

SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH

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

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

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

MAY THE GOD CHILD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY



THE CHRISTMAS MASS ON TV

For those who cannot make it to church, please join the Catholic Community this Christmas.

Watch the Daily TV Mass: *Christmas Eve* on VisionTV at 9:00 pm ET / yesTV at 10:00 pm ET

Christmas Day at 8AM and 12PM ET on VisionTV / 11AM ET on Salt + Light. / 1PM on yesTV

You can also watch on the web at www.dailvtvmass.com

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Part One—The Profession of Faith

I Believe in God the Father

HEAVEN AND EARTH

59. What did God create?

Sacred Scripture says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen1:1). The Church in her profession of faith proclaims that God is the Creator of everything, visible and invisible, of all spiritual and corporeal beings, that is, of angels and of the visible world and, in a special way, of man.

60. Who are the angels?

The angels are purely spiritual creatures, incorporeal, invisible, immortal, and personal beings endowed with intelligence and will. They ceaselessly contemplate God face-to-face and they glorify him. They serve him and are his messengers in the accomplishment of his saving mission to all.

61. In what way are angels present in the life of the Church?

The Church joins with the angels in adoring God, invokes their assistance and commemorates some in her liturgy.

" Beside each believer stands an angel as a protector and shepherd leading him to life." (Saint Basil the Great)

62. What does Sacred Scripture teach about the creation of the visible world?

Through the account of the "six days" of creation Sacred Scripture teaches us the value of the created world and its purpose, namely, to praise God and to serve humanity. Every single thing owes its very existence to God from whom it receives its goodness and perfection, its proper laws and its proper place in the universe.

63. What is the place of the human person in creation?

The human person is the summit of visible creation in as much as he or she is created in the image and likeness of God.

64. What kind of bond exists between created things?

There exist an interdependence and a hierarchy among creatures as willed by God. At the same time, there is also a unity and solidarity among creatures since all have the same Creator, are loved by him and are ordered to his glory. Respecting the laws inscribed in creation and the relations which derive from the nature of things is, therefore, a principle of wisdom and a foundation for morality.

65. What is the relationship between the work of creation and the work of redemption?

The work of creation culminates in the still greater work of redemption, which in fact gives rise to a new creation in which everything will recover its true meaning and fulfillment.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

DATE & FEAST	CHOIR	DATE	TIME
4 th Sun of Advent Masses	Gina Editha	Sun, Dec 24	9AM & 12:15PM
Advent Holy Hour		Sun, Dec 24	4PM
Christmas Carols	Children	Sun, Dec 24	11:15PM
Christmas Midnight Mass	Hayde	Sun, Dec 24	Midnight
Christmas Day Masses	Tony Editha	Mon, Dec 25	9AM & 12:15PM
St Stephen's Mass		Tues, Dec 26	10AM
Holy Family Vigil Mass	Hayde	Sat, Dec 30	5:15PM
Holy Family Masses	Tony Editha	Sun, Dec 31	9AM & 12:15PM
Holy Hour Vigil Exposition & Benediction		Sun, Dec 31	6PM
Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass	Hayde	Sun, Dec 31	7PM
Mary, Mother of God Masses	Gina Editha	Mon, Jan 1	9AM & 12:15PM

PRAY FOR THE DECEMBER MISSION INTENTION

"For The Elderly"

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, Dec 25, **9AM e³ 12:15PM:**
Christmas Masses

Tues, Dec 26, **10AM:**
+Carmelita Estanislao

Wed, Dec 27, **7PM:**
Healing of Eyes

Thurs, Dec 28, **9AM**
+Rufina Canlas-Sy e³ +Juanito Sy

Fri, Dec 29, **7PM:**
Thanksgiving of Black Naz Devots

Sat, Dec 30 **9AM:**
+Joseph Poon

Saturday, December 30
5:15PM: *The Parishioners*

Sunday, December 31
9AM: *+Deceased: Rodrigues e³ Dsa Family*
12:15PM: *Thanksgiving of Belle D.*
5:30PM: *CANCELLED*

