



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: GoodShepherdTH@archtoronto.org website: goodshepherdth.archtoronto.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DEC. 22, 2024



Dec. 26th – Dec. 28th

Thurs. Noon - Michael Chung †

Fri. 8:30 a.m. - Tak Hing Wong †

Sat. 4:30 p.m. – Esdras & Josephine Mendez †

READINGS FOR – Dec. 29th

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

2nd Reading: Colossians 3.12-21

Gospel: Luke 2.41-52



Christmas Mass Schedule

DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE

07:00 P.M.

10:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY

09:00 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 31ST NEW YEAR'S EVE

04:30 P.M.

JANUARY 1ST NEW YEAR'S DAY

09:00 A.M.

11:00 A.M.



**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 25
THURSDAY
DECEMBER 26**



Dear Church Family, Christmas provides a unique opportunity each year for us all to re-focus. Not only are we reminded of the awe-inspiring, world-changing, life-altering gift that is Jesus; but we are also reminded of our need for this Jesus to heal us in our brokenness. That is indeed why he came, wasn't it? To bring peace between God and man. This is why the angels declared triumphantly, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14). It is a time to celebrate the hope, peace, love and joy that comes from God.

I want to close with a benediction I read recently:

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. God bless you now and forever.

On behalf of Deacon's Michael and James, Ornella and Maria, 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. Have a great Christmas with all your family and friends! God Bless You!

Father Anthony

TORONTO SERRA CLUBS



Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God's great love? If God is calling you contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

Email: vocations@archtoronto.org



THE WORD THIS WEEK

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the “Christmas story” itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when he comes. Now we prepare to remember how he first came, by listening to the prophecies of his coming, and by hearing of the events before his birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.

The feast of Christmas should draw the hearts of every child of God towards the furnace of divine love. In the manger, the infinite love of God for us miserable sinners are dramatically and forcefully portrayed before our eyes. In that helpless Baby, represented by a statue, we know that the person, and the power, of the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of the universe lie hidden "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" for us. He became a creature, like ourselves, so that he would make us sharers in his divine nature. He came on earth to bring us to heaven. He hid his divine nature so that he could cover us with it.

This Sunday, we are so close to the fulfilment of the promise contained in today's readings. What does fulfilment mean for us? In this holy season, may the intercession of Mary and the saints give us a deeper intimacy with the Holy Family.



The ladies of the CWL are most thankful to all who baked or donated the delicious goodies for the bake sale. All proceeds will go to charities the CWL is actively involved with. We extend our blessings for a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

C.W.L 2025 Youth Awards Program



The Catholic Women's League Youth Awards Program is a combination of contests which are intended to support Catholic youth to hone their skills in becoming people of faith dedicated to following in the footsteps of Christ to serve God and Canada. These contests are good confidence builders for the students and an opportunity for them to share their views and values on important Catholic teachings.

For the Education component of Catholic Women's League of Canada Education and Health Committee, one of the educational based projects that continue to be a major focus across the Toronto Diocese, the program is comprised for Gr. 7 to 12 of the following contests:

- Mary Matthews Public Speaking Gr. 7 & 8
- Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry Gr. 7 to 12
- Jean McCann Youth Service Award age 15 to 18
- St. Michael's College Scholarship Gr. 12 (females only) due May 31, 2025

All contests' registration forms (except St. Michael's College Scholarship) must be received by Friday, Jan. 17, 2025. Good Shepherd Parish **Mary Matthews Public Speaking** will be held on **Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025 at 1:30 pm** in the Church Hall. For each contest package and any further questions, please e-mail parish contact, Catherine Ger at catherine.ger@outlook.com.

May our Lady of Good Counsel guide us in all that we do.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

Pre-Authorized is a way to give to our parish even if you cannot make it to church regularly. Especially during the winter months, you are still able to keep up your contributions when you cannot attend in person. Information and Authorization forms are available in the foyer of the church.



2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES



Please remember to pick up your box of envelopes. For the first month of using your new envelopes we ask that you **CLEARLY PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE NEW ENVELOPES**. This helps us to make sure that your information is correct in the system.

If you continue to use old envelopes, we cannot guarantee the donation will be properly processed as envelope numbers have changed over the year. If you have not been assigned envelopes and wish to do so, please complete a request form.

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

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