

SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH

Pastor: (Rev) Simon deGale; Secretary: Mrs. Rose Scarano
Chaplain @ Sunnybrook & Toronto East Hospitals--in Residence: Fr Montfort Marianayagam

Office: 416-429-4000; Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-3PM
Email: saintjohnxx_iiiparish@outlook.com. Website: <http://saintjohnxxiiiparish.ca/>



Sunday Mass

Sat Vigil Mass: 5:15PM / Sun Mass: 9AM, 12:15PM & 5:30PM. (Weekdays: Mon, Wed, Fri: 7PM; Tues, Thurs, Sat: 9AM)

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on the second Sat at 11AM and third Sun at 1:30PM. Preparation session is required.

Reconciliation (confession)

Before all Sun Masses/Sat Vigil Mass and the Wed Mass or by appointment. *Confessional in Chapel.*

Anointing of the Sick

At any time by appointment. In case of emergency, please ask hospital for Catholic priest or call Fr. Simon at 416-737-0760.

Marriage

See Fr Simon before setting a date.

RCIA

If you know someone who wishes to become Catholic speak to priest.

Finance Committee

Mr Pors Canlas, Ms Olivia Dizon, Mr Carlton Paul

Catholic Cemeteries

Mount Hope, Holy Cross, Queen of Heaven, Assumption, Christ the King, Resurrection, Mount Peace. Head Office: 416-733-8544

DAILY ADVENT MEDITATIONS

<http://evangeli.net/gospel>

Check out the above Web Site for daily meditations on the Advent readings.

HOLY HOUR

Advent Sundays

Come and watch with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays of Advent from 4PM-5PM.

Speak with your Saviour and God about your life, your concerns, and worries; experience His presence and protection.

**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
PART ONE—THE PROFESSION OF
FAITH**

Section One

“I Believe” – “We Believe”

God Comes to Meet Man

—The Transmission Of Divine Revelation—

Sacred Scripture

18. Why does Sacred Scripture teach the truth?

Because God himself is the author of Sacred Scripture. For this reason it is said to be inspired and to teach without error those truths which are necessary for our salvation. The Holy Spirit inspired the human authors who wrote what he wanted to teach us. The Christian faith, however, is not a “religion of the Book”, but of the Word of God – “not a written and mute word, but incarnate and living” (Saint Bernard of Clairvaux).

19. How is Sacred Scripture to be read?

Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted with the help of the Holy Spirit and under the guidance of the Magisterium of the Church according to three criteria: 1) it must be read with attention to the content and unity of the whole of Scripture; 2) it must be read within the living Tradition of the Church; 3) it must be read with attention to the analogy of faith, that is, the inner harmony which exists among the truths of the faith themselves.

20. What is the Canon of Scripture?

The Canon of Scripture is the complete list of the sacred writings which the Church has come to recognize through Apostolic Tradition. The Canon consists of 46 books of the Old Testament and 27 of the New.

21. What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians?

Christians venerate the Old Testament as the true word of God. All of the books of the Old Testament are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value. They bear witness to the divine pedagogy of God's

saving love. They are written, above all, to prepare for the coming of Christ the Saviour of the universe.

22. What importance does the New Testament have for Christians?

The New Testament, whose central object is Jesus Christ, conveys to us the ultimate truth of divine Revelation. Within the New Testament the four Gospels of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John are the heart of all the Scriptures because they are the principle witness to the life and teaching of Jesus. As such, they hold a unique place in the Church.

23. What is the unity that exists between the Old and the New Testaments?

Scripture is one insofar as the Word of God is one. God's plan of salvation is one, and the divine inspiration of both Testaments is one. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other.

24. What role does Sacred Scripture play in the life of the Church?

Sacred Scripture gives support and vigour to the life of the Church. For the children of the Church, it is a confirmation of the faith, food for the soul and the fount of the spiritual life. Sacred Scripture is the soul of theology and of pastoral preaching. The Psalmist says that it is “a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). The Church, therefore, exhorts all to read Sacred Scripture frequently because “ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ” (Saint Jerome).