CONFIRMATION—UPCOMING
Session 4—Wed Jan 31, 2018, at 7:30PM

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION—UPCOMING
2nd Test—Section 2—Reconciliation

This is preparation for the young people's first Confession. Make appointment for last week of January or anytime in Feb. First Confession will be on Sat, March 17 @ 11AM in the Church.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
Last Sunday's Offering—\$2,400
To break even weekly—\$3,000 needed.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & SHUT-INS
Call parish office and let us know—416-429-4000

VIGIL CANDLES

Saturday, Dec 30—Friday, Jan 5
Sanctuary Tabernacle: **+Silvestra Canalas**
Chapel Tabernacle: **+Lerma & Isagani Ayala**

SENIOR'S GROUP

Meets after 9AM Mass on the 2nd & 4th Thurs of Month—Next Meeting IS THURSDAY, Dec 28

WONDERFULLY GREAT THINGS

Children's Choir: Grade 1 Grade 8. Returns in March
Sing 1st & 4th Sun @ 5:30PM Mass
Youth Choir—Defunct!!!!!!
Grade 9/Up: 2nd & 3rd Sun @ 5:30PM Mass
Chalice Children's Collection
Sunday, Dec 31—Goal: \$2,220. Total to Date: \$1850.45

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Need Prayer Help?
Call Beth at 416-467-6492. Your intention will be emailed out to this prayer community. Only first name and intention will be shared.

COFFEE SUNDAY: Last Sun of the Month
9AM Mass: Coffee Sunday Group; 12:15PM Mass:
Thank you Volunteers for your generosity.

FORMED

The Catholic Faith On Demand—Free To You
Movies, documentaries, apologetics, youth, faith formation, Bible studies, current topics, youth; talks, audio dramas, audio books. Spanish too. Go to "formed.org"; input our parish access code: MRFx27; fill out your profile and password.

VOCATIONS

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 do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto

416-968-0997

vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

SMILE

Getting Rid Of Them

Father: "Son, you were adopted."

Son: "What?! I knew it! I want to meet my biological parents!"

Father: "We are your biological parents. Now pack up, the new ones will pick you up in 20 minutes."

Mom, do you know that most of my friends got the new iPhone already?

Son, do you know the foster home down by the crossroads?

ADORATION OF OUR LORD IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Takes place in the Adoration Chapel

Every Friday: 9AM to evening prayer 5:40PM. Come for an hour and keep Lord. Pray for Church, your



6PM, concludes with and Benediction at a few minutes or watch with the others, the family, yourself.

BLACK NAZARENE NOVENA

Sun, Dec 31—1:15PM / Mon, Jan 1—1:15PM / Tues, Jan 2—8:45AM / Wed, Jan 3—6:45PM / Thurs, Jan 4—8:45AM / Fri, Jan 5—6:45PM / Sat, Jan 6—8:45AM / Sun, Jan 7—1:15PM / Mon, Jan 8—6:45PM / Tues, Jan 9—FEAST DAY

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH OVERNIGHT VIGIL HAS ARRIVED AT St John XXIII—ADORATION CHAPEL

Begins Jan 5, 2018, and continues on every first Friday of the Month.

The Catholic Women's League of the Parish is sponsoring this devotion. They invite us all to join them.

Vigil Begins Fri 7:30PM and ends Sat 8:30AM

Contact: Elaine Shaver—647-713-1198

Benefits

Most of the benefits will be invisible. The measurable benefits will occur in individual lives:

- Increased faith in the True Presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament
- Answered prayer requests, both spiritual and material
- Conversions of heart and overcoming of habitual sins
 - Families growing closer together

MAJOR RELIC OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

To Visit The Archdiocese Of Toronto—Jan 12 – 14

A first-degree relic of missionary St Francis Xavier is coming to the Archdiocese of Toronto. The forearm of the saint, permanently displayed at the Church of the Gesù in Rome...will be hosted by St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica Jan12, St Francis Xavier Church, Mississauga Jan13 & Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toronto Jan14.

This is the first time the relic has been on Canadian soil. The body of St Francis Xavier, which is in Goa, India, as well as the relic of his arm, are incorrupt—they have not experienced natural decay since his death in 1552. Close to 100,000 people will visit the various events across the country—the same number of people it is believed Francis baptized with his right arm and hand.

