

SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH

Pastor: (Rev) Simon deGale; Secretary: Hayde Ayala

To Donate Online to St JXXIII go to: <https://community.archtoronto.org/page.aspx?pid=415>

Office: 416-429-4000; Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-3PM

Email: saintjohnxx_iiiparish@outlook.com. Website: <http://saintjohnxxiiiparish.ca/>

“Unto Us A Child Is Born... And His Name Will Be Called
“Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince Of Peace.”



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

347. What sins are gravely opposed to the sacrament of Matrimony?

Adultery and polygamy are opposed to the sacrament of matrimony because they contradict the equal dignity of man and woman and the unity and exclusivity of married love. Other sins include the deliberate refusal of one's procreative potential which deprives conjugal love of the gift of children and divorce which goes against the indissolubility of marriage.

348. When does the Church allow the physical separation of spouses?

The Church permits the physical separation of spouses when for serious reasons their living together becomes practically impossible, even though there may be hope for their reconciliation. As long as one's spouse lives, however, one is not free to contract a new union, except if the marriage be null and be declared so by ecclesiastical authority.

349. What is the attitude of the Church toward those people who are divorced and then remarried?

The Church, since she is faithful to her Lord, cannot recognize the union of people who are civilly divorced and remarried. "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery" (Mark 10:11-12). The Church manifests an attentive solicitude toward such people and encourages them to a life of faith, prayer, works of charity and the Christian education of their children. However, they cannot receive sacramental absolution, take Holy Communion, or exercise certain ecclesial responsibilities as long as their situation, which objectively contravenes God's law, persists.

350. Why is the Christian family called a domestic church?

The Christian family is called the domestic church because the family manifests and lives out the communal and familial nature of the Church as the family of God. Each family member, in accord with their own role, exercises the baptismal priesthood and contributes toward making the family a community of grace and of prayer, a school of

human and Christian virtue and the place where the faith is first proclaimed to children.

2017 ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP.

For regular users, if there are changes in address and contact information please advise the office.

If not yet using pre-numbered envelopes, we encourage you to register and a box of envelopes will be available for you. Envelope users are the major supporters of our Parish. We depend on your generosity. THANK YOU!

COFFEE SUNDAY

Volunteers Needed. Would You Like To Help Us Get To Know Each Other Better?

Before we begin we need a co-ordinator for each of the 4 Sunday Masses. Then we can set a date for our first coffee Sunday. Perhaps we can begin after the Christmas rush. Say, Sat, Jan 28/Sun Jan 29.

FAMILY OF FAITH

2016 Tax Receipts

Will be issued by the end of Feb 2017. These receipts are not issued by the parish. If you are one of the many donors who prefer to receive your tax receipts by email please contact the Donations Processing Centre via campaign@archtoronto.org. Please provide your full name, address, and the name of your parish.

Is Your Information-Up-To-date?

Please help the Family of Faith Campaign maintain its records by letting them know of any changes to your information, including your email address. To up-date contact campaign@archtoronto.org or 416-934-3400 x555.

Where To Send Payments

Donations Processing Centre, Family of Faith Campaign, 1155 Young St, Toronto, ON M4T 1W2
PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES, YOUR PAYMENT METHOD/INFORMATION CHANGES.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, Dec 26, **10AM**: +Consolacion Rojas
 Tues, Dec 27, **9AM**: Thanksgiving by Prosie
 Wed, Dec 28, **7PM**: +Cesar Sevilla Mindanao
 Thurs, Dec 29, **9AM**: +Rufina Canlas Sr.
 Fri, Dec 30, **7PM**: Thnksv of Blck Nazr Devts
 Sat, Dec 31, **9AM**: Cancelled

Saturday, Dec 31
 5:15PM: +Silvestra Canalas
Sunday, Jan 1
 9AM: +Leo deGale
 12:15PM: +Eugenio Palconit
 5:30PM: Cancelled

FORMED.ORG

December Features
 BE FORMED IN THE FAITH

Go To Programs: Children , Watch **"Altar Gang" Or "A Legend From Long Ago..."** Christmas Story.