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, Dec 7, **7PM**: +Clarissa Rodricks
 Tues, Dec 8, **9AM**: Thnksgv for Amanda Leger
 Wed, Dec 9, **7PM**: Thnksgv—Laguatan Family
 Thur, Dec 10, **9AM**: Thnksgv for Dave
 Fri, Dec 11, **7PM**: +Torbida Gondayao
 Sat, Dec 12, **9AM**: Thnksgv for Corazon Martinez

Saturday Vigil, December 12
 5:15PM: +Carmela & Antonio Scarano

Sunday, December 13
 9AM: +Lucio Abadiano
 12:15PM: The Parishioners
 5:30PM: +Purita Palapos

PARISH

YOUTH CHOIR

Rehearsals

1st, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Saturdays of Month @ 10AM.

Grade 8 — Grade 12: Contacts: Editha Lazaga:
 416-557-3622 or Fr Simon

Debating For Advent: Sun Dec 6 @ 5:30PM

Sing 2nd & 3rd Sundays of Month @ 5:30PM Mass

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Grade 1 — Grade 7

Contact Amy: 647-878-2534 or Cecille 416-825-0793. Sing
 1st & 4th Sundays of Month @ 5:30PM Mass

NEXT CHALICE CHILDREN COLLECTION

Sunday, January 24, 2016

Goal: \$2,220(cost raise of \$48 per child per year)
 Payment is made in May of each year for following 12
 months. Total to Date: \$903.

PRAY FOR THE

Adults Seeking The Sacraments Of Baptism & Confirmation At Our Parish

Lina Lim, Wendy Wang, Liam Dowhan, Perry Leung, Sharon Marshall, Jessica Mogmela, and Marc & Susanne LeFort

YOUTH MINISTER

Carla Marcoccia is our new part-time Youth Minister

Carla will begin with us December 10.
 Please pray our Young People & Carla

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, Dec. 12, 6:30PM

....Nativity playDance numbers....Song numbers....Group CarolsDinner before the start of the program. Parents we are inviting you to sign up at the desk in the foyer for the exchange gifts of the kids. Also, please contact the co-ordinators to arrange for the POTLUCK food contributions. Thanks.

Ahme Sanchez: 647-878-2534; Benjie Romero: 416-696-6133; Kat Laygo: 647-779-4729

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, Dec 19, 6:30PM

Pot-Luck Dinner served early.
 Christmas Carols—Soloist—Performance by Karaoke.
 Choir members are invited to add their beautiful voices.

ANNUAL COLLECTION

St Vincent d’Paul

We will take up a second collection next Sunday, December 13, at all the Masses. This collection goes to assist the 200 odd families which the Society helps annually.

CHRISTMAS & NEWYEAR SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE
SCHOOL CONFESSIONS	TUES, DEC 8 @ 9:30AM In School
PARISH CONFESSIONS	WED, DEC 23 @ 7:30PM
CHRISTMAS CAROLS	THURS, DEC 24 @ 11:15PM
MIDNIGHT MASS	THURS, DEC 24 @ 11:59PM
CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES	FRI DEC 25 9AM & 12:15PM
ST STEVEN’S DAY MASS (BOXING DAY)	SAT DEC 26 10AM
THE HOLY FAMILY MASSES	SAT DEC 26 @ 5:15PM SUN DECT 27 9AM, 12:15PM, 5:30PM
VIGIL HOLY HOUR Mary Mother of God	DEC 31 @ 7PM
VIGIL MASS NEWYEAR’S EVE Mary Mother of God	DEC 31 @ 8PM
MASS NEWYEAR’S DAY Mary Mother of God	JAN 1 9AM & 12:15PM
MASS EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	SAT JAN 2 @ 5:15PM SUN JAN 3 9AM, 12:15PM, 5:30PM

SMILE

—[Humanity] has unquestionably one really effective weapon—laughter. Power, money, persuasion, supplication, persecution—these can lift at a colossal humbug—push it a little—weaken it a little, century by century, but only laughter can blow it to rags and atoms at a blast. Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand. — Mark Twain

