

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

Saturdays 4:00-4:30 p.m.

MEDITATION GROUP

Meets in the Parish Hall Tuesday at 8:45 a.m.

PRAYER GROUP

Meets in the Griffin Room Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – noon;

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. Anselm's School

182 Bessborough Drive

Toronto, Ontario M4G 4H5

416-393-5243

Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, December 5th, 8:15 a.m.

Jeannette Valeriote

Requested by the Family

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

Nicholas Lopatko

Requested by the Lopatko-Mammoliti Family

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

Emma Gladys Sirvas-Castro

Requested by Doris Sirvas-Castro

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

For the Deceased Members of the St. Anselm Catholic Women's League



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS INITIATIVES

A reminder for those who have taken an angel from the **St. Vincent de Paul Angel Tree**:

Please return gifts, ***unwrapped*** by **NEXT SUNDAY, December 10th** and please *include a gift bag, if possible*.

We are still accepting donations by cash or cheque so that we may purchase extra food cards to bring seasonal joy to needy households for Christmas.

*** Tax receipts will be issued by St. Vincent de Paul so please include your full name and address.*

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

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES

Group B casseroles will be collected on Saturday, December 16th from 4-5pm in the church parking lot.

ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, the Advent Week of Confessions will take place at various parishes from December 10 – 23.

At St. Anselm, our Day of Confessions will be **Tuesday, December 19th**. ***Please note that this will be the last opportunity for confession before Christmas.*** Confessions will be heard at:

9:30-10:30am

2:00-3:00pm

6:00-7:00pm

For a list of other locations offering different dates and times, visit <https://www.archtoronto.org/confession>

As we approach the end of the calendar year, please take a moment to notify the parish office if you have moved so we may issue your tax receipt to the proper address. Thank you!



EcoAnselm

Guide for a Green-Christmas

"Protecting Planet Sustainability"

Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts and our homes for the coming of Christ at the end of time. To borrow a message of Sister José Hobday, a Franciscan religious and Seneca elder, it's time to "Wake Up!" Shake off complacency and be open to "God working anew within us." (*Daily Prayers for Advent and Christmas 2023* www.avemariapress.com)

Intentionally and prayerfully discern together do-able ways to reduce our Christmas eco-footprint. Consider scheduling pre-Christmas dialogues to discuss eco-protective practices that will support your family's celebration of Christmas while doing no harm to our common home.

Practical ideas: In driving for shopping, group errands - plan routes that avoid unnecessary emissions. In your holiday feasting, include vegetarian and/or vegan options. In lighting the season, remember that led lights use less energy and are longer-lasting than incandescent lights. Choose eco-friendly candles such as organic beeswax / natural soy.

Re-use, recycle, repurpose your Christmas décor & gift-wrapping items. ***Prior to Christmas, donate gently-used, good-condition decorations/tableware that you won't be re-using to shelters, thrift stores or to any Value Village.*** <https://www.valuevillage.ca>



Thank you to all parishioners who support the offertory and building fund through monthly pre-authorized giving or with weekly contribution envelopes.

Your donations are responsible for keeping your church going 365 days a year.

As we near the end of 2023, PAG participants will automatically receive their special collection bundles in the mail for 2024. Boxed sets of weekly envelopes will be available to pick up in the Millwood lobby as of December 16th. If you had a box in 2023, your box number will remain the same for 2024.

To parishioners currently donating through weekly envelopes - please let us know **THIS WEEK** if you would like to move to pre-authorized giving instead of renewing your boxed envelopes for next year. It is simple to change over and beneficial to both you and your parish.

If you currently don't use a regular method of parish support, we ask that you consider joining the pre-authorized giving program at St. Anselm in 2024. You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount of your donations and the parish's operating costs can be better managed knowing your support is there even on weeks when you are not able to attend with your envelope.

Isa 63:16-17, 64:1:3-8

1 Cor 1:3-9 Mark 13:13-37



Advent Reflection - Be Ready

Like a blank page eager to receive the pen, the new liturgical year stands before us, waiting to see what we shall do and who we shall become. Only God knows what is ahead, and the spirit of the Advent

season invites believers to allow the blank page to be filled, not by their own plans and determinations, but by the word and will of God. This is not an easy feat for those who take great satisfaction in carefully organizing their days and nights. With iPhone in hand, many approach life as a project with certain goals that must be accomplished in a given amount of time. Of course, there is nothing wrong with living carefully, but, with regard to God and the spiritual life, the mentors of this Advent season call us to cultivate another attitude. Mary, who probably had other plans for herself and Joseph, was called to allow God to rewrite her story. Her own version of her future surely did not include being a mother before marriage, but God's draft for her life took her on a path that included unexpected difficulties. The life and ideas of John, son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, were similarly redirected. Initially, John seemed to envision himself as a reformer who was to prepare the way for the messiah who would lead Judah

to victory over its oppressors. But God, in Jesus, made it clear that John's involvement would make ready the path of a messiah who would suffer for the victory he would achieve. As Jesus' precursor, John would have the page of his life abbreviated, cut short by his death at Herod's hands. Jesus, too, certainly had his own ideas about his messiah-ship, but he allowed God to dictate these ideas and the manner in which he would live out his short life. Like Mary, Joseph and John the Baptizer, Jesus submitted his curriculum vitae to God's editing.

In today's readings, the prophet Isaiah brings us the potter and the clay to inspire us. When a potter takes a formless lump of clay to the wheel, it is the potter who molds and shapes and spins and scrapes until what is conceived in her mind's eye begins to find its form and function. Then it is the potter who places his handiwork in the kiln, where it is fired and given a certain permanency. So it is with life. While we human beings are not exactly lumps of clay, our wills are nevertheless subject to a greater will and a keener vision. Through the experiences of living, giving and growing, the divine potter helps to shape our hearts, our minds, our wills. Through the suffering and struggles of life's "kiln," purification comes. Motivation becomes purer. Integrity becomes firmer. Faith becomes deeper. Hope grows stronger and love finds its greatest intensity. Both images clearly state that another is "calling the shots" and forming the future. In today's second reading, Paul refers to the work of the divine editor on our life stories and to the efforts of the potter on the clay as grace. Grace enriches the believer, insists Paul, with every good gift. Grace confirms the knowledge of Christ and the good news of salvation within us and invites our authentic witness to the same. Grace empowers change and growth and new beginnings. Grace enables independent and self-sufficient human beings to allow God to write the script. Grace allows God to throw and fire the pot and to decide how it will be used. Above all, grace helps us to prepare for the moment of our ultimate encounter with the divine editor and potter, whenever that moment will come. Mark, in today's Gospel, reminds us that, while we cannot know when, we do know *how* we are to prepare — through watchful waiting. Inherent to our watchful waiting is a daily willingness to submit the "copy" and the "clay" of our lives to God. While we cannot know what God may choose to write on the pages of this new liturgical year before us and we may not know how God will shape the clay that is our life, we do know some things with certainty: Ours is a loving and merciful God. Ours is a God who sees us in all that we are and in all we do. Ours is a God who gives new life and new beginnings to all who call out in hope. Thanks be to God.

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