

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

14 Highgate Drive, Markham, Ontario L3R 3R6

(2 blocks north of Steeles at Birchmount)

905-474-1224 / fax 905-474-1277

stthomastheapostle@bellnet.ca

website: <https://stthomastheapostlema.archtoronto.org>



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Pastor - Fr. Allyn Rose (ext. 222)

Associate Pastor - Father Patrick Gnanapragasam (ext 224)

Deacon - Everis Munroe (ext. 223)

Deacon - Sarfaraz Pinto (ext. 226)

Youth Minister - Hill Roshan Arulnesam (ext 225)

Secretary - Jackie Mackenzie (ext. 221)

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00, 10:30 and 12:00 noon

Ask ushers for listening - aid devices

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday through Friday 12:10 and 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. (at Convent)

Thurs. evening Mass is in Latin - *forma ordinaria*

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Thursdays and Fridays after noon Mass until

Benediction at 6:45 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

By appointment only: 416-799-0407

DEVOTIONS TO

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Wednesdays before & after evening Mass.

BAPTISMS

Will be the Second and Fourth Saturdays
of each month at 9:30 a.m.

An information package should be picked up
at the Parish Office before meeting with the deacon.

MARRIAGES

An information package should be picked up at the Parish
Office before meeting with the priest.
One year advanced planning is required.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Families should notify the Parish Office
in the event of serious illness.

“Dominus meus et Deus meus”

SCHOOLS

St. Benedict

905-475-9646

St. Francis Xavier

905-470-2225

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PARISH GROUPS

Altar Boys	Father Allyn Rose	Parish Office
Lectors	Anna Torres	416-335-9142
Ushers	Alex Ho-Shue	905-479-2543
Children's Liturgy	Winnie Thien	905-940-1059
Screening Coordinator	Liz Pinto	905-889-5755
R.C.I.A.	Juliette Huang	416-495-1067
Legion of Mary Sr.	Amy Rebeiz	647-643-2232
Legion of Mary Jr.	Juliette Huang	416-495-1067
Prayer Group	Al Jacob	416-697-7179
Society of St. Vincent de Paul		905-474-1224 ext. 230
Knights of Columbus	Philip Lee	905-475-6776
Youth Group	Hill Arulnesam	647-281-0062

PARISH MUSICIANS

Organists

Christopher Ku/Kevin Ku 416-298-2541

DAY CARE

St. Mary of Leuca 90-475-2536

St. Mary of Leuca CONVENT 905-475-2350



Monday	12:10 p.m.	+Byron Cox (Neila Cox)
Monday	7:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of Myrna and John Fernandes
Tuesday	12:10 p.m.	Living and deceased Members of the Pucyk Family
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of John and Agnes Yu on their Thirty- Third Wedding Anniversary
Wednesday	12:10 p.m.	+Luiza Pinto (Clothilda Pais)
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	+Tomas Hashim (Tiongson and Hashim Families)
Thursday	12:10 p.m.	+Wing Pak Seto (Family)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	+Jimmy dela Cruz (Chao Dee Lay Family)
Friday	12:10 p.m.	Intentions of Desmond and Diane Atkins (Family)
Friday:	7:00 p.m.	+Maria Bernal (Family)
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	+Mrs. Lai Ling Poon (Jefferson Tse)
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	+Olga D'Rozario (Atkins Family)
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	For the People of the Parish
Sunday	12:00 Noon	+Rev. Seray Pinto (Deacon Sarfaraz Pinto)
Sunday	7:00 p.m.	Souls in Purgatory

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2020

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Eric Maddan, Giuseppina Sala, Anna Starkiewicz, Fitzroy James, Joyce D'Souza, Lilia Tiongson, Edilberto Claveria, Rowen Lee McBride, Margaret Carter, Elizabeth Wong, Domenic D'Souza, Samantha Fernandes, Marcus Rodrigues, Jerry Wang, Agnes Yuen, Jack and Phillip Kong, Theresita Siao, Angelo Drago and for all those who are sick with the Covid – 19 Virus.

PRAY FOR THE DEAD: Cornelia Soverano, Pat Wilson and for those who have died from the Covid – 19 Virus and for those who have no one to pray for them.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. every Friday before the evening Mass

LIVESTREAMING MASSES ON FACEBOOK
DAILY 12:10 MASS AND SUNDAY 10:30 MASS

ANYBODY EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS OF
THE COVID VIRUS

Are to remain at home. They are dispensed from coming to church.

PLEASE REGISTER EACH WEEK ON THE WEBSITE
FOR THE SUNDAY MASS YOU WISH TO ATTEND.
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AHEAD.

REGISTRATIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES WILL
BE ON THE WEBSITE.

Christmas Eve Masses are all booked.
Christmas Day at 9:00, 10:30 and 12:00 Noon

All Confessions will have to be by appointment
Father Allyn Rose: 416-799-0407 (except Tuesday)
Father Patrick: 647-877-1774 (except Thursday)

APPOINTMENTS ARE NEED TO COME TO THE
OFFICE.

PARISH OFFERTORY

Weekly goal \$7,500.00 (to meet our expenses)

We received \$10,734.05 (December 6, 2020) (Includes PAG, Donate now, etc.)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Commentary

Originally intended to refer to the Prophet Isaiah himself (thus, the use of “I”), this passage also points forward in its time to the coming Messiah, who is the “anointed one.” In fact, that these words are fulfilled in Jesus Christ is made explicit in the Gospel of Luke. In chapter four of Luke, it is recorded that Jesus was in Nazareth and went into the synagogue on the sabbath. During the liturgy, Jesus was handed a scroll of the book of Isaiah to read from before the assembly. He read this very passage and after finishing the reading explained, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21). In other words, Jesus explained that He fulfills these words. In the ministry of Jesus, in particular, we see Him doing the things listed here. Jesus “brings glad tidings to the poor,” “heals the broken hearted,” and “proclaims liberty.” With Jesus, the Messiah, “justice and peace spring up before all nations,” for He opened the door for the proclamation of the Gospel to the Gentiles (i.e., “nations”). Thus, Jesus Himself fulfills these profound words of Isaiah.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Commentary

Today we celebrate “Gaudete Sunday,” the Third Sunday of Advent. The Latin word *Gaudete* means “Rejoice!” On this Sunday, we take a short hiatus from the mostly penitential, somber nature of Advent and rejoice in the nearness of the celebration of Christmas. To signal this, rose vestments may be worn by the celebrant, instead of the typical violet for Advent. One may also note that the third candle on the Advent wreath is rose colored. Rose signifies joy. Thus, today’s second reading calls us to “rejoice always.” Christian joy goes beyond a mere emotion and, therefore, supersedes circumstances. The joy we have in Christ can remain regardless of what challenges we are facing in life. That is because we know God is in control of our circumstances. He is “faithful,” as Paul says. Therefore, we can “rejoice always” and “in all circumstances give thanks” because we have hope in God. Still, in order to experience the fullness of this joy, the Apostle Paul indicates that we must obey God. We must listen to the Spirit of God and “refrain from every kind of evil.” We are called to be “perfectly holy.” This is the true path to joy: sanctity. Following God’s will and allowing His grace to transform us leads to true happiness. Let us, therefore, seek Him, trust Him, and obey Him to find the deep joy that can only be found in God.

Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

Commentary

Today we hear about the coming of John the Baptist and his announcement of the Messiah, Jesus. The “light” in the beginning of this passage refers to Jesus, the eternal Word of God. This Gospel makes clear that John is not the Messiah but came to prepare the way for Jesus, the Christ. People were wondering about the identity of John. He was certainly creating quite a stir by his preaching and baptizing. The Jews were expecting the Messiah to come, so they wondered if John might be him. But John makes clear he is not. Furthermore, with the coming of the Messiah, the Jews were anticipating the return of the great Prophet Elijah. But John makes clear he is not him either. Nor is he “the Prophet” another expected figure in the Messianic age. He, in fact, is the forerunner to the Messiah. John certainly had a prophetic and even Elijah-like role (interestingly, if we read carefully some of the texts about John, we see that he dressed like Elijah {camel’s hair and a leather belt} and had the same diet as Elijah {Locusts and wild honey}), but he did not want in any way to take away attention from Jesus. He was not the focus. Rather, his role was to help the people be ready for the Messiah. Jesus had grown up among the people but his true identity as the Messiah was not revealed until his baptism by John and his following public ministry. John acknowledges the greatness of Jesus and announced his coming, calling the people to repent so their hearts would be ready to encounter God in the flesh. In a similar way, we are called to prepare our hearts during Advent through repentance as we prepare to encounter Christ in Christmas.

TAKING IT HOME:

- **On this *Gaudete* (“Rejoice!”) Sunday, reflect on what you are thankful for. This week, write down things in your life that cause you rejoice. Then, thank God for those blessings.**
- **True joy ultimately comes through following God’s will for our lives. It is only in obedience to God, who knows what is best for us, that we will find true fulfillment. In what areas of your life do you need to listen more carefully to God and follow His will more fully? Take action today!**

(Commentary – St. Joseph’s in Marion)

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