

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

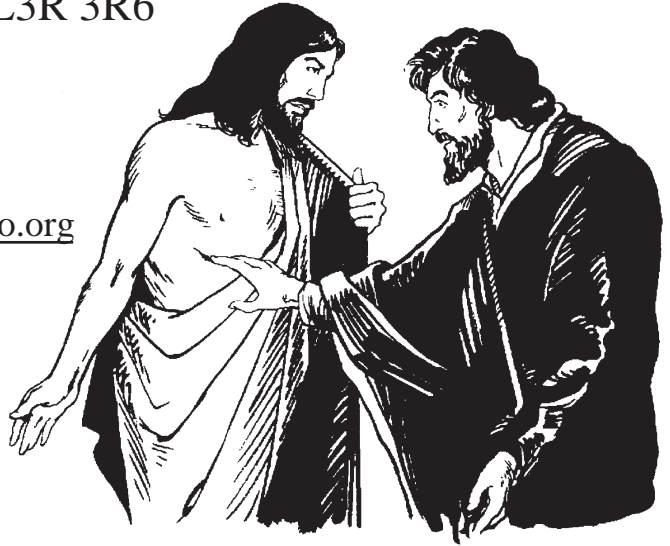
14 Highgate Drive, Markham, Ontario L3R 3R6

(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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 2020

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

PRAY FOR THE DEAD: Violet Patel and for those who have died from the Covid – 19 Virus and for those who have no one to pray for them.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL – WE RELISE WHAT WE DON'T HAVE, BUT WHAT WE DO HAVE IS TRULY GREAT. GOD WITH US 24/7 ENJOY HIM. HE IS OUR CONSTANT. PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES FROM FATHER ALLYN ROSE, FATHER PATRICK GNANAPRAGASAM, DEACON EVERIS MUNROE, DEACON SARFARAZ PINTO, AND STAFF.

THERE ARE NO PUBLIC MASSES
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

LIVESTREAMING MASSES ON FACEBOOK

ALL MASSES ARE OFFERED FOR THE PEOPLE
AND FOR THOSE SICK WITH COVID

Monday to Friday: 12:10 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve: 5:00 p.m. and Midnight

Christmas Day: 10:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Day 10:30 a.m.

All Confessions are by appointment

Father Allyn Rose: 416-799-0407 (except Tuesday)

Father Patrick: 647-877-1774 (except Thursday)

Envelopes are ready to pick up.

Appointments are needed to come to the office.

PARISH OFFERTORY

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

We received \$12,095.00 (December 13, 2020) (Includes PAG, Donate now, etc.)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4A

Commentary

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the anticipation is building for the fast-approaching celebration of Christmas. Today's readings indicate that anticipation. This reading from the Prophet Micah speaks of the coming of the Messiah. Written centuries before the birth of Christ, it tells us that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem. The Messiah shall be the "ruler in Israel," who "shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD." The Messiah would fulfill the kingdom of David and reign as king forever. He would not only be one "ruler in Israel," as David was, but would rule the entire world as is indicated when this passage says "his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth." And his kingship shall bring peace. All these descriptors fit Jesus perfectly. He was born in Bethlehem (in fact, there is even a reference to Mary when the passage says: "she who is to give birth"). Jesus is in the line of David and fulfills the Davidic kingdom by being an everlasting king. Jesus is the king of the world and the entire universe, since He is God. And Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Thus, with the birth of Jesus, this prophecy from Micah came to its fulfillment.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Commentary

This passage from the book of Hebrews speaks of the purpose for which Jesus came into the world. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, it is fitting to be reminded that God did not have to become man. Rather, He chose to become one of us through the Incarnation in order to save us from our sins. God could have let us remain in sin and suffer the consequences. We got ourselves into the problem in the first place anyways by choosing to disobey God. God does not owe us anything. But He freely chose out of His infinite love to become man and to die for us. Jesus was born in order to die. He came in order to offer the perfect sacrifice of His own body and blood in order to gain for us forgiveness of our sins. This was the "will" of God that Jesus fulfilled. And, as a result, we can have salvation from our sins through Jesus Christ. He died "one for all" in order to offer all people salvation. The question is, will you receive that salvation that He freely offers you?"

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-45

Commentary

Today we hear the account of the Visitation of Mary to her relative, Elizabeth. This event anticipates the birth of Jesus. Mary's journey to Elizabeth immediately followed the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, when she learned that she would give birth to the Messiah. Scripture tells us that she went "in haste" to see Elizabeth, who was in her sixth month of pregnancy with John the Baptist. It is incredible to think of what this encounter must have been like. Here are two women who have been called by God to bring forth children into the world who would transform history. John would lead the way for the Messiah, Jesus, who would save us from our sins. Upon Mary's arrival, John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth's womb as an expression of acknowledgement of the presence of the Lord, Jesus, in Mary's womb. Elizabeth articulates this with the familiar words we say in the "Hail, Mary": "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." She also referred to Mary as "the mother of my Lord." Thus, Elizabeth expressed faith that Jesus was the Messiah. And she honoured Mary for her role in bringing the Messiah into this world. This leads us to an important reflection on Mary's role in God's bringing of salvation to the world. God chose to become man in order to save us from our sins. But He did not force Himself into humanity. He did not disrespect our human freedom in order to do so. Rather, He invited Mary to be the mother of the Messiah. And because she said 'yes,' God became incarnate. Therefore, we can echo the words of Elizabeth in saying, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary trusted God, even though what she was entrusted with was beyond comprehension. Because of her great faith in welcoming Jesus into this world, we proclaim with Elizabeth that Mary is "blessed among women," and most of all, give thanks for the amazing gift of our Lord, Jesus, coming into this world.

Taking it home:

- **As we approach the celebration of Christmas, offer thanks to God this week for the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. Take time in prayer to give thanks for the blessings you have been given, especially the gift of salvation.**

(Commentary – St. Joseph's in Marion)

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