

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3

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

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 10th, 8:15 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of the St. Anselm's CWL
Requested by a Parishioner

Wednesday, December 11th, 8:15 a.m.

For the Intentions of Emma Garnett
Requested by the Family

Thursday, December 12th, 8:15 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of the Ford, Dyer and
Ashmeade Families
Requested by Barbara Ford

Friday, December 13th, 8:15 a.m.

For Peace and Care of Creation
Requested by EcoAnselm

SSVP Advent Activities 2024

Thank you for your support of this year's St. Vincent de Paul Christmas initiatives. Please be reminded that toys (with the angel attached) and donations for family to family are due back this weekend (December 8th).

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 pre-authorized 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

<https://stanselmsto.archtoronto.org>

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.

CASSEROLES

Group B casseroles for the Good Shepherd Provide-A-Meal program will be collected Saturday, **December 21st** from 4-5pm in the church parking lot. Please call the parish office or email yvonne.gray@bell.net for other drop off arrangements. Thank you to our casserole chefs!



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. Let us intentionally and prayerfully discern together do-able ways to reduce our eco-footprint. In pre-Christmas planning with family members, friends, schoolmates, co-parishioners or co-workers, include discussions of eco-protective practices that support joyful celebrations of Christmas while doing no harm to our common home. **Practical ideas:** When driving for errands, plan routes that will avoid unnecessary emissions. In your holiday feasting, include vegetarian and/or vegan options. Select soy, honey or beeswax candles. Re-use, recycle, repurpose Christmas décor and gift-wrapping items. *Prior to Christmas*, donate gently-used, good-condition decorations and seasonal tableware to shelters, thrift stores or any Value Village <https://www.valuevillage.ca>

EcoAnselm offers HEARTFELT THANKS to Father Tom, Barrig, Jun, Goody Cabral and ALL who supported us in celebrating the tenth anniversary of our inauguration as a ministry of ecology for Saint Anselm parish. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our efforts on behalf of all creation.

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.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE SUNDAY

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

In addition to celebrating Advent with your fellow parishioners, please take a moment to wish our pastor, **Fr. Tom**, a **VERY happy 45th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood (December 8, 1979).**

Fr. Tom, we are so grateful for your dedication to your priestly ministry and your faithful care for the parishioners in this community.

Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126
Phil 1:3-6, 8-11 Luke 3:1-6

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD



Wherever construction or demolition is taking place, there is often a crowd of onlookers whose curiosity has drawn them to the site. They look on, usually silently, as gigantic machines haul debris away while other heavy equipment carries all the supplies that will eventually become a new edifice.

They look on as roads are paved and lines are drawn to ensure the safety of future travellers. They look on as bumps are smoothed and sharp curves are rendered less dangerous. Verna A. Holyhead suggests that we might think of Advent, particularly this Second Sunday, as “the season of Christian ‘road works,’ with John the Baptist as our overseer” (*With Burning Hearts*, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minn.: 2006). Through John, all of us together are challenged to make straight the paths that should lead us to God. “What are the potholes in our discipleship?” asks Holyhead. What are those sins of omission that stand between us and God? Are we guilty of “road rage toward our sisters and brothers as we try to follow the way of the gospel?” We are urged every day - and particularly as we prepare to welcome the Lord more fully into our lives - not to be mere onlookers at a construction site but to be active participants in smoothing and preparing the way that will lead us to God.

In today’s first reading, we see that the prophet Baruch issued a similar invitation to his contemporaries. He would have them let go of their mourning and misery as one would shed widow’s weeds after a period of grief and loss. Allow God to clothe you in glory and justice, he urged. Then, with a reverent nod to Isaiah, Baruch, as John the Baptizer would do after him, shared a vision of lofty mountains being made low and age-old depths and gorges being filled to level ground ... all so that Israel might find its way home to God. As we consider the seemingly monumental effort described by Baruch and the Baptizer, we might become discouraged or overwhelmed. But we need only look to Paul, in the second reading today, to regain our equilibrium and stay on task. Paul reminds us that we are never alone or unequipped for the challenges of discipleship. God has begun this good work in us and will see it to fulfillment. It is God and God’s grace that will enable us to prepare the way of the Lord, straighten what has become crooked and level

the molehills that may have morphed into mountains. Paul’s love for the believers in Philippi is evident in his correspondence; he longed to be with them and held deep affection for them. Surely Paul never thought that his words would become part of a testament to which generations of believers would turn for inspiration, guidance and encouragement. But so they have, and because of the living nature of the sacred texts, we might be so bold as to believe that the love Paul expressed for the Philippians he also holds for us. That love bolsters our efforts as we prepare to welcome our ever-present Lord by welcoming and caring for those God has put on our way.

To remind each of us of the urgency of these preparations, we might take a page from the life of author Stephen King. In a commencement address he gave at Vassar College in 2001, King appealed to the graduates to use the time they had wisely. He suggested: Rather than devote your lives to acquiring wealth, which is here today and gone tomorrow, why not make your wealth and your lives one long gift to others? After all, everything we have is on loan anyway. All that lasts is what you pass on. We come into this world naked and broken, said King. We may be dressed when we go out, but we’re still broke. Then King shared an event in his life that served as a “wake-up call.” One afternoon in June 1999, while walking down Route 5 in Lovell, Maine, King was hit from behind by a car and tossed 14 feet into a ditch. He had multiple injuries, and, as he lay there covered with blood and mud, looking at his broken right tibia protruding from his jeans, he said he realized that the MasterCard in his wallet was of no use to him at that moment. Only the compassion of a deputy who came upon the scene and ministered to his needs saved him. Money, fame, future - none of these could compare to the caring of another human being. Isn’t that why we are here? While King is primarily known for writing frightening stories, his speech that day at Vassar revealed a compassion that challenges each of us. As Christians, we are challenged to prepare the way of the Lord by helping others make their way through life more easily. Since we cannot take it with us, why not give generously of our treasure as well as our time and talent while we can.

ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, the Advent Week of Confessions will take place at various parishes from December 15-21.

At St. Anselm, our Day of Confessions will be **Tuesday, December 17th**. Confessions will be heard at:

9:30-10:30am; 2:00-3:00pm; 5:00-6:00pm

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

CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

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