a less fortunate child in our community are asked to take an angel, [*blue for a boy, white for a girl*] and purchase a gift with a suggested value \$40-\$45.

Please return the angel secured to the unwrapped gift to the Angel Tree no later than **NEXT SUNDAY, December 11th**.

*If possible, please include a gift bag. *Stuffed toys and candies cannot be given to children. More details available on the poster beside the Angel Tree.*

The Family-to-Family program also wraps up **next Sunday, December 11th**. Last year we were able to assist 41 families with extra food cards for Christmas. Our families in need average 6 persons per household. A cheque made payable to St. Vincent de Paul – St. Anselm's in the amount of \$50 per family member (i.e: for a family of six, \$300, for a family of four, \$200)

Your donation in any amount to support this program is always welcome and can be placed in the collection basket or returned to the church office.

**Tax receipts will be issued for family donations by St. Vincent de Paul so please remember to include your full name and address if not displayed on your cheque.*

Please contact the church office should you have any questions regarding these initiatives.

DAY OF CONFESSIONS

It is always recommended that we go to confession before celebrating the important Feast days of the Church. The Archdioceses of Toronto has designated the week of December 11 – 17 and each Catholic Church in the area has a special day for Confessions.

At St. Anselm's, our Day of Confessions is **Friday, December 16th**. The times are as follows:

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For neighbouring churches and alternate times, visit <https://www.archtoronto.org/confession>

*We are grateful for your ongoing support of your parish. **Our offertory and building funds are crucial to daily operations.** You can enrol in our parish pre-authorized giving (PAG) program or make a secure one-time or recurring donation online by visiting ADoT Parish - Toronto East Donation Form - Archdiocese of Toronto (archtoronto.org) and choosing "St. Anselm" from the drop-down menu of parishes. Cheques may be mailed or dropped off in the parish office mailbox at any time. Thank you for your support!*

Isa 11:1-10

Rom 15:4-9

Coming to the Desert

Ps 72

Matt 3:1-12



If ever there was a more eloquent description of the Messiah and the reign of peace and justice that he would establish for all the peoples of the earth, I have not found it yet. With rich images and even richer

prose, Isaiah shares with us the same vision that has filled hearts with hope and joy for almost three millennia (ca. 2800 years). All that anyone might wish for is there — a leader who is endowed with God’s own Spirit and with God-given gifts that will assure good and wise and just leadership ... a leader who champions the afflicted and the poor ... a leader whom all the nations of the earth will acknowledge and accept ... a leader during whose reign there shall be no animosity, harm or ruin. Knowledge of the Lord will prevail; everyone will know God and be known by God in a relationship that knows no end.

But before this leader and this reign would be established, preparations had to be made. To that end, God sent prophets. Nearer to the time of Jesus, John the Baptizer was sent as herald, crying, “Repent!”. There in the desert of Judea, John called for a change of heart and mind and lifestyle that people need to undergo in order to welcome the One who baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire.

It is significant that John retreated to the desert. So much of Israel’s relationship with God was set against a desert. Called out of Egypt, Israel was led by God through a desert where their relationship was formed, broken and renewed. There in the desert, Israel knew an intimacy with God they would remember and long for during later periods of her history. Although the desert could be fraught with untold dangers, for the Israelites it conjured up the joys of a honeymoon. Each Advent, we follow Israel’s lead and John’s example and withdraw to the desert, where we will find God and ourselves anew. In the desert, we can work through the lifelong process of integrating the faith we profess with our lips with the faith we proclaim with our lives. In the desert, we find that the images of God we had as a child no longer work, and we

learn to relate to and reflect ever-new images. The annual desert experience we call Advent invites us to empty ourselves of every obstacle to God, and, in that emptiness, examine and refine our values, beliefs and passions.

The desert is the place where we are forced to live with our questions as well as the ambiguities and paradoxes of our life. In the emptiness of the desert, the enormity of God becomes almost overwhelmingly clear, and yet we need not be afraid. With each trip to the desert, it becomes less a strange and alien place and more of a home where the hard work of repentance and conversion can take place. It is any wonder that John the Baptizer chose the desert to begin his ministry of preparing the way of the Lord?

As we look beyond the desert to the coming of the Promised One, the late Henri Nouwen invites us to consider where we might find him. “Where is God?” Nouwen wrote. “God is where we are weak, vulnerable, small and dependent. God is where the poor are, the hungry, the handicapped, the mentally ill, the elderly, the powerless. How can we come to know God when our focus is elsewhere, on success, influence, and power? I increasingly believe that our faithfulness will depend on our willingness to go where there is brokenness, loneliness, and human need. If the church has a future, it is a future with the poor in whatever form” (*Sabbatical Journey*, Crossroad Pub. Co., New York: 1998).

If we look at Jesus’ beginnings in this world, we will not find him in a royal palace or even in the home of a revered rabbi or Levite or priest. From the moment of his incarnation, Jesus was surrounded by poor, humble, simple people. During his ministry, he similarly welcomed the poor. He recommended poverty of spirit and simplicity of life to those who answered his call to follow him. The Gospels continue to challenge those who await Jesus’ second appearance to seek him out in those poor with whom he chose to identify and whose needs he made his own agenda. If our Advent desert experience results in nothing else, let it be a renewal of our own and of the church’s preferential option for the poor.

Blessed are the poor; theirs is the kingdom.

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