



# 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: [GoodShepherdTH@archtoronto.org](mailto:GoodShepherdTH@archtoronto.org) website: [goodshepherdth.archtoronto.org](http://goodshepherdth.archtoronto.org)

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DEC. 3, 2023



**Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**

Tues. 8:30 a.m. – Manuel D'Souza †

Wed. 8:30 a.m. – Pietro Mollicone †

Thurs. Noon – Francis Kwong †

Fri. 8:30 a.m. – Helen D'Souza Sp. Int.

Sat. 4:30 p.m. – J.&S. Lee Family Sp. Int.

**READINGS FOR – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Peter 3.8-14

Gospel: Mark 1.1-8



**ADVENT TAIZÉ  
PRAYER SERVICE  
Tuesday December  
5<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm.**

As we prepare for Advent, join us for an ecumenical Taizé prayer experience to encounter silence and God's presence that welcomes deeper hope and healing.

**FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN  
MARY  
December 8<sup>th</sup>**



The ladies of the CWL are most grateful to all of our parishioners who so generously supported our Christmas Bazaar. It was very successful in so many ways but most especially that we had the opportunity to spend time together. All proceeds will go to charities that the CWL is actively involved with. We extend our blessings for a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

## THE WORD THIS WEEK

***"What I say to you I say to all:  
Keep Awake."***

On the First Sunday of Advent, we as a Church enter a precious period of in-betweenness. It is a time of expectancy and longing, bated breath and watchful waiting. It is a time that calls us to explicitly reflect on the peculiarity of our position: our Lord has already come and we wait for Him to come again. We return to the stories leading up to His birth each year, knowing that we are living in a kind of "already/not yet." We know our beloved and still we yearn to see His face.

In the Gospel today we are called to be watchful: "You do not know when the time will come"; "Beware, keep alert"; "Keep awake." These insistent passages call us to be attentive in our every moment. When we are alert, we become attuned to the vibrancy of all that surrounds us; any movement could signal the arrival of the Lord.

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armor of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive. When we take our place with Him, on what Paul calls "the day of our Lord Jesus Christ," the seasons of Advent, past, present and future will pass, for time and seasons that now obey the voice of God, will be completed. This is a reminder that Advent is not just looking back at the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but our personal preparation for His Second Coming: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." At the end of time, there will be only one season of pure love.



**First Sunday of Advent**



## CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS COLLECTION FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting grocery store gift cards after each Mass until December 17<sup>th</sup>. For those who are not able to purchase gift cards your cash donation will be accepted. We kindly ask for \$25.00 denomination. As we prepare for the coming of our Saviour, let us keep in mind those who are less fortunate and need our assistance through the holidays. **Please place your cards or donation into the gift card basket at the back of the church that will be attended by a member of the Knights.** You can still donate gift cards even if you did not pick up a tag.

## PROTEIN FOR THE POOR



During Advent, the Knights of Columbus will be accepting donations with their annual "PROTEIN FOR THE POOR." Donations will go to the Good Shepherd Centre which provides food, clothing, and shelter for many of Toronto's homeless men. Please help alleviate their suffering.



## POINSETTIAS

Back by popular demand. Place your order on the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Prices ranging from \$6.00 to \$35.00 and many colours to choose from. Prepayment is not required. Your order will be available for pick up on the weekend of December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. A lovely addition to your home or a perfect gift.

## CWL ANNUAL WINE & CHEESE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>

Ladies of the CWL are invited to our annual Wine & Cheese Christmas Social (Meeting) on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning with Mass at 7:00 pm. We request that everyone bring a \$10 gift card (Walmart, Tim Hortons, Shoppers Drug Mart) for the women in the St. Clare Women's Shelter.



## A SPECIAL GIFT FOR OUR PARISHIONERS "FORMED"

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**We pray that this gift will bless you!**

## CASSEROLE COLLECTION



GOOD SHEPHERD  
MINISTRIES

Casserole trays and recipes will be handed out after Mass next weekend (Dec. 9&10). Frozen casseroles will be collected before each Mass the following weekend (Dec.16&17). Heartfelt thanks to those who have faithfully supported this program. Next weekend (Dec.9&10) the Knights are collecting "refundable" beer, wine and liquor bottles/cans and pop cans which are being redeemed for wheelchairs for the needy. We thank you for your support of this project.



## SPECIAL INVITATION TO GOOD SHEPHERD PARISHIONERS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND CONCERT ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 345 GLAD PARK AVE., STOUFFVILLE DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> AT 3:00 P.M.

Please come and support our Youth and Adult Choirs of Good Shepherd Parish who are the Guest Performers at St. Mark's Catholic Church's 17th Annual Christmas Pageant and Concert. Light refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall following the event. A free will offering will be taken up for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the needs of the St. Mark's Parish and Community.  
**FREE ADMISSION**



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and he who abides in love  
abides in God,  
and God abides in him.

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