

# St. Thomas the Apostle Church

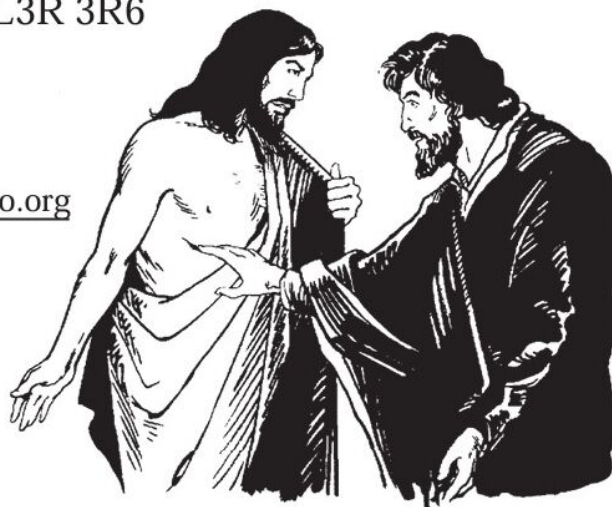
14 Highgate Drive, Markham, Ontario L3R 3R6

(2 blocks north of Steeles at Birchmount)

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

[stthomastheapostlema@archtoronto.org](mailto: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](http://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 31**      **5:00 p.m.**  
**For the People of the Parish**

**Monday January 1**      **10:00 a.m.**  
**For the People of the Parish**

**Monday January 1**      **12:00 p.m.**  
**For the People of the Parish**

**Tuesday January 2**      **12:10 p.m.**  
Intentions of Melissa D'Souza  
(Merle and Clare Menezes)

**Tuesday January 2**      **7:00 p.m.**  
Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Wednesday January 3**      **12:10 p.m.**  
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of  
Rex, Margaret, Jefferson, and Giovanna Tse

**Wednesday January 3**      **7:00 p.m.**  
+Artley and Elizabeth Nigli  
(Al Jacob)

**Thursday January 4**      **12:10 p.m.**  
Intention of Kimberley Lefko

**Thursday January 4**      **7:00 p.m.**  
+Theresa Baena  
(Family)

**Friday January 5**      **12:10 p.m.**  
+Deacon Vincent Cassidy  
(Jackie Mackenzie)

**Friday January 5**      **7:00 p.m.**  
For Vocations to the Priesthood

**Saturday January 6**      **9:00 a.m.**  
Living and deceased Sisters of the  
Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca and their  
living and deceased families  
(Jackie Mackenzie)

**Saturday January 6**      **5:00 p.m.**  
+Harry Ramadhin  
(Family)

**Sunday January 7**      **8:00 a.m.**  
For the People of the Parish

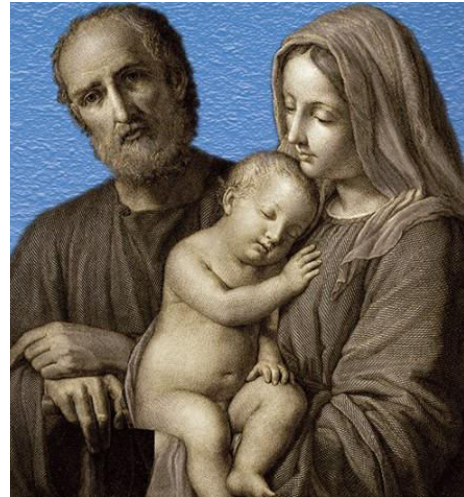
**Sunday January 7**      **10:00 a.m.**  
+Joe Caracci  
(Maria Caracci)

**Sunday January 7**      **12:00 p.m.**  
+Msgr. John Joseph Weber  
(Theresa Snider and Family)

## **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH** **SUNDAY DECEMBER 31, 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:** For those who have no one to pray for them.



### **A FAMILY PRAYER**

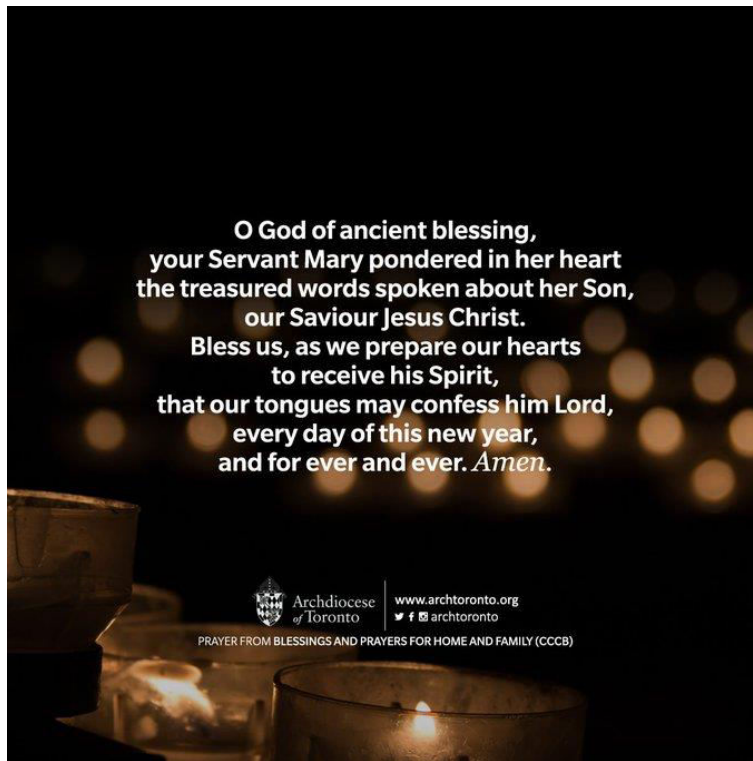
Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds so that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

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.