—A good laugh heals a lot of hurts. — Madeleine L'Engle

—A good laugh is a mighty good thing, a rather too scarce a good thing. — Herman Melville

—A good laugh is sunshine in the house. — William Thackeray

—A smile is a curve that sets everything straight. — Phyllis Diller

—A smile starts on the lips, a grin spreads to the eyes, a chuckle comes from the belly; but a good laugh bursts forth from the soul, overflows, and bubbles all around. — Carolyn Birmingham

—A well-balanced person is one who finds both sides of an issue laughable. — Herbert Procknow

—Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand. — Mark Twain

—Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine. — Lord Byron

—Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can: all of them make me laugh. — W. H.

UPCOMING

BOOK & MEDIA FAIR
&
FINE DINING

February 6/7, 2016

We welcome back the Daughters of St Paul to our parish at all our Masses on the above dates. After each Mass you are invited down for a meal (not 5:30PM)

Before or After Mass

You will find an extensive selection of catholic Bibles, books, Music CDs, and DVD movies for all ages. You are certain to find something inspiring for your self and others.

Info: about life and mission of Daughters of St Paul, www.pauline.org

ARCADIOSE

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND
CAROLS

With Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
December 22, 7:00 pm
Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter
Paroisse du Sacré-Coeur
381 Sherbourne St., Toronto
Music by Howells, Lauridsen, Poulenc and Willan.
WEB: www.thomasmorechurch.ca

MARRIAGE SUNDAY

2016

In 2016, the Archdiocese of Toronto will celebrate Marriage Sunday at the parish level on the weekend of February 6/7. Cardinal Collins has also announced a special Archdiocesan-wide gathering to honour married couples that will take place on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 4:30PM at St Andrew Kim Parish in North York.

His Eminence extends an invitation to all married couples, in particular those who will celebrate their 25th, 40th, or 50⁺ wedding anniversary anytime throughout 2016 to join him for Mass and a reception to honour their fidelity and faithfulness.

Loved ones and family members of those honoured are most welcome to attend. To ensure special reserved seating for honoured couples, pre-registration is required. Visit www.archtoronto.org/marriage to register and to find more information about Marriage Sunday and our archdiocesan celebration. Questions can also be directed to Anne & Dane McCarthy: 416-964-8694

COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU

To be a priest, deacon, brother or sister in order to help our world of today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord"?

If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto
416-968-0997

vocations@archtoronto.org
www.vocationstoronto.ca

FEAST OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY: *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Tuesday, December 8*

— A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.”

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary’s Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus’ redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus’ work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

Comment: In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God’s behalf, addresses Mary as “full of grace” (or “highly favored”). In that context this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary’s intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary’s whole life. The logic of piety helped God’s people to believe that Mary was full of grace and

free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

Quote: “[Mary] gave to the world the Life that renews all things, and she was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.

“It is no wonder, then, that the usage prevailed among the holy Fathers whereby they called the mother of God and free from all fashion and adorned with the entirely unique Virgin of Nazareth is, on God’s command, greeted by an angel messenger as ‘full of grace’ (cf. Luke 1:28). To the heavenly messenger she replies: ‘Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word’ (Luke 1:38)” (Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 56).



Patron Saint of: Brazil / United States

FR MARK VILLANUEVA
Pastor of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish (Mississauga)
25th Anniversary Of Ordination
 Celebration—Friday, January 8, 2016, Mass 4:30 pm,
 Saviour of the World Church, 30 Bristol Road West,
 Mississauga; Reception at Capitol Banquet Hall
 6435 Dixie Road, Mississauga; Cocktails 6 pm,
 Dinner 7 pm, Entertainment and dancing to follow
 Cost is \$55 per person; Dress code: Formal
 Contact Rita Venantius at 905-824-7223 or
rita.venantius@hotmail.com

