

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

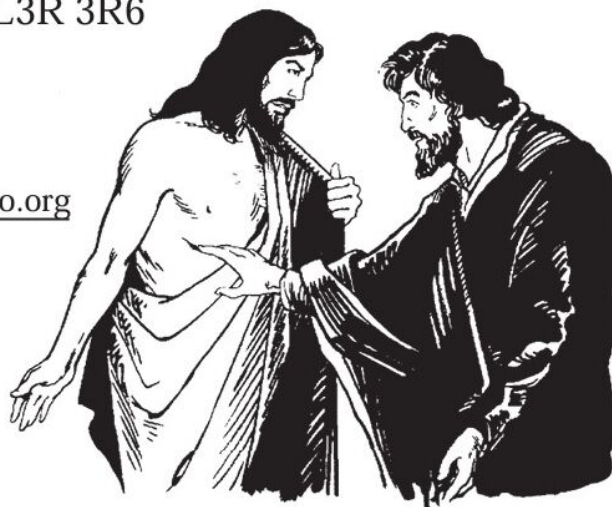
14 Highgate Drive, Markham, Ontario L3R 3R6

(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)
 Father Patrick Gnanapragasam (in residence) 647-877-1774
 Deacon - Everis Munroe (ext. 223)
 Secretary - Jackie Mackenzie (ext. 221)
 Part Time Secretary: Maureen Daunt

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
Men's Group	Lloyd Macheranes	647-461-2464
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

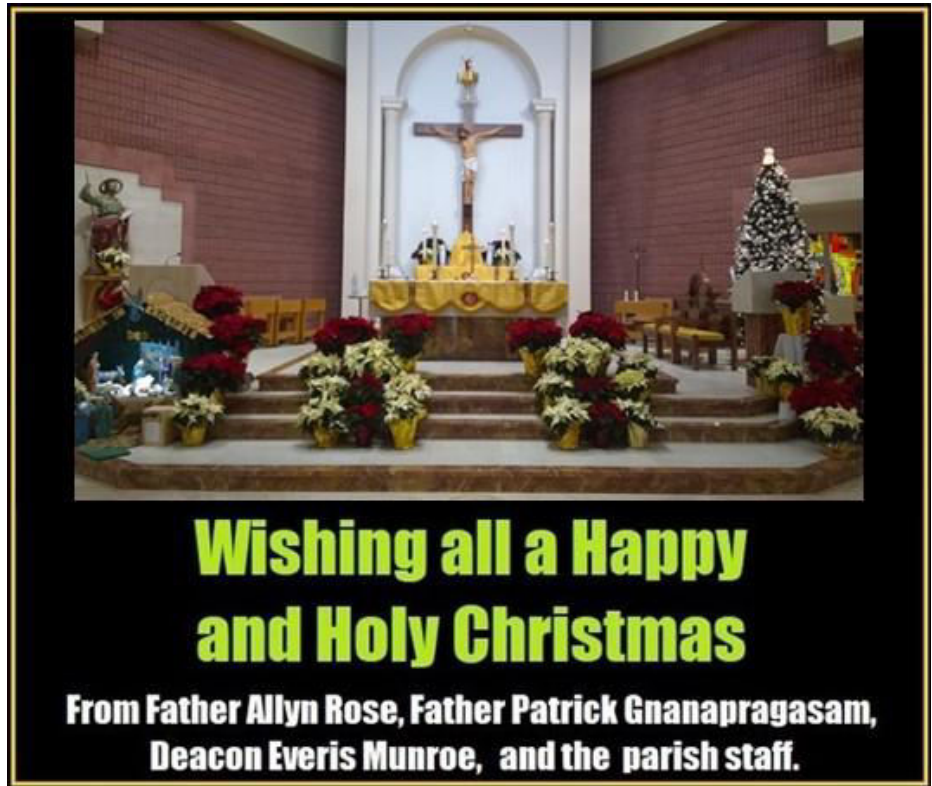
MASS INTENTIONS

- Sunday December 24** **5:00 p.m.**
Christmas Eve – For the People
- Sunday December 24** **12:00 a.m.**
Christmas Eve – For the People
- Monday December 25** **8:00 a.m.**
Christmas Day – For the People
- Monday December 25** **10:00 a.m.**
Christmas Day – For the People
- Monday December 25** **12:00 p.m.**
Christmas Day – For the People
- Tuesday December 26** **9:00 a.m.**
Deceased Members of the
Reyes-Cruz Family
- Tuesday December 26** **7:00 p.m.**
No Evening Mass
- Wednesday December 27** **12:10 p.m.**
+Lucas Fernandes
(Fernandes Family)
- Wednesday December 27** **7:00 p.m.**
+William Lapan, Sr.
(Family)
- Thursday December 28** **12:10 p.m.**
+Ernesto B. Sombero
(Family)
- Thursday December 28** **7:00 p.m.**
Souls in Purgatory
- Friday December 29** **12:10 p.m.**
Deceased members of the Acayan Family
- Friday December 29** **7:00 p.m.**
Intentions of David Jose
(Family)
- Saturday December 30** **9:00 a.m.**
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of
Chit and Josephine Szeto
- Saturday December 30** **5:00 p.m.**
Intentions of Nicholas and Selina Ng
(Pat Chong and Family)
- Sunday December 31** **8:00 a.m.**
For the People of the Parish
- Sunday December 31** **10:00 a.m.**
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of
Pat Stuart
- Sunday December 31** **12:00 p.m.**
+John and Violet Patel
(Family)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **SUNDAY DECEMBER 24, 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: Father John Szkodzinski, and for those who have no one to pray for.



PARISH OFFERTORY

Weekly goal \$7,500.00 (to meet our expenses). We received (bulletin done on 15th) (Includes Pag, Donate Now, etc.).



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life, and she said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. 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.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- **Christmas Eve Masses: 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.**
- **Christmas Day Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon.**
- **Confessions before Sunday Masses on December 24th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.**

January 1, 2024 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation

- **New Year's Eve Mass: 5:00 p.m.**
- **New Year's Day Masses: 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon.**
- **Confessions before Sunday Masses on December 31st. Also, confessions from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve.**



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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Reading - Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the Liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the Season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary; a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to His Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus, Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.

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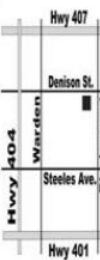
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