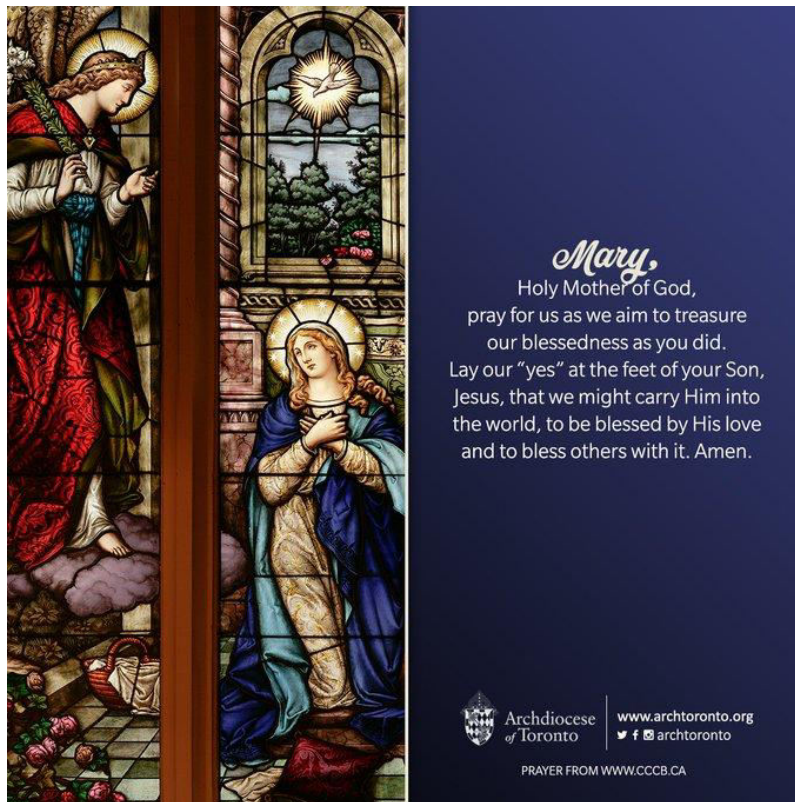
Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant the Holy family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

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.



**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.



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE 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 p.m. 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.



**THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS**

...including the lectors, servers, ushers, choirs, the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca for our flowers and altar decorations, and all who helped decorate the Christmas tree, etc.

*A Prayer for the  
Feast of the Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

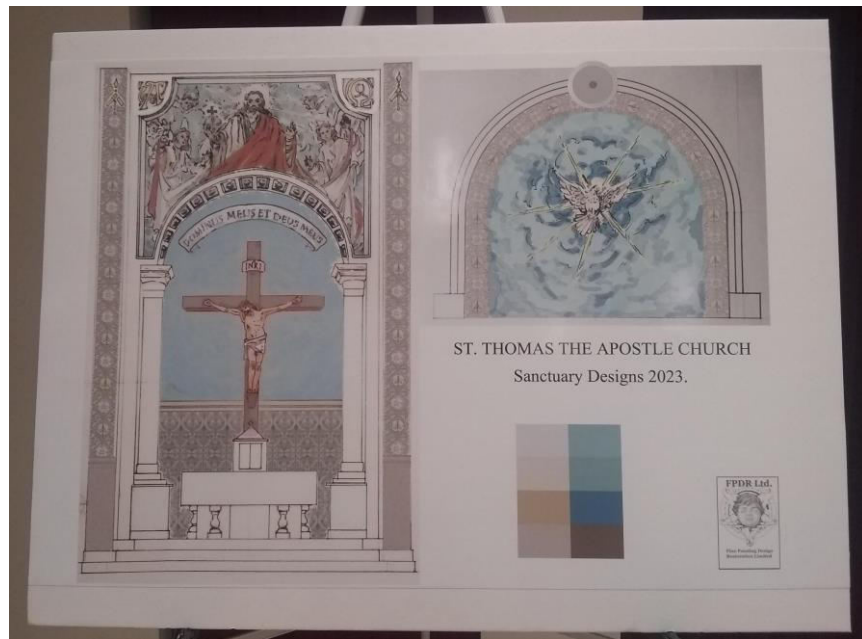
God the Father, draw us into your arms, that we might know how cherished we are as members of your family. May our homes and our hearts be living expressions of your desire to gather all people into your family, now and forever, Amen.

www.archtoronto.org

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

By Baptism we are God’s holy Family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. 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](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) Website: [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)



## SANCTURY RENOVATIONS

As announced last week in Church, the second phase of our [Sanctuary renovation project](#) will begin in the New Year. Please look at the back of the church (near the old confessionals) to find the designs for the second phase. We would like to reopen fundraising for the new phase and are hoping to raise another \$45,000.00, approximately half of the cost of the work to be completed. There are three ways that you can give:

- 1) Bring your donation to the office during office hours.
- 2) Place your donation in a blank envelope with your parish envelope # in the collection basket at a weekend Mass. Please write **Sanctuary Renovation** on the front of the envelope.

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH, MARKHAM



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**DONATE**

- 3) Go to the [Donate](#) button on our parish website. You can donate using your debit or credit card. After you complete the donation process, you will receive an email confirmation receipt. Please print out a copy of the receipt, write **Sanctuary Renovation** on the receipt and bring it to the office so that we can allocate the money to the Sanctuary Project and not to the general account.



## 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.



## **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

**Gospel Reading - Luke 2:22-40**

**Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple in accordance with the Law of Moses**

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after His birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, He was called Jesus, the name He was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the Feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimittis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

Loyola Press

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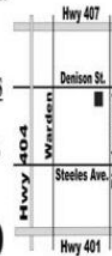
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