

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)



The Nativity of the Lord

Mass for the Intentions Week

Monday December 26 9:00 a.m.
+Bert Chichioco
(Family)

Monday December 26 7:00 p.m.

No Evening Mass

Tuesday December 27 12:10 p.m.
+Rosaly Ver
(Family)

Tuesday December 27 7:00 p.m.
+William Lapan Sr.
(Family)

Wednesday December 28 12:10 p.m.
+Ernesto Sombero
(Family)

Wednesday December 28 7:00 p.m.
+Norma and Malakias Guerrero
(Nick and Noemi Valdez)

Thursday December 29 12:10 p.m.
+Stephen Yang
(Family)

Thursday December 29 7:00 p.m.
+Maria Teresa Campos

Friday December 30 12:10 p.m.
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of
Chit and Josephine Szeto

Friday December 30 7:00 p.m.
+Isidra Valencia Dicuango
(Family)

Saturday December 31 9:00 a.m.
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of
Pat Stuart

Saturday December 31 5:00 p.m.
New Year's Eve
+Effie and Pius Goveas
(Family)

Sunday January 1 8:00 a.m.
New Year's Day – For the People

Sunday January 1 10:00 a.m.
New Year's Day – For the People

Sunday January 1 12:00 p.m.
New Year's Day – For the People

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 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, Amy Tsang, Grace Chan and Lucas Fernandes

PRAY FOR THE DEAD: Henry and Helen Leung and for those who have no one to pray for them.

Wishing all a Happy and Holy Christmas

From Father Allyn Rose, Father Patrick Gnanapragasam, Deacon Everis Munroe, Deacon Sarfaraz Pinto and parish staff, Aloma, Mark, Maureen and Jackie

Christmas – The Birth of Our Lord

We celebrate the Birth of Our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the Birth of Our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Contact Father Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

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

SANCTUARY FUNDRAISER

Goal 50,000.00 Including tiles, we have collected **\$80,470.00** Pledges **\$13,115.00** For a total of **\$93,585.00** **Also includes donations to the general Sanctuary Fund.** We still have forms in the office for those who wish a tile for \$100.00

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."

CHRISTMAS DAY 2022

Gospel Reading – John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's Birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the Birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the Shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' Birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (logos in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's Incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us His Children.

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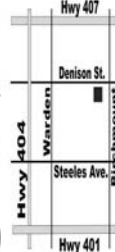
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