Go To Audio: Featured, Listen To **"Prepare The Way For The King" Or "The True Meaning Of Christmas"**.

Go To Books: Featured, Download **"The Appalling Strangeness Of God's Mercy"** Or Children, Download **"Bible Stories For Little Children"**

Want to watch a movie on a saint's life? Hear an inspiring audio on spirituality?

Teach your children the faith through video? You can do all this via computer, smart phone, tablet or internet tv. Go to formed.org; input our parish access code: MRFx27; fill out your profile and password. Bang! You're into the site.

VIGIL CANDLES

Saturday, Dec 31—Friday, Jan 6
 Sanctuary Tabernacle:
 Chapel Tabernacle:

CHRISTMAS & NEWYEAR SCHEDULE

PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Grade 1 — Grade 8. Amy: 647-878-2534; 1st & 4th Sun

YOUTH CHOIR
 Grade 9 & Up: Sing 2nd & 3rd Sun @ 5:30PM Mass

CHALICE CHILDREN COLLECTION

Sun, Jan 29: Goal: \$2,220. Total to Date: \$770.00

PARISH GROUP LEADERS
Lectio—Evangelization, Six Sessions
 Saturday Feb 4 @ 11AM & Saturday Feb 18 @ 11AM

College/University Age
Upcoming: 6 Sessions with Your Age Group: OLW Lounge

MOM'S CATHOLIC GROUP
Coming to St JXXIII Parish in 2017
 Check out the website for further information.
www.catholicmomsgroup.com. St JXXIII: Angelina

EVENT	DATE	TIME	TIME	TIME
Christmas Day	Sunday Dec 25	Mass 9AM	Mass 12:15PM	Cancelled 5:30PM
St Stevens Day	Monday Dec 26	Mass 10AM	--	--
New Year Eve Mary Mother of God	Sat Dec 31	Mass Cancelled 9AM	Holy Hour 3:45PM	Mass 5:15PM
New Year Mary Mother of God	Sunday, Jan 1	Mass 9AM	Mass 12:15PM	Cancelled 5:30PM
New Year Day 2	Mon, Jan 2	Mass 10AM	--	--

SMILE

Family Affairs

An elderly man was on the operating table awaiting surgery to be performed by his son, a renowned surgeon. Just before they would put him under, he asked to speak to his son: "Don't be nervous, son, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me... your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."

SENIOR'S GROUP

Meet 2nd & 4th Thurs of Month

Next Meeting **IS THURSDAY, Jan 12 @ 9:30AM**

Co-ordinator: Femi Barrera. 416-467-6492

**TCDSB KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
January 18, 10AM**

Imagine the Possibilities: Junior Kindergarten in the Toronto Catholic District School Board provides children with a variety of learning experiences in a caring, faith based environment. Students develop a positive attitude about themselves and others, become more independent and responsible, develop self-regulation and social skills, and learn to solve problems.

Parents can apply online beginning Jan 18, 10AM: SOAR.tcdsb.org and follow up with a visit to the school to present required documents. Or they can register at their local school with the required documents beginning Jan 18: 10AM. WEB: www.tcdsb.org/kindergartenregistration: 416-222-8282ext. 5314

VOCATIONS

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 Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

ARCHDIOCESE

**ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO CELEBRATES
175TH ANNIVERSARY**

December 17 marks the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto, kicking off a year-long celebration of this historic milestone.

Originally part of the Diocese of Kingston, on Dec 17, 1841, Pope Gregory 16 formally created the Diocese of Toronto and named Michael Power its first bishop. The Archdiocese of Toronto is planning numerous historical and spiritual activities to commemorate the 175th anniversary, including a large-scale celebration at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on May 30, 2017.

BLACK NAZARNE NOVENA/FEAST DAY.

