



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 or the York Catholic District School Board 905-713-1211 or www.ycdsb.ca

email: gspadmin@bellnet.ca

website: goodshepherdth.archtoronto.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 22 & 23, 2018

NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 25

Dec 26th to Dec. 29th

Wed. 8:30 am - Joseph Brennan †

Thurs. Noon - In Thanksgiving
Cheung Family

Fri. 8:30 am - Agnes Theresa Lee †

Sat. 4:30 pm - Hyacinth Todd †



READINGS FOR – December 30th

1st Reading: Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14

2nd Reading: Colossians 3.12-21

Gospel: Luke 2.41-52

THE WORD THIS WEEK

"Listen! You are to conceive and bear a Son"



It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the Christmas story itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when He comes. Now we prepare to remember how He first came, by listening to the prophecies of His coming, and by hearing of the events before His birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as He leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.

Advent is all about deeply living this exciting time of expectation, a precious time to prepare for sharing. We have to remember that it was the Divine who initiated this sharing in that first Feast of the Incarnation, sending his Son to be the Saviour that our lives yearn for most. Emmanuel – "God is with us!" Can we open our hearts to see the signs that "God is with Us" today?

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

December 26th (Boxing Day - Office Closed)

Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday at 8:30 am.

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

4th Sunday of Advent - Holy Obligation

Saturday, December 22nd at 4:30pm

Sunday, December 23rd at 9am and 11am

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day

Holy Obligation

Eve: Monday, December 24th at 7pm and 10pm

(Carolling begins at 9:30pm)

Day: Tuesday, December 25th at 9am and 11am

Holy Family - Holy Obligation

Saturday, December 29th at 4:30pm

Sunday, December 30th at 9am and 11am

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Obligation

Eve: Monday, December 31st at 4:30pm

Day: Tuesday, January 1st at 9am and 11am

THE ROSARY

As part of our Advent Celebrations, the Rosary is being recited each Saturday at 4:10 pm before Mass. Praying the rosary brings many graces into our lives. We invite all parishioners to participate.





I was hungry...



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PROTEIN FOR THE POOR

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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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

Peace on Earth



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 Deacon's Michael and James and Ornella, 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



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