



# 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)

# BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 10, 2021



Jan 12<sup>th</sup> - Jan 16<sup>th</sup>

Tues. 8:30 am - Celina Sosa †

Wed. 8:30 am - Cecilia & Anthony Toscano †

Thurs. Noon - Michael Highdale †

Fri. 8:30 am - Vera & Lou Romano Sp. Int.

Sat. 4:30 pm - Cecilia Toscano †



## READINGS FOR – January 17<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Samuel 3.3b-10, 19

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 6.13c-15a, 17-20

Gospel: John 1.35-42

## OFFERTORY ENVELOPES



*Please print your name and address for the first few weeks so that we can update our records. Thank you.*

## TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for donations made between January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 will be available by the **end of February**. (Donations made on/after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 will count towards next year's tax receipt.) As per the Archdiocese, donations for Masses offered are not tax deductible.



## PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING



If you are currently signed up for the pre-authorized giving (PAG) plan please consider an increase in 2021. PAG is administered by the Archdiocese and donations to the church are taken directly from your bank account on a monthly basis. PAG saves time and administrative costs associated with processing donations. The PAG form is available in the foyer at the back of the church.



## SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

Dear Parishioners,

In order to assist in limiting the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to adhere to the regulations of the Government of Ontario during this state of emergency, all churches in the Archdiocese of Toronto have limited attendance capacity at this time.



At a time like this it can be uncomfortable to talk about giving. Our primary concern is the health and well-being of our parishioners. However, these difficult circumstances show just how important the offertory is to the life of our parishes. The reality is that our parishes rely on the support of their parishioners to operate – parish salaries, programs and ongoing operating costs (heating, water, electricity, etc.) are funded through the generosity of its parishioners. It will be a challenge for a parish to maintain operations without the usual weekly offertory collection.

If you are unable to attend Mass at this time, there are several ways you can continue to support your parish at this time:

- Drop off or mail your regular weekly offertory contribution to the parish office.
- Contribute through pre-authorized giving if your parish offers it. You can obtain a form from your parish office. Contributions are withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month.
- You can contribute to the offertory via on-line banking. To do this, we need to send you your unique account number. Please e-mail us at [campaign@archtoronto.org](mailto:campaign@archtoronto.org). In the body of the email provide us with your name, address, parish name and municipality. We will email you your account information which you can use to set up the Archdiocese of Toronto as a payee in your on-line banking. Your gift will be forwarded to your parish. You can make a one time or recurring gift to your offertory.

If you have any questions we'll be pleased to assist in our Development Office at the Arch. of Toronto, 416-934-3400, ext. 540.

## MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANTHONY

We want to thank all the parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish for their ongoing support during this period of great uncertainty. It has been wonderful to see so many of you at Mass since we re-opened in June. We are especially grateful to the volunteers who have helped ensure our church is a safe place to gather – they have done incredible work!

As you know, Premier Ford announced that emergency measures need to be taken in York Region. For this reason, as of Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, we must restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people, including priests hearing confessions or a staff member. Sadly, due to these measures, public Masses must be temporarily cancelled. I will continue to celebrate private Mass daily for the intentions of parishioners and for those suffering from Covid-19. Our church will remain open **TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY – 9:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.** for private prayer and for the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Weddings, funerals and baptisms will now be restricted to 10 persons, including those who are involved in ministry (priest, cantor, etc.). First Holy Communion and Confirmations will need to be postponed at this time.

I recognize the significant spiritual suffering that these restrictions have placed both upon our clergy and the faithful that look to us for guidance and direction. As we have demonstrated our ability to safely worship together, I trust that we will soon be able to fully resume public worship.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION JUNE 2021



Given pandemic restrictions, sacramental guidance for children in Grade 2 or older will be available on-line and, situation permitting, in-person sessions/retreats to support preparation. First Communion will be planned for Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> with additional dates depending on number of candidates and pandemic situation. Please contact Nisha Fernandes to receive the registration form at [nisha.fernandes@medportal.ca](mailto:nisha.fernandes@medportal.ca). Completed forms can be returned via email or dropped off to the parish office or collection basket along with a copy of baptismal certificate and payment of \$30.00 (cash/cheques) to cover costs. If you have any questions please contact Nisha by email or at 416-567-3626.

### THE WORD THIS WEEK

*"You are my son,  
the Beloved. My favour  
rests on you."*



It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all Gods promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved". On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

*Dear Parishioners,*

*On behalf of Deacon James, Deacon Michael and myself, I want to thank all of you for your many kindnesses over the past year, and especially during this Christmas Season. Your generosity, in so many ways, continues to be humbling and is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, there are too many of you to thank individually for all that you have given to us, both tangibly and spiritually. Please accept this note of appreciation as gratitude for all your varied gifts.*

*I am blessed to be your pastor and I thank God for allowing me to be so. Please continue to pray for the deacons and for me, and we will continue to pray for you. May you have a blessed 2021.*

*Father Anthony*

**Please note the office will be open Monday through Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for those needing administrative assistance.**

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