

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>

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)



Feast of the Holy Family



Mass Intentions

Monday	12:10 p.m.
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of Chit and Josephine Szeto	
Monday	7:00 p.m.
+William Lapan, Sr.	
Tuesday	12:10 p.m.
+Ernesto Sombero (Family)	
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
+John Harry Fernandez (Athaide Family)	
Wednesday	12:10 p.m.
In Thanksgiving and for the Intentions of Pat Stuart	
Wednesday	12:10 p.m.
Souls in Purgatory	
Thursday	12:10 p.m.
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of Margaret Tse (Jefferson Tse)	
Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Intentions of Thomas Ikkanayaka (Friend)	
Friday	9:00 a.m.
+Bellian Chua, Gregory, Eric, Jin Sim, Jin Imm Tan	
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Friday	5:00 p.m.
New Year's Eve – For the People	
Saturday	10:00 a.m.
New Year's Day – For the People	
Saturday	12:00 p.m.
New Year's Day – For the People	
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Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Souls in Purgatory	
Sunday	10:00 a.m.
Souls in Purgatory	
Sunday	12:00 p.m.
+John Mackenzie (Jackie Mackenzie)	

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH SUNDAY DECEMBER 26, 2021

Eric Maddan, Giuseppina Sala, Fitzroy James, Joyce D'Souza, Edilberto Claveria, Margaret Carter, Domenic D'Souza, Samantha Fernandes, Jerry Wang, Agnes Yuen, Jack Wilson, Phillip Kong, Marien Pereira, Sam Di Blasi, Teresa Cheung, Jessica Kong, Gloria Pereira, Angel Sevilla, Suzanne Chin-Loy, Evette Fernandes, Dorine Coulture, John Yuen, Theresa Snider, Wing Yuen, Betty Chan, Irene Tsang and for all those who are sick with the Covid – 19 Virus.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Through the intercession of our Mary, Mother of God, may the Lord bless all our families and loved ones and protect us this new year.

A FAMILY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

In our daily life and work, may we reflect the self-giving love which you, O Father, eternally show with your son and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith, we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant the Holy family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS including the lectors, servers, ushers, the daughters of St. Mary of Leuca, for our flowers and altar decorations. Thank you to those who decorated the Christmas Trees, etc.

SOLEMNITY OF THE MARY, MOTHER OF GOD is on January 1 and is a holy day of obligation in Canada. Masses will be on New Year's Eve at 5:00 and on New Year's Day at 10:00 and noon. (No 8:00 a.m. Mass) There will be confessions on New Year's Eve from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

TO PRIESTS AND STAFF AND THANK YOU ALL
FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PRAYERS.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR SUNDAY MASS BY 1:00 P.M ON SATURDAY

PLEASE REGISTER FOR NEW YEAR'S MASS BY 12:00 NOON NEW YEAR'S EVE

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

If your child is in grade 7 or 8 and has not yet received their Sacrament of Confirmation, please pick up a registration form and further information from the parish office. Classes will begin in January and registration is required.

REGISTRATION FOR THE FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN

Parents of children who would like to prepare for the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion can visit the parish office to pick up a registration package. Parents will need to provide a copy of their child's baptism certificate. Registration is open until the end of February. Please note that the classes will be in-person, public health restrictions permitting.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Gospel Readings Luke 2:41-52

Today we celebrate Feast of the Holy Family. This Feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the Birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes Him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although He is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about His Jewish tradition. In His dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with His insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead, they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that He was never lost; He was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and He is in His Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after His Resurrection and Pentecost.

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