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?
Birthright, a pro-life crisis pregnancy service, needs your help
 Counselling, odd jobs, administrative or marketing. Volunteers, men and women, are needed to assist those facing an unplanned pregnancy, to provide support and comfort as well as practical solutions. training is provided. Please help us to “love them both...mother and child.”
 Info: 416-469-1111/email: toronto@birthright.org

"He Went Into All The Region Around The Jordan, Proclaiming A Baptism Of Repentance"

ST LUKE



"Commentary 2 – Prepare a road for Christ to travel upon

John the Baptist is a key symbol of Advent preparation. The prophet Isaiah is quoted to show how John is preparing the people for Christ's coming. When the Jews were held captive in Babylon, they built roads for their captors. A day would come, Isaiah wrote, when they would build a highway for their God to prepare the way for His coming. Valleys would be filled in, and hills would be lowered for the "king's highway." In a similar fashion, the Church says today, John the Baptist is calling on us to prepare a road so that Christ can come.

- From a homily on the Gospel by the pastoral team at the St Charles Borromeo parish.

Laudato Si':

On the Care of Our Common Home

Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On the Care for Our Common Home is a call for global action as well as an appeal for deep inner conversion. He points to numerous ways world organisations, nations and communities must move forward and the way individuals -- believers and people of good will -- should see, think, feel and act. Each week, we offer one of the Pope's suggestions, with the paragraph numbers to indicate its place in the Encyclical.

"Believe in a happy future, a better tomorrow. Slow down, recover values and the meaning of life. Putting the brakes on 'unrestrained delusions of grandeur' is not a call to go back to the Stone Age." (Par 113-114, 225)

St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, hermit (Dec 9)

Little is known about the life of Juan Diego before his conversion, but tradition and archaeological and

iconographical sources, along with the most important and oldest indigenous document on the event of Guadalupe, give some information on the life of the saint and the apparitions.

Juan Diego was born in 1474 with the name "Cuauhtlatoatzin" ("the talking eagle") in Cuauhtitlán, today part of Mexico City, Mexico. When he was 50 years old he was baptised by a Franciscan priest, Fr Peter da Gand, one of the first Franciscan missionaries. On 9 December 1531, when Juan Diego was on his way to morning Mass, the Blessed Mother appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, the outskirts of what is now Mexico City. She asked him to go to the Bishop and to request in her name that a shrine be built at Tepeyac, where she promised to pour out her grace upon those who invoked her. The Bishop, who did not believe Juan Diego, asked for a sign to prove that the apparition was true. On 12 December, Juan Diego returned to Tepeyac. Here, the Blessed Mother told him to climb the hill and to pick the flowers that he would find in bloom. He obeyed, and although it was winter time, he found roses flowering. He gathered the flowers and took them to Our Lady who carefully placed them in his mantle and told him to take them to the Bishop as "proof". When he opened his mantle, the flowers fell on the ground and there remained impressed, in place of the flowers, an image of the Blessed Mother, the apparition at Tepeyac.

With the Bishop's permission, Juan Diego lived the rest of his life as a hermit in a small hut near the chapel where the miraculous image was placed for veneration. Here he cared for the church and the first pilgrims who came to pray to the Mother of Jesus.

CATHOLIC ANSWERS

Question

How did the Church determine that September 8 is the birthday of our Blessed Mother?

Full Question

How did the Church determine that September 8 is the birthday of our Blessed Mother?

Answer

Usually, the Church assigns dates for particular feasts. The assignments can be based on the date of a saint's death, a date that has special meaning in the saint's life, or some other meaningful date. In the case of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, September 8 is the date that follows nine months after December 8, on which date the Church celebrates the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Answered by: Michelle Arnold

Question

How can we use Scripture to show the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son?

Full Question

In the December 1993 issue, This Rock ran a "Fathers Know Best" column on the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Son as well as the Father. How can we show this from Scripture?

Answer

One proof is that the Holy Spirit is referred to in Scripture as both the Spirit of the Father (Mt 10:20, Rom 8:10-11, 2 Cor 1:21-22, Eph 3:14-16) and as the Spirit of the Son (Rom 8:9, Gal 4:6, Phil 1:19, 1 Pt 1:11). Statements saying that the Spirit is "of" the other two Persons of the Trinity indicate that his Person is tightly bound up with and originates from them (just as the Son is the Son "of" the Father).

