

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 21, 2021



Feb. 23rd - Feb. 27th

Tuesday -
Wednesday -
Thursday -
Friday -
Saturday - Gerry & Rita DeSouza †

READINGS FOR – February 28th

1st Reading: Genesis 22.1-2, 9-13, 15-18
2nd Reading: Romans 8.31b-35, 37++
Gospel: Mark 9.2-10



The Word This Week



"Jesus was tempted by Satan and the angels looked after Him."

We begin our Lenten journey at the decisive moment of the flood, when God establishes His first Covenant with man, in the person of Noah. Noah was saved from the waters, while we (as Saint Peter points out) are saved by the waters of Baptism. This is the Covenant we live in, thanks to Christ, who came to establish this "new and eternal Covenant in His blood". He is the only one who can do this, because He is without sin, despite "having been tempted in every way that we are".

Lent pours the grace of forgiveness into our world, needed individually and as a people. We need to know that God is bigger than any of our sins, wars, violence and hatred. God wants his kingdom to come now. Lent is our time of saying "yes" to partnership with God in saving the world from the effects of evil and sin.

Pray, read the gospel every day, do something good for another every day – this is the way to share in the saving love of God. Maybe we can ask what our Lent does for others rather than just what we are doing for Lent. It is a time for renewal, then it shows in love, forgiveness and care of others in our lives.

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 it 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. 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.



Parish Mass Live Stream

Sunday mass at the Good Shepherd Parish will be live streamed at 9:00 a.m. for your participation. Access is provided through the website under "News and Events". On the menu bar select "Parish Mass Videos" and follow the "View Parish Mass Videos" link. A video recording of the mass will also be available shortly after the completion of the mass.

We may pray this

Act of Spiritual Communion when we are not able to be physically present at Mass:

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself. If wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen"

CASSEROLE and SOCKS COLLECTION



There will be no designated handout date for empty casserole pans/lids. Please contact Frank Lamie (905-881-6051) or Ken Cornforth (905-889-9968) to make arrangements. You can also visit the office during business hours (Monday – Wednesday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm) to pick up pans. In addition to the frozen casseroles, much needed socks will also be collected on Saturday, February 20th between 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Your contributions help feed many in need during this very difficult time. Thank you to all who participate and support this worthy cause.



Lenten Prayers and Devotions

- Begin each morning with the prayer: "Lord, I offer you this day, and all that I think, and do and say."
- Attend daily Mass often as possible.
- Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.
- Make the Stations of the Cross at home or in parish celebration.
- Read Scripture for 10 minutes every day.
- Pray the Seven Penitential Psalms (Psalms 6, 31, 50, 101, 129 and 142)
- Spend some time in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Abstain from meat for an extra day or two each week.
- Listen to spiritual music or a spiritual speaker.
- Keep a Lenten journal with your spiritual insights, special intentions, people you want to pray for, hurts and disappointments that you want to offer up and progress reports on your Lenten resolutions.



Extending Our Embrace

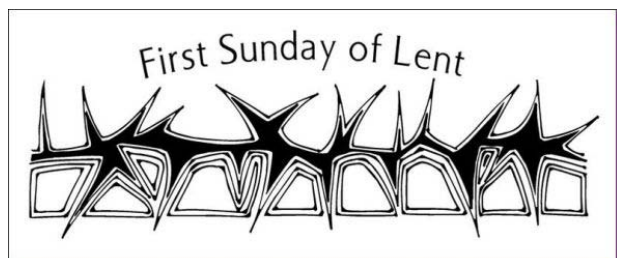
Wednesday, February 24, 2021

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

A VIRTUAL EVENT HOSTED BY THE OFFICE FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

The United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week initiative seeks to bring people together to increase respect and understanding among peoples of all faiths and beliefs. The past year has been very challenging for all of us. Yet in spite of the need for social distancing, there are many unsung heroes among our faith communities who have found ways of extending their embrace and compassion to the wider world. Now more than ever we need to broaden our embrace, especially to those who are suffering. **Extending Our Embrace** is a virtual event that features stories of people whose faith motivated them to extend their embrace. The stories will be interspersed with poems, music, dance, art and reflections from diverse faith traditions.

REGISTER: <http://bit.ly/ExtendingOurEmbrace>



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