Feast Day Mass—Monday, Jan 9 @ 7PM

Jan 1st - Sun, 1:15pm / Jan 2nd - Mon 6:45pm / Jan 3rd - Tues 8:45am / Jan 4th - Wed 6:45pm / Jan 5th - Thurs 8:45am / Jan 6th - Fri 6:45pm / Jan 7th - Sat 8:45am / Jan 8th - Sun 1:15pm / Jan 9th - Mon 6:45PM

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Second (2nd) Test Months of Jan/Feb

**SACRAMENT
OF CONFIRMATION**

Session 4: Wed, Jan 25 @ 7:30PM In the Hall

FERTILITYCARE TORONTO

***Catholic Women's Fertility Health 416-465-2868
www.fertilitycare.ca info@fertilitycare.ca***

Are you planning to space your children and feel unsure of the family planning system you're using?

FertilityCare Toronto can help.

Is your family complete and are wondering what comes next for family planning? **FertilityCare** Toronto can help.

Would you like to follow your faith but don't know a reliable, scientific family planning method?

FertilityCare Toronto can help.

Do you have health concerns and want to learn more about your body and gynecologic health?

FertilityCare Toronto can help.

Are you suffering from infertility or recurrent miscarriage and don't know where to turn for effective help? **FertilityCare** Toronto can help.

FEASTS OF CHRISTMAS WEEK

Feast: St Stephen, Deacon & Martyr--Mon, Dec 26--

The Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. "[Y]ou always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors" (Acts 7:51b).

His speech brought anger from the crowd. "But [Stephen], filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God....' They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him.... As they were stoning him out, 'Lord Jesus, Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).

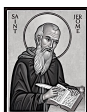


Reflection: Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. He died with his eyes trustfully fixed on God, and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips. A "happy" death is one that finds us in the same spirit, whether our dying is as quiet as Joseph's or as violent as Stephen's: dying with courage, total trust and forgiving love.

Feast: St John, Apostle, Evangelist—Tues, Dec 27: It

is God who calls; human beings answer. The vocation of John and his brother James is stated very simply in the Gospels, along with that of Peter and his brother Andrew: Jesus called them; they followed. The absoluteness of their response is indicated by the account. James and John "were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him" (Matthew 4:21b-22).

...John was with Peter when the first great miracle after the Resurrection took place—the cure of the man crippled from birth—which led to their spending the night in jail together. The experience of the perhaps best words of Acts: "Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, they [the questioners] were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus" (Acts 4:13).



The Apostle John is traditionally considered the author of

the Fourth Gospel, three New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation. His Gospel is a very personal account. He sees the glorious and divine Jesus already in the incidents of his mortal life. At the Last Supper, John's Jesus speaks as if he were already in heaven. It is the Gospel of Jesus' glory.

Feast: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs—Wed, Dec 28:

Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few.

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the named Bethlehem the Messiah would cunningly told to him so that he homaged." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts and, warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

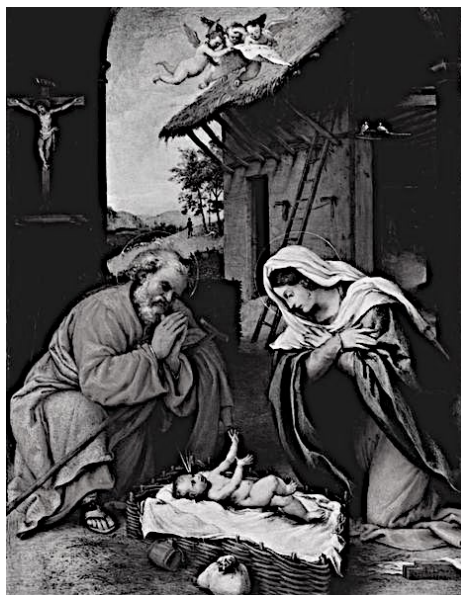


Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob/Israel. She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