A second proof is that the external relations of the Trinity model their internal ones. In John 14:26 the Spirit is said to proceed from the Father, but a chapter later, in 15:26, Jesus states that he will send the Spirit from the Father. The same relation is reflected in Acts 2:33, where Peter states that Jesus has received the Spirit from the Father and sends him.

A philosophical explanation of this is found in the Council of Florence, which stated in 1439, "Since the Father has through generation given to the only-begotten Son everything that belongs to the Father, except being Father, the Son has also eternally from the Father, from whom he is eternally born, that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Son" (Decree for the Greeks).

The Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son because the Father has given all things to the Son, including the procession of the Holy Spirit. For more information see the Catechism of the Catholic Church 246-248, 264.

Answered by: Catholic Answers Staff

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL OPEN HOUSE – MEET THE CATHEDRAL RESTORATION ARTISTS

**St. Michael's Cathedral 65 Bond St., Toronto
Tuesday, December 8 and Wednesday,
December 9 @ 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Prayer
service at Noon)**

His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, and Father Michael Busch, rector of St. Michael's Cathedral, invite the entire community to experience the beauty, architecture and unique historical journey of St. Michael's Cathedral.

Extensive restoration has taken place over the last several years with the cathedral closed since June 2015 for major work. Two days of open houses during the Advent season will provide visitors with a preview of these efforts.

From sculptors to brick layers and stone masons, restoration artists will showcase their expertise inside the church, with diverse exhibits highlighting the incredible efforts to restore the mother church of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

"THE ANNUNCIATION" ADVENT RETREAT

**St. Francis Centre 208501 Hwy 9, Caledon
Saturday, December 12 – 9 a.m to 5 p.m.**

St. Francis Centre is hosting an Advent retreat with an in-depth consideration of the Mystery of the Annunciation. The retreat is guided by the Franciscans in residence and accompanied by visual aids and materials. A fraternal and abundant lunch is provided, followed by a meditated rosary within Holy Hour and personal free time during which the friars will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The retreat concludes with Holy Mass. Open to all.

UPCOMING

MARTYRS SHRINE HELLO!

Saturday, June 4, 2016

The 12:15PM Choir & the Daughters of Isabella have volunteered to sponsor our Pilgrimage to the Shrine next year. This year's pilgrimage was such a beautiful experience both in terms of the spiritual experience and the wonderful grounds and fine weather that we want to go again.

Soon we will have to begin preparing for this event.


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 Call Marivic
 Flemington Park Plaza
 747 Don Mills Rd., Suite 204, Toronto, ON
 Tel 416-422-0464 Fax 416-422-3969
bambootours@bellnet.ca

Paul O'Connor Funeral Home
 1939 Lawrence Avenue East
 416-751-7890

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 Jay Wilson
 Managing Director
 416-423-1000

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Takes place in the Chapel
 Every Friday: 9AM to 6PM, concludes with evening prayer and 5:40PM. Come for an hour and keep Lord. Pray for Church, your



Benediction at a few minutes or watch with the others, the family, yourself.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
 Archdiocese of Toronto
Mt Hope Cemetery
 305 Erskine Avenue, Toronto, ON M4P 1Z7
 416-483-4944
www.catholic-cemeteries.com

FAST & ABSTINENCE

During Lent

Catholics fast, and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fridays of the Year

It is a requirement of our Faith that we abstain from meat on all the Fridays of the year (except on Solemnities) in commemoration of our Saviour's death.

The fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

The required fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday involves eating only one full meal on those days. One or two smaller meals may be taken on those days, but may not total one full meal. The required fast does not allow eating anything between meals.

Abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday & Fridays of the Year

Abstinence on these days from meat does not intend the omission of eggs or dairy products.

Age Requirements

"All Catholics who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their sixtieth year.

ABSTINENCE

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