



# 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 School**

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)

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 16, 2018



Dec 18<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Tues. 8:30 am - Kevin D'Mello †  
Wed. 8:30 am - Ellen Jane Lee †  
Thurs. Noon - Winston & Effie  
Ferguson †  
Fri. 8:30 am - Deceased Members of Chan &  
Wong Family †  
Sat. 4:30 pm - Flory Chin †

## READINGS FOR – December 23<sup>rd</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Micah 5.2-5a  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 10.5-10  
Gospel: Luke 1.39-45

## THE WORD THIS WEEK



*"John's baptism, where did it come from?"*

This Sunday is called "Rejoice Sunday". This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do - they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us.

We are eager to celebrate an event that changed everything and gave all people new hope. Advent is about preparing for Christ's coming. We must renew our commitment as Christians to reach out to others, especially the most vulnerable and to let our "gentleness be known to everyone."

## 4 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)

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Holy Obligation*  
*Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30pm*  
*Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9am and 11am*

*Christmas Eve/Christmas Day*  
*Holy Obligation*  
*Eve: Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and 10pm*  
*(Carolling begins at 9:30pm)*  
*Day: Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am and 11am*

*Holy Family - Holy Obligation*  
*Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm*  
*Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 9am and 11am*

*Mary, The Holy Mother of God*  
*Holy Obligation*  
*Eve: Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm*  
*Day: Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am and 11am*



## THE ROSARY

Advent Celebrations include the Rosary being recited each Saturday at 4:10 p.m. before Mass. Praying the rosary brings many graces into our lives. We invite all parishioners to participate.

**FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN (Boxing Day)**  
**Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. (Office is closed on this day.)

## DISPOSING OF SUNDAY MISSALS

The Word of God is to be disposed of properly since it is through God's word that the world was created. It is recommended that 2018 Sunday missals and *Living with Christ* monthly missals be burned and the ashes buried, ideally in a sacred place.



## OFFERTORY ENVELOPES



Please pick up your envelopes. A reminder for those who are currently using the PAG program that a set has also been issued for you which contains the special occasion envelopes.

## CWL ANNUAL WINE & CHEESE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Ladies of the CWL are invited to our annual Wine & Cheese Christmas Social (Meeting) on Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning with Mass at 7:00 pm. Please bring a wrapped gift, value between \$5 and \$10, for our gift exchange.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PROTEIN FOR THE POOR



During Advent, the Knights of Columbus will be accepting donations with their annual "PROTEIN FOR THE POOR." Donations will go to the Good Shepherd Centre which provides food, clothing, and shelter for many of Toronto's homeless men. Please help alleviate their suffering.

Congratulations to all the participants of our annual Christmas Pageant and Concert! It was a beautiful event that helped us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. A special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped out. Thank you to Eugenie and Kiana Landry for organizing and directing the pageant.



## Youth Awards Program

The CWL Youth Awards Program is a combination of contests which are intended to support Catholic Youth to hone their skills in becoming people of faith dedicated to following the footsteps of Christ to serve God and Canada. These contests are good confidence builders for the students and an opportunity for them to share their views and values on important Catholic teachings. This program continues to be a major focus across the Toronto Diocese through the Catholic Women's League Committee. For more information and to enter the contest please contact **CATHERINE GER** at **416-904-7949** or [catherine.ger@outlook.com](mailto:catherine.ger@outlook.com). Good Shepherd Parish contest for "Mary Matthews Public Speaking" will be held on Sun., Jan. 20, 2019 after 11:00 a.m. Mass. Registrations need to be received by Jan. 13, 2019.

## ADVENT CHALLENGE

We are asking our parishioners to complete one act of kindness each day during Advent.

## MERCY FROM THE MANGER



Third Sunday in Advent

"The salvation which God offers us is the work of his mercy. No human efforts, however good they may be, can enable us to merit so great a gift. God, by His sheer grace, draws us to Him and makes us one with Him. All of us are being sought out by the Teacher, who wants to help us resume our journey. The Lord goes in search of us; to all of us he stretches out a helping hand."

*Pope Francis*

"Father, your mercy is boundless. Thank you for looking for me and bringing me home no matter how attractive I may find the temptations of the evil one. Thank you for the warmth and love you always show me, no matter how I might try to push you away or ignore you. Even in those times when I succumb to the forces that seek to lead me astray, I know that your warmth and love remain with me. Help me to be quick to offer my heart and soul, full of trust in your forgiveness, in response to your outstretched hand. Amen." (Prayer by Melanie Rigney)



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