

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Dec. 20, 2020



Dec. 22nd - Dec. 26th

Tues. 8:30 am – Flory Chan _

Wed. 8:30 am – Special Intentions

Thurs. Noon – Special Intentions

Fri. 8:30 am – Special Intentions

Sat. 4:30 pm – John Fung _

READINGS FOR – December 27th

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

2nd Reading: Colossians 3.12-21

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40



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 14th, 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.

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. 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.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY WORKS

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS COLLECTION FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting Gift Cards (all grocery stores/ Walmart/Shopper's Drug Mart). Please arrange to drop off Gift Cards during lockdown by calling the office or dropping off in the mailbox located by the front doors of the church. Let us keep in mind those who are less fortunate and need assistance to get through the holidays.

FEED MY LAMBS

Our obligation to feed the hungry still exists during lockdown. With Fr. Anthony's blessing, we will continue the casserole program reverting to the procedures of last spring. But we need you to make the program work.

Please follow procedure:

1) Empty casserole pans/lids will be available for pick-up on the table just inside the church door when there is someone in the Church. (Fr. Anthony, Ornella mainly).

2) Frozen casseroles will be collected on the third Saturday of the month (Dec.19th) between the hours of 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. ***Please try to adhere to these hours otherwise we may encounter freezer storage problems.*** Social distancing, etc. will be in force.

If you have any questions please contact Frank Lamie (905) 881-6051 or Ken Cornforth (905) 889-9968.

We realize that these procedures are awkward and may be inconvenient to some, but you did it before very successfully. We can do it again!

TORONTO SERRA CLUBS

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife ... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Arch. of Toronto at 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org

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 6th 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. 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

"Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son."

"The Lord is with you." One can only imagine how Mary felt receiving this knowledge. Despite her lowliness, she was chosen to give birth to the Son of God. She was perplexed and moved by what she heard, yet Mary accepted the tremendous responsibility and proclaimed a joyful "yes". Mary's faithful response to God's call carried her through life when, years later, she watched her son be put to death. Even then she drew on God for strength. Just as Mary felt perplexed by the angels greeting, we too can feel overwhelmed by the intense love of God. As Christmas fast approaches and Advent is drawing to a close, let us remind ourselves of the importance of this liturgical season. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas as well as His final coming at the end of time. However, the greatest Saints of the church also speak of an intermediary coming, the coming of Christ to our present lives. Let us take a moment to ask ourselves, if the Lord showed up in our life today, would there be room for Him?



Fourth Sunday in Advent