

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 20, 2022



Feb. 22nd – Feb. 26th

Tues. 8:30 am – Veronica & Tommy Darbeau †

Wed. 8:30 am – Veronica Chau †

Thurs. Noon – Samuel Shing †

Fri. 8:30 am – Special Intention

Sat. 4:30 pm – Viray Family †

READINGS FOR – February 27th

1st Reading: Sirach 27.4-7

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15.54-58

Gospel: Luke 6.39-45



Preparing for Lent

Lent will be this wonderful season of grace for us if we give ourselves to it.

And, we will give ourselves to it to the degree we really want it badly.

So, in these days before Lent, we need to prepare our hearts. We need to prepare by realizing how much we want to grow in freedom, how much we need to lighten our spirits and experience some real joy, and how much some parts of our lives really need changing.

So, preparing our hearts is a process of preparing our desires. This means practicing our sense of anticipation. If we imagine Lent as an "ordeal" or a time to dread in some way, then we've already pre-disposed ourselves to not get very much out of it. These days before are a time to start anticipating something wonderful that is about to happen.



MARCH 2 2022

Masses will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. with Ash distribution at both.



THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FAMILY DAY MONDAY FEBRUARY 21

The Word This Week

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

What is compassion? What is love? And how do we live them out in our own age? These are the questions that spring from the Gospel today. In many ways this is the hardest teaching Jesus offers us, because it goes against so much of what the "modern world" would have us believe. Look at the first reading: David and Saul are enemies, and Saul is suddenly in David's power. The logic of the modern world would say, "Strike while you can." But David chooses another path. He is compassionate. We can all think of times when we were in a position to take revenge or score a victory over someone. Our measure of our faith is whether or not we were compassionate - especially with our enemies - as Jesus taught us.



To live and love this way can be difficult. It may be easier to see those who hurt ourselves or others as selfish or as intentionally harmful. Yet, that outlook fosters alienation and isolation instead of community and connection. The key is learning the discipline of remembering that you share divine life. Difficult as it may seem; nonetheless if we want to be free from the enslavement of hatred and negative emotions, we have to follow what Jesus is telling us. It's only through forgiveness that we would be free from hatred. It's only through the way of love that we could become true followers of Jesus. There's no other way but the way of love and forgiveness. Then the challenge that Jesus offers – to love my enemies – is not so impossible for you to try to meet. You can meet it because you trust in God who lives in you.





TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for donations made between January 1st - December 31st, 2021 have been mailed out. Please contact the office if you have any concerns/questions regarding your receipts. As per the Archdiocese, donations for Masses offered are not tax deductible.



Bereavement Support Group Virtual Sessions

If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, the Office of Formation for Discipleship is sponsoring Bereavement Support Group Sessions on Tuesdays from March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2022 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 p.m. Grieving with Great HOPE is a Catholic faith-based program that consists of a five-week grief support workshop using a video-on-demand format available on Formed. There is no cost to attend, but online registration is required.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/BS-RegisterMar2022> by February 22, 2022.

CONTACT: Sally Amaral at samaral@archtoronto.org or 416-934-3400, ext. 518.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience

March 25 09:00 AM - March 27 05:00 PM

Virtual

Where are you in your marriage journey? Every marriage could use a boost. Learn easy-to-use communication tools to help enhance your relationship. Our proven program will guide you through practical and private exercises to refresh your wedding vows and to spark up your romance. Based on Catholic values, but married couples of all faiths are welcome. Are you ready to rediscover each other?

CONTACT: Gerard & Marge, 905-792-1925

gerard.marge@rogers.com

WEBSITE: wwme.org

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 Archdiocese of Toronto, 416-934-3400, ext. 540.

Please take time to check out our Bulletin Board for some upcoming events and programs available for our parishioners.

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