

# THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

21 Simonston Blvd.  
Thornhill, ON L3T 4R6  
905-881-1534

**Pastor**  
Rev. Anthony Iacobelli

**Deacons:** Michael Gennaro  
James Shaughnessy

## **Celebration of The Eucharist**

Saturday: 4:30 pm  
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am  
Thursday: 12:00 noon

**Eucharistic Adoration** (First Friday - following the 8:30 am Mass and closing with Solemn Benediction at 12:00 noon)

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday: 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  
Or by appointment.

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

Second Sunday of the Month  
By appointment only.

## **Sacrament of Marriage**

By appointment only - Contact the pastor at least one year in advance.  
An approved preparation course is mandatory.

## **Parish Schools**

St. Michael Catholic Academy 905-889-4816

For more information on Catholic education in our community, or to reach your local school board trustee, contact the Toronto Catholic District School Board at 416-222-8282 or [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) or the York Catholic District School Board 905-713-1211 or [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca)

email: [gspadmin@bellnet.ca](mailto:gspadmin@bellnet.ca)

website: [goodshepherdth.archtoronto.org](http://goodshepherdth.archtoronto.org)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 23/24  
NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 25**



**December 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>**

Tues. 8:30 am—Joseph Brennan  
✠

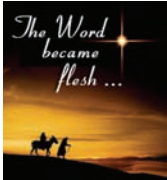
Wed. 8:30 am—Iride Zanconato ✠

Thurs. 12:00 pm (Noon)—Irene Coschizza (Sp. Int.)

Fri. 8:30 am – Philomene Trindade ✠

Sat. 4:30 pm – Cheung family (Thanksgiving)

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



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 15-17, 21

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 11-19

Gospel: Luke 2, 22-40

**3 HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION  
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED**

The first precept (“You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.”) requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.

– *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2042*  
[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

*Christmas Eve/Christmas Day  
Holy Obligation*

*Eve: Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and 10pm  
(Carolling begins at 9:30pm)*

*Day: Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am and  
11am*

*Holy Family - Holy Obligation*

*Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm*

*Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 9am and 11am*

*New Year's Eve/New Year's Day  
Holy Obligation*

*Eve: Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm*

*Day: Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am and 11am*

**FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN:**

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> (Boxing Day)**

Please take note, Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT**



What is announced to Mary in today’s Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today’s Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (Ephesians

1:9; 3:3–9).

Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (Isaiah 7:13–14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible. Mary is hailed as the daughter Jerusalem, called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14–17). The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of “the Most High”—an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (Genesis 14:18–19).

He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today’s First Reading. As we sing in today’s Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God, “my Father.” As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end.

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today, to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too, must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience—that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

— Scott Hahn

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: THANK YOU!**



Thank you to everyone who donated Frozen Casseroles and money for “Protein for the Poor.” The Good Shepherd Centre is grateful for the support provided by our parishioners. Your help supports seniors, people living on disability payments, people earning minimum wage, and homeless men and women.



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# Merry Christmas



“Mary gave birth to her first-born son, Jesus, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the Inn where travellers lodged.”

This familiar verse of the Gospel Christmas narrative has great meaning for us all. At Good Shepherd Parish, we have, in fact, a home for Jesus, Mary and Joseph to dwell. Like the three magi, we have offered and continue to offer our gifts of time, talent and treasure to make this a loving home. Like the star that announced the birth of our Saviour and guided many to see Him, our Church with the cross out front, continues to do the same. Within our church, at each Mass, we too will hear the angels sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.”

Most importantly, Christ comes again to do the same in our hearts this Christmas. We must open the doors of our souls to welcome Him. To live each day in the presence of Christ gives true love, peace and joy.

As your pastor, I have been blessed to witness the presence of Christ in our parish through the dedication, sacrifices and hard work of so many parishioners. I am very grateful for the many who serve in ministry as Lectors, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers, Religious Education teachers and aides, Musicians and Choir Members, Altar Society, Decorators, and those who build-up our community – the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women’s League, Legion of Mary, Youth Ministry, and all who give of their time and talents in any other capacity.

On behalf of all the staff of the Church of the Good Shepherd, I wish each of you a blessed and Joyous Christmas and New Year! Please be assured of my prayers for your intentions and a remembrance at Holy Mass.

May God bless you.

*Father Anthony*



# MERRY Christmas



*If you look for Me At Christmas*

*You won't need a special star  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of Me  
Amid the celebrations  
You'll have to look beyond the stores  
And all the decorations.  
But if you take a moment  
From your list of things to do  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.  
You're the one I want to be with,  
You're the reason that I came,  
And you'll find Me in the stillness  
As I'm whispering your name.*

*Love,  
Jesus*



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and he who abides in love  
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and God abides in him.

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