

# 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

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 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Jennifer Pliska

Requested by the Family

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Frances and Joseph Mammoliti

Requested by the Lopatko-Mammoliti Family

**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Wanda and Kaz Duda

Requested by the Lopatko-Mammoliti Family

**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.**

Dae Hyun Chung

Requested by Angela Oh and Family

## **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Advent**

**Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m.**

### **Christmas - Nativity of the Lord**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00 p.m.**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m.**

### **Feast of the Holy Family**

**Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m.**

### **Mary, Mother of God**

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**11:00 a.m.**

**\*\* Please note – the last opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. There are no confessions on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be no weekday morning Mass on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.**



The 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP28) will be taking place Nov 30<sup>th</sup> to Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

Pope Francis, despite facing personal health challenges, will be travelling to Dubai, to advocate on behalf of the planet's survival. EcoAnselm asks you to join in praying for Pope Francis, for his health and safe travel, for his successful intervention and for the receptivity, honesty and courage of all representatives present.

In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis discusses the urgent need to achieve positive outcomes in this 28<sup>th</sup> conference. He explains the need for sincere interest "in making COP28 a historic event that honours and ennobles us as human beings."

"60. May those taking part in the Conference be strategists capable of considering the common good and the future of their children, more than the short-term interests of certain countries or businesses. In this way, may they demonstrate the nobility of politics and not its shame. To the powerful, I can only repeat this question: "What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power, only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so?"

You are urged to read *LAUDATE DEUM, Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father (2023)*. Points 53 to 60, specifically address "What to Expect from COP28 in Dubai?" [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html#](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html#):

### **COFFEE SUNDAY**

All are welcome to join in the Millwood lobby **NEXT SUNDAY, December 17<sup>th</sup>** after the 11:00 a.m. Mass for coffee and some special treats for children to mark Gaudete Sunday! Thank you to our volunteers for organizing this parish gathering.

### **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 19<sup>th</sup>**. 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>



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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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 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 the church!

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.

#### **GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES**

**Group B casseroles will be collected NEXT Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm in the church parking lot.**

#### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Thank you for your generous contributions to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas initiatives. The Angel tree gifts and family to family donations are due back this weekend (Dec 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Isa 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Pet 3:8-14**

**Mark 1:1-8**

#### **Our God Comes**



Each of today's readings communicates a similar mystery: Ours is a God who comes. God does not avoid humankind but comes to be in our midst. In the first reading, Isaiah comforts his exiled contemporaries with the good news that God is coming to

their rescue. God will bring healing and forgiveness and, with a shepherd's care, God will gather them and lead them home. This vision of God's future intervention on their behalf strengthened the exiles with the awareness that even in the pain and shame of their struggle, God saw and cared and was near. They, for their part, were to hold fast to their faith and trust that the prophet's words would be realized. When the second - and third - generation believers in Jesus began to question his second coming among them, the author of 2 Peter encouraged the doubting and the hopeless that even though the delay might seem untenable, God would indeed come to them in Jesus. They, for their part, should make the

most of the delay by using the time to prepare themselves for welcoming God. If you read between the lines, you might hear the ancient author say, "If you knew for certain that Jesus was coming tomorrow, what might you do to get ready? Take that agenda and make it your own *today*." These same words invite our serious, conscientious preparation for the God who comes and all of us need to pay attention to this invitation.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptizer is featured as one who took the necessity of being prepared very seriously. John exercised a ministry that purposefully alerted others to the coming Jesus and urged them to prepare a way for him in their hearts and lives. By his words, by his wardrobe and by the witness of his life, John became a living lesson in becoming prepared. His example prompts us to consider our own level of preparedness for the God who comes. When she considered the mystery of the coming of God, Teresa of Avila said in *The Interior Castle* that even when we are engaged in worldly pastimes and businesses and pleasures and haggling, even when we are falling into sins and rising from them again, God comes to be in our midst. God comes to us, said the Spanish mystic, through the conversations of good people, through homilies, through the reading of good books. God also comes through wickedness and trials and in prayer, however feeble it might be. God comes to us through the life of someone in whom we can see beauty and truth. God comes in the love of another who loves us so deeply and unconditionally that we dare to accept our own loveableness. There is no limit to the ways in which God comes, and for that reason, every juncture of our lives can be a place of encounter with the divine.

During the season of Advent and Christmas, believers celebrate in a special way the ultimate encounter with God in the coming of Jesus. Through Jesus' words and works, we come to know God's will and God's ways; in Jesus we see God's holy face. John, the herald of Jesus, speaks unequivocally in today's Marcan Gospel. He calls listeners to prepare the way of the Lord, who comes. John was focused solely on the good news that God was about to become more personally involved with humankind than ever before, in the person and through the mission of Jesus. Some may wonder: If the sacred texts proclaimed today were good news more than two millennia ago, how can they be good news today? These texts do indeed constitute good news for each and every generation because God's word pulsates and breathes life — God's own life through the power of the Spirit. For that reason, the word is ever new, ever pertinent and ever revelatory of the news that God loves; God saves; God liberates; God creates and recreates; God comes. This good news has sustained the community of believers through centuries of growth, division, conflict and confusion. This Gospel has been preached to the faithful and the disbelieving, to the hopeful and the despairing, to those who love and those who have ceased to believe in the power of love. God remains constant. With each proclamation of the word comes the grace we need to listen and receive it into our hearts. Once again, this Advent, we come full circle to that moment in time when the Word of God became flesh and pitched his tent among us. This moment of history is ever present *now*. Are we paying attention? Are we awake yet?



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