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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: Sunday:

5:00 p.m. 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



Tuesday, December 3rd, 8:15 a.m. John & Rosa Paglialunga Requested by the Family

Wednesday, December 4th, 8:15 a.m. Irene Kalita Requested by Jacek Kalita

Thursday, December 5th, 8:15 a.m. Michael Rankin Requested by Lorraine & Ken Ware

Friday, December 6th, 8:15 a.m. For the Intentions of Mary Hanna Requested by Theresa Ryan

SSVP Advent Activities 2024

Help Bring Joy to our Neighbours in Need this Christmas.

Angel Tree – donate Toys for children aged 2-12 *or* Gift Cards for Mary's Home,

an SSVP-run emergency shelter.



Donate to SSVP to give needy families extra food cards for Christmas.

** Please ensure donations and toys are received at church or in the office by Sunday, December 8th. Thank you for supporting these initiatives!

2025 BOXED ENVELOPES AND PAG BUNDLES



Parishioners who had a box of offertory envelopes in 2024 can pick up their box for 2025 as of the December 14/15 weekend in the Millwood lobby. Your donor number

will remain the same for the coming year.

Should you wish to explore the convenience of preauthorized giving once a month by credit or debit, please let the parish office know by Friday, December 13th. Monthly offertory support can be arranged through the parish office (automatic debit in the amount of your choosing) or through a secure online portal (credit or debit) at <u>https://stanselmsto.archtoronto.org</u>

Due to the Canada Post strike that was still ongoing at the time this bulletin went to print, and considering the backlog that will exist when the strike does end, PAG users may pick up their envelopes from the Millwood lobby beginning on December 14/15. Unclaimed PAG envelopes will be mailed after Christmas.

JOIN US NEXT WEEKEND FOR COFFEE SUNDAY

All are welcome in the Millwood lobby next **Sunday**, **December 8th after the 11am Mass** for Coffee Sunday. Thank you to Pablo for organizing this gathering.

CASSEROLES

Group B casseroles for the Good Shepherd Provide-A-Meal program will be collected Saturday, **December 21**st from 4-5pm in the church parking lot.

The parish casserole program is an essential part of the good work done at GSM – they experience a sharp rise in those seeking a hot meal as the days get shorter and the temperatures drop. Please consider joining our "casserole chefs" in the parish by contacting Yvonne at <u>yvonne.gray@bell.net</u> or the parish office.



"O God of Love, teach us to care for this world, our common home. Inspire government leaders around the world to listen to and heed the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Let them be united in heart and mind in responding courageously. May they seek the common good and protect the beautiful earthly garden you have created for us, for all our brothers and sisters for all generations to come. AMEN" (Prayer, Archdiocese of Toronto) **REMINDER: COME AND CELEBRATE** Please join Father Tom and EcoAnselm in a special evening mass being offered This WED., DEC. 04 at 7:00 p.m. in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of "The Ecology Group". Join us as we pray for peace and give thanks for the glory of God's creation. Mass will be followed by a small celebration hosted by EcoAnselm. We would love you to share in this special evening as we invite the Holy Spirit to quide our continuing efforts on behalf of our common home.

HAVE YOU MOVED? LET US KNOW!

Accurate parish database records are important for record-keeping as well as for keeping in touch. If you have moved, changed email addresses or phone numbers, please take a moment before the end of the year and let us know so that we may update our records. *New to St. Anselm's Parish*? We invite you to register with us by completing a green parish registration card from the glass table at the entrance to the church.

<u>CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD</u> returns on Sunday, January 12th during the 11:00am Mass. Thank you to Fernanda and her helpers for a great program this fall. See you in the New Year!

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 "To you, O Lord, I lift my soul."



On this First Sunday of Advent, Catholics throughout the world are invited to sing this same psalm refrain. Do we mean it? As we prepare for Jesus' Second Coming and prepare to celebrate the

Incarnation, are we willing to dare to lift our soul, our very selves, in dialogue with God? Are we willing to look at our Earth from the divine perspective? Often, our prayers sound like a "honey do" list telling God what should be on the divine agenda for the coming days. How often do we participate attentively in the liturgy's prayer of the faithful? Even if we're not totally oblivious, many of us still need a good dose of Jesus' admonition, "Beware! Do not let your hearts become drowsy!" Scripture leads us to discover that prayer is like a boomerang. We launch it only to have it come back at us. When Jesus told people that their faith had saved them, he was saying that God works through us, never replacing human effort nor overriding our freedom. Grace is a collaborative affair. Genuine prayer implies that we are ready to do our part to bring about what we ask God to accomplish.

Back to the phrase, "To you, Lord, I lift my soul." If we awaken our hearts and listen to the power of these words, we might get the message that praying is supposed to lure us to boldly go where we have never gone before. Praying, "To you, O Lord, I lift my soul" positions us for flight from everything trivial and egocentric. These words proclaim our readiness to be moved beyond the wishful and limited horizon of our own concerns into a space that offers new perspectives. We have to travel beyond ourselves to understand and long for what prophets proclaim - "New days are coming!" Jeremiah wrote the message we hear today for people who admitted that their lack of faithfulness had nearly destroyed them. They were desperate for help as they tried to rebuild themselves after exile. Jeremiah promised

that God would raise up prophets and rulers to lead them into justice. Jesus proclaimed a similar message, assuring people that the time of their tribulation could also be the time of their salvation. Pope Francis has told all of humanity that God still offers a new day, a time characterized by justice and reverence for Earth and all her creatures. Jeremiah, Jesus and Francis have united to prod us to lift up our soul and awaken to our moment. Jesus told his disciples - including us - that when the nations are in dismay and even nature seems a traitor to life, redemption is right around the corner. When he said, "the powers of the heavens will be shaken," might he have been describing the death of our comfortable false gods? It can come to pass that everything we once believed will appear inadequate. When all of that happens, Jesus says, "Stand erect! Raise your head! Your redemption is at hand!" This does not sound exactly like good news. Yet isn't the whole of the Gospel a promise of unanticipated and unimaginable transformations? Isn't the Gospel a call to turn our perspectives inside out? Just after announcing redemption in the midst of tragedy and disorientation, Jesus tells us, "Do not let your hearts grow drowsy." Doesn't that sound like a warning to shun the attitude of "it is what it is"? Isn't Jesus asking us to feel it all with him and to let him work through us by putting God's saving love into action? Isn't he telling us that when we see tragedy, innocent suffering or a profusion of lies, our task is to pray for the strength to be signs of hope, witnesses to the fact evil will never triumph over good? Isn't he telling us that complacency will smother God's dream in our hearts?

As we begin Advent, perhaps we should reverse conventional thinking and consider that God is waiting for us more than we for God. Maybe God is waiting for us to allow grace to open and strengthen our hearts and minds. Maybe God is waiting for us to exercise the faith we need to pass through days of terrifying uncertainty and learn to believe in and love God who is bigger and different from what we expect. Maybe Advent is all about discovering God waiting for us to perceive the "day of the Lord." It is at hand if only we will allow ourselves to see it and live it.

Advent is the season of hope.

