

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)

ADVENT



Mass for the Intentions Week

- Monday December 19 12:10 p.m.**
+Lai-Ying Poon
(Jefferson Tse)
- Monday December 19 7:00 p.m.**
+Renato Aficial
(Zamora Family)
- Tuesday December 20 12:10 p.m.**
Intentions of Margaret Tse
(Jefferson Tse)
- Tuesday December 20 7:00 p.m.**
+Johannes Bung Hang Lim
(Family)
- Wednesday December 21 12:10 p.m.**
+Marcus Cheng
(Cheng Family)
- Wednesday December 21 7:00 p.m.**
Special Intentions of
Joseph and Family
- Thursday December 22 12:10 p.m.**
Intentions of Rex, Margaret, Jefferson
and Giovanni Tse
- Thursday December 22 7:00 p.m.**
MARONITE MASS
- Friday December 23 12:10 p.m.**
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions
of Kelvin Ramoutar
(Family)
- Friday December 23 7:00 p.m.**
+Selin Madavanakad
(Family)
- Saturday December 24 9:00 a.m.**
+Jesuthasan Simon Joseph
(Family)

- Saturday December 24 5:00 p.m.**
Christmas Eve – For the People
- Saturday December 24 12:00 a.m.**
Christmas Eve – For the People
- Sunday December 25 8:00 a.m.**
Christmas Day – For the People
- Sunday December 25 10:00 a.m.**
Christmas Day – For the People
- Sunday December 25 12:00 p.m.**
Christmas Day – For the People

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 2022

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Eric Maddan, Giuseppina Sala, Fitzroy James, Edilberto Claveria, Margaret Carter, Domenic D’Souza, Jerry Wang, Agnes Yuen, Jack Wilson, Phillip Kong, Marien Pereira, Teresa Cheung, Jessica Kong, Gloria Pereira, Dorine Couture, John Yuen, Theresa Snider, Betty Chan, Sherwin Wong, Everest D’Souza, Aloysius Carvalho, Nicholas Marshall, Tony Romero, Al Jacob, Alice Lam, Bruce Crepe, William Yung, Loida Ganaden, Romana Pena, Godofredo Pena Jr., Priscilla Lumanlan, Paul Giallonardo, Liza Chan and William Lee Ah-Chong

PRAY FOR THE DEAD: Reverend Wilhelm Jan Rozmyslowski, Mihaly Sutka and for those who have no one to pray for them.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- Christmas Eve: 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.**
- Christmas Day: 8:00, 10:00 and 12:00 Noon**
- Christmas Confession: after 9:00 a.m. Mass on the 24th and 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.**

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Friday December 30: 12:10 and 7:00 p.m.**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
New Years Eve: 5:00 p.m.
New Years Day: 8:00, 10:00 and 12:00 Noon
Confessions from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFERTORY

Weekly goal \$7,500.00 (to meet our expenses)
We received, \$7,083.60 (December 11, 2022)
(Includes Pag, Donate Now, etc.)

ALL PARISHIONERS SHOULD BE REGISTERED

and are asked to support the parish and the needs of the Church by using Sunday Offertory Envelopes and making up for any absence during vacation. New parishioners are asked to register in the parish office. Also, on the website you can arrange to use PAG

LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS

Will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in January 2023 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1-800-268-2637

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION

Students at St. Benedict and St. Francis Xavier Schools have received their registration forms. If your child does not go to these Schools, please come to the parish office and pick up a registration form. Registration forms have to be handed in, along with a photocopy of your child’s Baptismal Certificate and \$35.00 to cover the cost of the catechism book. Holy Communion will take place June 10 at 5:00 p.m. or June 11 at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon.

SANCTUARY FUNDRAISER

Goal 50,000.00 Including tiles, we have collected **\$65,655.00** Pledges **\$13,115.00** For a total of **\$78,770.00** **Also includes donations to the general Sanctuary Fund.** 245 forms have been handed in 55 needs to be returned from the original 300. We have added another 100 tiles (after speaking with the contractor) for those who want to be a part in this fundraising for our new Sanctuary.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THIS FUNDRAISER!

The following items can be purchased for our Sanctuary:

Crucifix	\$ 9,605.00 (Paid)
Ambo (Lectern)	\$11,865.00 (Pledged)
Presider Chair for Priest and Deacons	\$ 3,900.00 (Paid)
St. Thomas the Apostle Statue moved	\$ 1,250.00 (Paid)
Tabernacle moved	\$ 2,400.00 (Paid)
Baptismal Font moved	\$ 400.00 (Paid)
New Lighting	\$ 5,198.00 (3,050.00 (paid so far)

SHARELIFE

New: Your year-end gift will double in value! From now until the end of 2022, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$1 Million. "Thank you to all who donate to ShareLife. With each donation we receive, we are able to attain our goals of assisting people."

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:18-24 An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the Birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the First Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in the today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "...The virgin shall be with child....and shall name Him Emmanuel (God with us)."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Loyola Press

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The KOC continue to fundraise by collecting EMPTIES, such as the following: Beer cans or bottles, wine bottles, spirits such as (vodka, rum or whiskey, etc. **Drop off location for empties, downstairs by the washrooms.** All proceeds will go to St. Thomas the Apostle and the Charities of the KOC.

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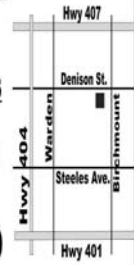
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