



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 21 & 22, 2019

NATIVITY OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 25

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK Dec. 24th – Dec. 28th



Tues. 8:30 am – Brian Kelly †
Thurs. Noon – In Thanksgiving
Cheung Family

Fri. 8:30 am – John Fung †

Sat. 4:30 pm – Hyacinth Todd †

READINGS FOR – December 29th

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

2nd Reading: Colossians 3.12.21

Gospel: Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23



FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

December 26th (Boxing Day - Office Closed)

Please Note Correction for Time

Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at 12:00 noon.

*“Jesus is born of Mary
who was betrothed to
Joseph, son of David”
Making Room for Jesus*



As Christmas fast approaches and Advent is drawing to a close, let us remind ourselves of the importance of this liturgical season. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas as well as His final coming at the end of time. However, the greatest Saints of the church also speak of an intermediary coming, the coming of Christ to our present lives. Let us take a moment to ask ourselves, if the Lord showed up in our life today, would there be room for Him?

As stewards, we often face the temptation to let our works of charity become a life of volunteering instead of a spirituality of service. Our many works may begin to take precedence over our relationship with Christ which should always remain as the source of our stewardship. This Advent, as we are waiting for Christ, Christ is also waiting for us. Jesus says in the Book of Revelation, “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you.” (Revelation 3:20) He is waiting for us to open the door and let Him in.

We can let Him into our lives as stewards by realizing it is not ourselves ministering to our neighbour, but the love and presence of Christ within us. St. Teresa of Calcutta says it best when she proclaims that, “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand.” St. Teresa of Calcutta fully embodies the spirit of stewardship that makes room for Christ to love others through her. Let us strive to let Jesus into our lives as we approach Christmas.

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

Sat., Dec. 21st at 4:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 22nd at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day

Holy Obligation

Tues., Dec. 24th at 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

(Carolling begins at 9:30 p.m.)

Wed., Dec. 25th at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Holy Family - Holy Obligation

Sat., Dec. 28th at 4:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 29th at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Obligation

Tues., Dec. 31st at 4:30 p.m.

Wed., January 1st at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



My Dearly Beloved in Christ,
With deep joy and gratitude, I extend to you my prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas. During this Advent Season, it has been my prayer that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your own faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, whether we realize it or not, our ultimate desire is Jesus Himself, for this reason, we are filled with joy and consolation at Christmas to know that all that we hoped for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child.

In the midst of all our current challenges and concerns, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!" We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in our lives.

Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits and begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church community. Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate together God's presence in our lives and His dominion over all things of this world.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved Good Shepherd Parish always.



On behalf of Deacons 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

2020 Youth Awards Program

For the Education component of Catholic Women's League of Canada Education and Health Committee, the 2020 Youth Awards Program is comprised for Grades 7 through 12 with the following contests:



- Mary Matthews Public Speaking for Grades 7 & 8
- Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay and Poetry for Grades 7 through 12
- Jean McCann Youth Service Award for ages 15 to 18
- St. Michael's College Scholarship for Grade 12 females only

All registrations must be received by January, 20, 2020. Good Shepherd Parish contest for "Mary Matthews Public Speaking" will be held on Sun., Jan. 26, 2020 after 11:00 a.m. Mass. For information and to receive contest package, please email catherine.ger@outlook.com

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.

TORONTO SERRA CLUBS

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife ... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Arch. of Toronto at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org

Merry Christmas



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and God abides in him.**

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