WIN GREAT PRIZES
Friars' Student Writing Award
Students aged 14-18 are invited to write a five hundred-word essay on the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated Jan 18-25. The Theme for this coming year is "Reconciliation—The love of Christ compels us" (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-20). Students should read the above Scripture passage and respond to the following statement in the essay:
As the Christian world reflects on the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (1517-2017) and after reading 2 Corinthians 5:14-29, discuss the main obstacles to Christian reconciliation and ways to overcome them based on your own experiences.
First prize is an iPad Air 2 (64GB), second prize is a Kobo Aura HsO, and third to sixth prizes are a one-year subscription to the Catholic Register and other prizes. Essays will be edited and published in the Catholic Register. Deadline for entries is Jan 13. E-mail your essay to editor@catholicregister.org or Fax it to 416-934-3400, ext 344

“In The Beginning Was The Word, And The Word Was With God, And The Word Was God.”

St John



The Readings:

Isaiah 52:7–10

Psalms 98:1–6

Hebrews 1:1–6

John 1:1–18

The Church's liturgy rings in Christmas with a joyful noise. We hear today of uplifted voices, trumpets and horns, and melodies of praise. In the First Reading, Isaiah foretells Israel's liberation from captivity and exile in Babylon. He envisions a triumphant homecoming to Zion marked by joyful singing. The new song in today's Psalm is a victory hymn to the marvellous deeds done by our God and King.

Both the prophet and psalmist sing of God's power and salvation. God has shown the might of His holy arm, they say. This language recalls the Exodus, where the people first sang of God's powerful arm that shattered Israel's enemy Egypt (see Exod. 15:1, 6, 16). The coming of the Christ child into the world fulfills all that the Exodus and the return from exile prefigured. In Jesus, all

nations to the ends of the earth will see the victory of God over the forces of sin and death.

Jesus is the new King. He is the royal firstborn son and Son of God promised to David, as we hear in today's Epistle (see Ps. 2:7; 2 Sam. 7:14). And as our Gospel reveals, He is the Word of God, the one through whom the universe was created, the one through whom the universe is sustained. In speaking to us through His Son, God has unveiled a new age, the last days. The new age is a new creation. In the beginning, God spoke His Word and light shone in the darkness. Now, in this new age, He sends us the true light to scatter the darkness of a world that has exiled itself from God.

He is the one Isaiah foretold – who brings good tidings of peace and salvation, who announces to the world that God has come to dwell and to reign (see Rev. 21:3–4). So we sing a new song on Christmas. It is the song of those who have believed in the Christ child and been born again – by grace given the power to become children of God.

CHRISTMAS ANSWERS

Question

A friend tells me that Jesus was probably born in the summer. How do I explain to her the reason the Church celebrates *Christmas* on December 25?

Answer

As we do not know the exact date of Christ's birth, the date of December 25 for Christmas may have been arbitrary. The Church could have chosen another date on which to celebrate the birth of Christ. One reason December 25 may have been deemed suitable is its proximity to the winter solstice. After that date the days start to become longer, and thus it is at the beginning of a season of light entering the world (cf. John 1:5). The summer solstice—after which the days start to get shorter—falls near June 24, on which the Church celebrates the birth of John the Baptist, who declared of Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Question

Non-Christians claim that Christmas trees are a religious symbol of Christmas. Is a Christmas tree really a religious symbol of Christmas equal to a Nativity scene?

Answer

It depends on how religious symbol is defined. If it means anything to which religious significance can be attached, then yes, because many Christians have attached religious significance to the Christmas tree (e.g., the Tree of Life, both in Eden and on Calvary). But if a religious symbol of a holiday is considered a tangible object intrinsically attached to that holiday, and without which the holiday wouldn't be the same, then no, because the celebration of Christmas does not require Christmas trees. Christmas trees are a decoration that Christians incorporated into their celebration of the holiday over the centuries. They did not become widespread in the English-speaking world until German relatives of the British royal family brought the custom to Great Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries. Christians justified the custom on religious grounds by explaining that the evergreen tree can symbolize eternal life. Even today in many traditionally Catholic countries, far more emphasis is placed on the much older Christian custom of erecting Nativity scenes, a tradition

attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226). In short, although Christmas trees are a beloved custom in much of the English-speaking world, they are not necessary to the celebration of the holiday and are not nearly as symbolic of the holiday as the crèche. If it is agreed that a religious symbol should be understood to mean a tangible object intrinsically attached to that holiday, then Christmas trees are to Christmas what dreidels are to Hanukkah—a beloved custom but not a religious symbol.

