

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

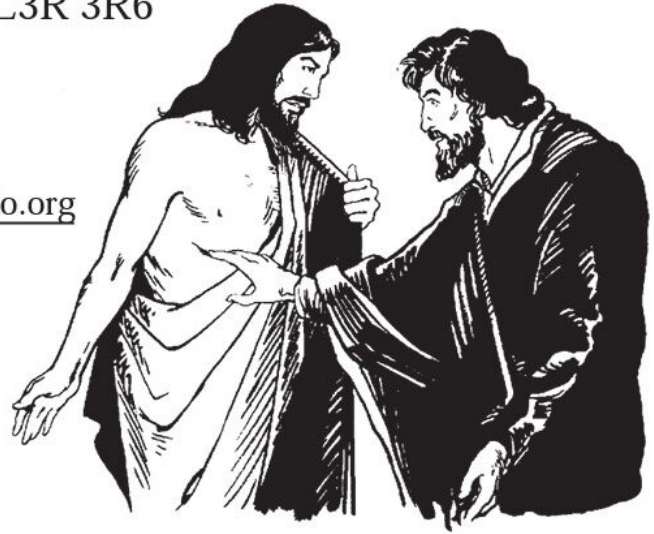
14 Highgate Drive, Markham, Ontario L3R 3R6

(2 blocks north of Steeles at Birchmount)

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

stthomastheapostlema@archtoronto.org

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



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday: Office Closed

Pastor - Fr. Allyn Rose (ext. 222)

Associate Pastor - Father Patrick Gnanapragasam (ext 224)

Deacon - Everis Munroe (ext. 223)

Secretary - Jackie Mackenzie (ext. 221)

Part Time Secretaries: Maureen Daunt, Mary Carbery

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 10:00 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 Church)

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

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Thursday & Fridays after the 12:10 Mass to
7:00 Evening Mass.

CONFESSIONS

Before all Weekend and Weekday Masses

Father Allyn Rose: 416-799-0407

Father Patrick Gnanapragasam: 647-877-1774

DEVOTIONS TO

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Wednesdays before & after evening Mass.

BAPTISMS

Will be the 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

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

www.ycdsb.ca

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	416-302-1823
Legion of Mary Sr.	Amy Rebeiz	647-643-2232
Legion of Mary Jr.	Juliette Huang	416-302-1823
Prayer Group	Al Jacob	416-697-7179
Seniors	Les Rodrigues	905-479-6023
Society of St. Vincent de Paul		905-474-1224 ext. 230
Knights of Columbus	Herwin Shillingford	416-824-3347
FNE Explorers	Maurice Chang	416-889-0183

PARISH MUSICIANS

Organists

Christopher Ku/Kevin Ku	416-298-2541
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DAY CARE

St. Mary of Leuca	905-475-2536
St. Mary of Leuca CONVENT	905-475-2350

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday December 11 12:10 p.m.**
Intentions of Virginie and JP Chan
(Chit and Josephine Szeto)
- Monday December 11 7:00 p.m.**
+Maria Teresa Campos
and special intentions.
(Family)
- Tuesday December 12 12:10 p.m.**
+Glenda Lobo and Vivian Lobo
(Family)
- Tuesday December 12 7:00 p.m.**
+William McCavery
(Lynch Family)
- Wednesday December 13 12:10 p.m.**
Thanksgiving Mass
(Morelli Family)
- Wednesday December 13 7:00 p.m.**
Intentions of Dirk Hong Ping
- Thursday December 14 12:10 p.m.**
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of
the Cheung Family
- Thursday December 14 7:00 p.m.**
+T.A. George
(James Joseph)
- Friday December 15 12:10 p.m.**
+Bellian Chua, Gregory, Eric, Jin Sim,
Jin Imm Tan
(Tan Family)
- Friday December 15 7:00 p.m.**
+Roberta Hill
(Dolores Menezes)
- Saturday December 16 9:00 a.m.**
Deceased Members of the Fernandez
and Cartano Families
- Saturday December 16 5:00 p.m.**
+Olga D’Rosario
(Family)
- Sunday December 17 8:00 a.m.**
For the People of the Parish
- Sunday December 17 10:00 a.m.**
+Adrienne Tam
(Chung Family)
- Sunday December 17 12:00 p.m.**
+Ching Lan Elsie Lin
Intentions of Chiu Jung Lin
(Family)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT **SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023**

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Giuseppina Sala, Fitzroy James, Edilberto Claveria, Jack Wilson, Phillip Kong, Aloysius Carvalho, Nicholas Marshall, Tony Romero, Al Jacob, Bruce Crepe, Romana Pena, Godofredo Pena Jr., Priscilla Lumanlan, Paul Giallonardo, Liza Chan, William Lee Ah-Chong, Amy Tsang, Grace Chan, Mary Foo, Lynn Demers, Edwin Quiambao, Mary Josephine Albert, Betty Chan, William Yung, Agnes Yuen, Rowena Poon, Emilia Cabral, Jessica Kong, Dorine Couture, Maryann Redoblado, Veronica Small, Annette McIntosh, Kevin Ramoutar, Benedict Maraj and Mimi Borromeo, Erlinda Petfield, Ching Lan, Chiu Jung Lin, Anthony Small, Maryann Redoblado and Jonrick Carlo Bautista.

