

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 17th, 8:15 a.m.

Jo Kostovcik

Requested by Mel Kostovcik

Wednesday, December 18th, 8:15 a.m.

Dae Hyun Chung

Requested by Angela Oh

Thursday, December 19th, 8:15 a.m.

For the Deceased Members of the Aust Family

Friday, December 20th, 8:15 a.m.

Iona D'Silva

Requested by Christopher, Aubrey & Melanie D'Silva

2025 BOXED ENVELOPES AND PAG BUNDLES

Parishioners who had a box of offertory envelopes in 2024 can pick up their box for 2025 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 next 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!

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.



GUIDE FOR A GREEN CHRISTMAS

"Gift-Giving and Gift-Wrapping"

"Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little." (Pope Francis)

Give your family and friends the essential gift of a sustainable future. Be creative; have fun, think GREEN. Make by hand & give from the heart. When possible, shop locally & purchase locally-made and/or locally-sourced goods and organic materials. Support Canadian artisans and crafts persons. Support fair-trade products and practices.

AVOID gift-wrapping that is glossy, metallic, or artificially sparkly. Wrap a kitchen gadget, a favourite sauce or a vegan cookbook in a seasonal organic-cotton tea cloth. Use locally-made scarves, mitts or socks to wrap surprises. Up-cycle by using favourite greeting cards from last year to create new personalized gift tags this year.

Prepare thoughtful coupons that your recipient can claim for tasks, errands, or any kind deed she or he would value. Dedicate gifts (practical or monetary) of support for a charity that holds significance for your recipient, e.g. Saint Anselm's Society for Saint Vincent de Paul (toys for children or funds for Mary's Home).

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

**** Any donations received up to 4pm on Tuesday, December 31st will be credited toward your 2024 tax receipt. Donations received after 4pm on December 31st, (including at the 5pm Vigil Mass that evening) will be considered 2025 donations. In accordance with CRA regulations, donations submitted by Canada Post must be postmarked by Canada Post by December 31, 2024 to be eligible for a 2024 tax receipt. Thank you for your support of the parish. ****

ADVENT WEEK OF CONFESSIONS Dec 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 MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 28th

5:00pm

Sunday, December 29th

9:00am

11:00am

Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31st

5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1st

11:00 a.m.

**** There is no 8:15am morning Mass
on December 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st & January 1st**

Zeph 3:14-18 Isa 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Phil 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18

Rejoice in the Lord Always

As Advent wends its way to its annual goal, the unique spirituality of this holy season is reflected and celebrated in the songs, hymns and sacred texts that inspire and accompany our journey. These ancient witnesses urge us to be joyful because God is in our midst. The psalmist calls us to be thankful as, with wonder, we consider the marvelous deeds God has wrought. These deeds, these blessed comings punctuate every moment of human history for those who, in faith, are attentive to the will and the ways of God. Rather than succumb to anxiety regarding a future that has yet to be revealed, we listen to Paul, who bids us allow the peace of God to guard our hearts and minds. "Wake up!" we are told. "Be ready!" "Live in a state of continuous preparedness for the God who comes." Even though there is a sobering ominousness regarding the coming of the Lord, believers should not allow fear to frustrate their hopes. Nor should those clueless predictors of the end time frighten us to the point that we dread the appearance of God and tremble in paranoia at every big and little misinterpreted "sign" purported to be a signal of the end. When asked about her thoughts on Advent, author and poet Madeleine L'Engle suggested that we have to live in wonder during Advent: wonder at Christ, Second Person of the Trinity, Maker of the universe or perhaps many universes, willingly and lovingly leaving all that power in order to come and live with us on this sin-filled planet for a few years to show us what we ought to be and can be ... to show us what it means to be made in God's image. (*Bright Evening Star*, Water Brook Press,



Colorado Springs: 1997). Even secular signs and symbols of the season stir expectant longing for a better time, an era of peace and plenty that will erase the memories of want and discouragement. Calendars and special displays and rituals stir the hearts of those who hope and trust that a better day is dawning, a new day that will dispel every darkness. Decorations, lights and colourful displays celebrate not only Jesus, Mary and Joseph, shepherds and the magi from the east but also the familiar figures of Santa, Frosty, Rudolph and a reindeer-driven sleigh that can maneuver through all the time zones of the world with ease. How's that for universal hope? While these annually recurring phenomena help to create the Advent ambience of joy and anticipation, there are other texts and messages that urge believers to shift their focus from the far-off to the *now* of Christian involvement with the coming Christ. This involvement has been initiated by the risen Christ who stands at the door of our hearts and knocks. He it is who bids us open wide the gates of our lives to welcome those through whom he has chosen to reveal himself. At that final coming, Jesus will invite, "Come, you blessed ... I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink." When these words of Jesus are met with surprise, misunderstanding and the question, "When and where did we see you and care for you?"... the response of Jesus is even more astonishing: "What you did for God's least ones, you did for me."

"You did it for me!" If we can truly wrap our minds around this profound truth, if we can set aside prejudice, excessive practicality, logic and the penchant for judging the worthiness of others, if we can simply take Jesus at his word and serve him in the poor and the powerless, then we will have truly grasped the message of Advent. He comes! He is already here in a thousand comings, each of which is an opportunity for communion. Christ knocks. Can you hear? Will you open to him? Can you grasp what it means to be so frighteningly free that we are, by God's will and design, capable of refusing God a welcome? But this frightening thought is true. Every time we refuse to see beyond the pall of dirt, shame, sickness, poverty and homelessness over those whom God puts on our way, we refuse God. That fact should shake us to our very foundation. The idea that we might refuse God should see us whipping open our doors to welcome the needy and to honour them with our love and service. Jesus comes. Let us offer him a welcome.

Did you know...What is Gaudete Sunday?

"Brothers and sisters: rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice." St. Paul

commands this in the Second Reading. The word for rejoice in Latin is gaudete, so quite naturally this Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday. Why all this exultation? Are we finally getting a break from the somberness of Advent? Yes, but there is more to it than that. Remember that Advent is like a retreat that the worldwide Church is making. In this upcoming third week we will consider our lives in the context of the great beauty God has put in us and around us. Can you think this way? What does this mean to you? For the church, that we may experience joy through recognizing God with us each day and be instruments in helping others become aware of God's work in their lives... We pray... Our God will come to save us.

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