YOUTH MINISTRY

GOD SQUAD & KIDS OF THE CROSS

Youth Ministry Christmas Party:

Friday, December 23, 2016 from 6:00-8:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Please join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior with a night of prayer, worship, activities and snacks. Don't forget to bring a friend!

Next God Squad Night:

Friday, January 6, 2017 from 7:00-9:00pm in the Parish hall.

Next Kids of the Cross Night:

Friday, January 13, 2017 from 6:00-8:00pm in the Parish hall.

XLT: RESOLVE

January 2, 7PM

Flato Markham Theatre

171 Town Centre Blvd., Markham

How will you welcome in 2017? Join Paul J. Kim (youth speaker), Kathleen & Jesse Leblanc (married couple) and Fr. Frank Portelli (Director of the Office of Catholic Youth) for an evening of prayer, praise, confessions and Eucharistic adoration. This ministry team will help teens and adults alike discern what they need to "resolve" to make 2017 a new and faith-filled year. Don't miss out on this perfect opportunity to grow in your relationship with Jesus and the Church. Usher in 2017 like you've never done before.

CONTACT: St. Justin Martyr Parish PHONE: 905-479-2463 EMAIL: youth@stjustin.com
WEB: www.stjustin.com

Bamboo Travel & Tours
 Call Marivic
 Flemington Park Plaza
 747 Don Mills Rd., Suite 206A, Toronto, ON
 Tel 416-422-0464
bambootours@bellnet.ca

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

Flemington Park Dental Care
 747 Don Mills Road #35
 Inside Flemington Plaza
 New Patients are welcome
416-429-0783

Don Mills-Eglinton
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New Conservatory of Music
 Piano, Voice, Violin, Guitar and 20 other instruments and theory.
 Violins, Keyboards, and guitars loaned to beginners.
 For free aptitude test call 416-292-5959
 4466 Sheppard Ave. East at Brimley Rd.



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 Jay Wilson
 Managing Director
 416-423-1000

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

ADORATION OF OUR LORD IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Takes place in the Chapel
 Every Friday: 9AM to 6PM, concludes with evening prayer and Benediction at 5:40PM. Come for a few minutes or an hour and keep watch with the Lord. Pray for others, the Church, your family, and yourself.



LENTEN FAST & ABSTINENCE

We fast, & abstain from meat on Ash Wed & Good Fri.

The fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

The required fast on Ash Wed and Good Fri 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

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

Age Requirements

"All Catholics who have completed their 14th year are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their 60th year.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Grade 1 — Grade 8. Amy: 647-878-2534; 1st & 4th Sun

YOUTH CHOIR

Grade 9 & Up: **Sing** 2nd & 3rd Sun @ 5:30PM Mass

CHALICE CHILDREN COLLECTION

Sun, Jan 29: Goal: \$2,220. Total to Date: \$770.00

PARISH GROUP LEADERS***Lectio—Evangelization, Six Sessions***

Saturday Feb 4 @ 11AM & Saturday Feb 18 @ 11AM

College/University Age

Upcoming: 6 Sessions with Your Age Group: OLW Lounge

FOR PARISH REVENUE***7 Day Vigil Lamps***

To help with parish revenue the red vigil lamps for the altar tabernacle and chapel tabernacle can be purchased for the week beginning at the Sunday Vigil Mass for \$20. The name of the Family or Person for whom the Vigil Lamp is burning will be placed in this bulletin every week.

It is possible for the parish to raise \$1,500 each year in this way.