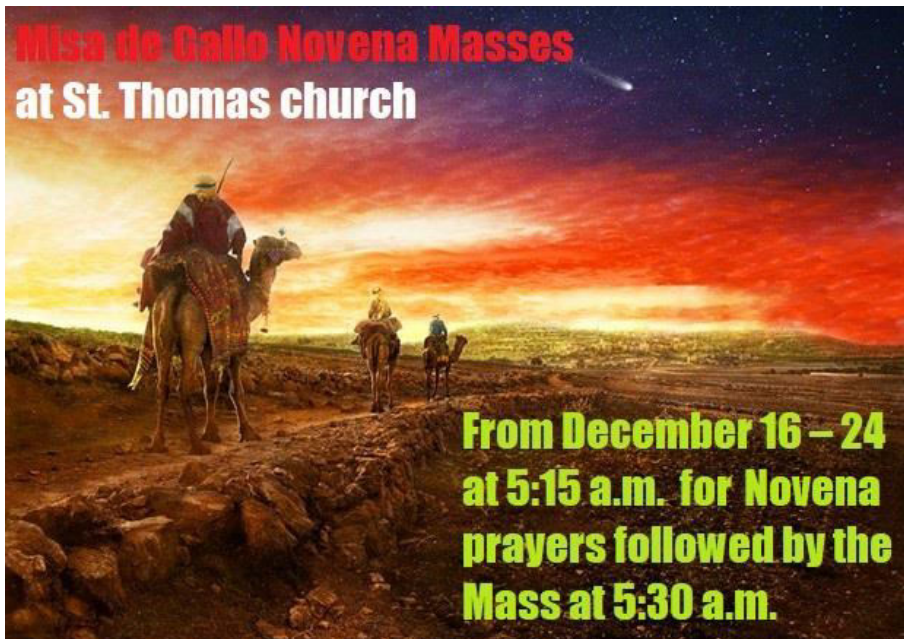
PRAY FOR THE DEAD: Mary Shun Ying Yu, Elsie Lin, Alexander Defreitas, Bubba Lall-Lloyd, and for those who have no one to pray for.



December 19, 2023

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED FOR THE OASIS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 19 in the parish hall, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Buffet lunch starts at 1:00 p.m. Bring your own beverage. Only water is available. Karaoke, Carol singing, games. Tickets \$20.00 Early bird \$15.00 before November 30th. To reserve your tickets, contact your OASIS member, or email oasis.stthomas@gmail.com or text Les 905-479-6023 or Russell 647-898-6480. Tickets will be available after all weekend Masses, December 3 and 4 and 9 and 10. All proceeds go to the St. Vincent de Paul.



MISA DE GALLO

The traditional Misa De Gallo previously held at the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca convent will now be held at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish starting **December 16 until December 24**. **Novena prayers start at 5:15 a.m. followed by Mass at 5:30 a.m.**



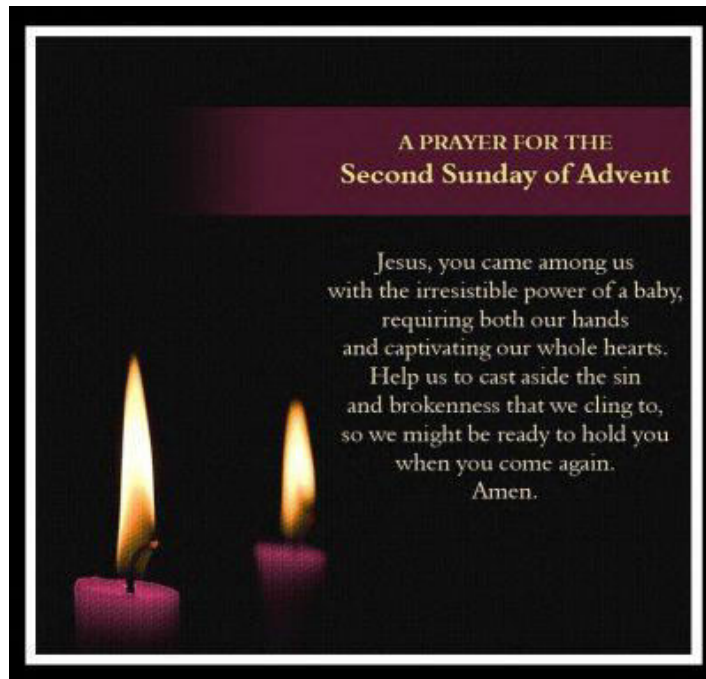
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The KOC continue to fundraise by collecting **EMPTYES**, 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.



PARISH OFFERTORY

Weekly goal \$7,500.00 (to meet our expenses). We received \$7,479.77 (Includes Pag, Donate Now, etc.).



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist is sent by God to prepare the way for His Son. In our present time God sends priests, religious and deacons to prepare the people to receive His Son. If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

Email: vocations@archtoronto.org Website: www.vocationstoronto.ca



ALL ARE INVITED TO THE ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 31 IN THE PARISH HALL FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 1:00 A.M.

Buffet dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. Liquor licensed – bring your own beverage. Only water available with dinner. Children dinner 7:00 p.m., followed by children's countdown at 8:00 p.m. There will be party favours, prizes and games. Tickets \$40.00. Early bird \$35.00 before November 30th. Children's tickets \$15.00. To reserve your tickets, contact an OASIS member, or email: oasis.stthomas@gmail.com or text Les 905-479-6023 or Russell 647-898-6480. Tickets will be available after all weekend Masses, December 3 & 4 and 9 & 10. All proceeds to St. Thomas the Apostle Church.



MATCHING GIFT PROMOTION FOR SHARELIFE

Between now and December 31, gifts to ShareLife will be matched up to \$500,000. Our office has been receiving calls from parishioners asking if we will have a matching campaign this year, and we are grateful for the generosity of the anonymous donor who is making this possible.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Reading - Mark 1:1-8

**John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people,
in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.**

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead, Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that He would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come, will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

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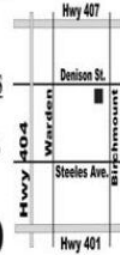
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