NEXT CATHOLIC MOM'S GROUP

Next Meeting is Saturday, Jan 27, 1—3PM

2018 ENVELOPES

NOW AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP.

Envelope users are the major supporters of our Parish. We depend on you. THANK YOU!

For regular users, if there are changes in address and contact info please advise the office. If you are not yet using pre-numbered envelopes, we encourage you to register and a box of envelopes will be available for you.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

St Stephen, The First Martyr—Tues, Dec 26: "...They chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 6:1-5). Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews...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. "...you always oppose the holy like your ancestors" filled with the holy intently to said, 'Behold, I see opened and the standing at the ...They threw him out to stone him. ...As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ...'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).



Spirit. "...you always Spirit; you are just (Acts 7:51b). "...he,

Spirit, looked up heaven...and he the heavens Son of Man right hand of God.'

of the city, and began

Reflection: Stephen...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.

St John, Apostle, Evangelist—Wed, 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. (Mtt 4:21b-22).

For the three former fishermen—Peter, James and John—that faith was to be rewarded by a special friendship with Jesus...But John's friendship was even more special....John's own Gospel refers to him as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (Jn 13:23; 19:26; 20:2), the one who reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper, and the one to whom Jesus gave the exquisite honour of caring for his mother, as John stood beneath the cross. (Jn 19:26b, 27b).



Because of the depth of his Gospel, John is usually thought of as the eagle of theology, soaring in high regions that other writers did not enter.

On the first Easter, Mary Magdalene "ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him'" (Jn 20:2). John recalls, perhaps with a smile, that he and Peter ran side by

side... "the other disciple [John] also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed" (Jn 20:8).

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 mysterious experience of the Resurrection is perhaps best contained in the 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 also of three NT 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. John's is the Gospel of Jesus' glory.

Reflection: "The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16).

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs—Thurs, Dec 28: Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was...a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few.

Mt 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers came asking the "the newborn king Jews," "...Herod them to report that he could also homage." They offered him their 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 Matt to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Mt 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.

Reflection: The Holy Innocents are few in comparison to the genocide and abortion of our day. But even if there had been only one, we recognize the greatest treasure God put on the earth—a human person, destined for eternity, and graced by Jesus' death and resurrection.

"...Therefore The Child To Be Born Will Be Holy; He Will Be Called Son Of God"

Gabriel



This Sunday's Readings: *2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11,16; Psalm 89:2-5,27,29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38*

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9).

Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13-14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible.

Mary is hailed as the daughter Jerusalem, called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (see Zephaniah 3:14-17). The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High" – an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-19).

He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God, "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end.

He is to rule over the house of Jacob – the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1-5).

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today, to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too, must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience – that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

DR. SCOTT HAHN

CATHOLIC ANSWERS

www.catholic.com

CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATION

Question

Is it obligatory to go to Mass on Christmas Day, which this year falls on a Monday, if someone has gone Dec. 24 (Sunday) in the morning?

Answer

Yes, there are two Mass obligations, the Sunday obligation and the Christmas obligation. A person cannot fulfill both obligations with one Mass. In order to fulfill a Mass obligation, we must attend either on the day of the feast or on the evening preceding (Code of Canon Law 1248). Therefore, a Sunday morning Mass could not possibly qualify as satisfying the Mass obligation the following day, since it is in the morning.

In order to satisfy the Sunday obligation, a Catholic could attend the Saturday evening Mass or Mass at some time on Sunday.

In order to satisfy the Christmas obligation, a Catholic could attend Mass on a Sunday at 4 p.m. or later or on Christmas Day itself on Monday.

It does not matter what kind of Mass someone attends so long as he attends Mass on either the day of the obligation or the evening preceding and does so for each obligation. Therefore, if someone attended a Saturday evening Mass for the Sunday obligation and then attended Mass again on Sunday at 6 p.m., that would satisfy both obligations, even if the second Mass was a Sunday Mass and not a Christmas Mass. Likewise, if a Catholic attended a 6 p.m. Mass on Sunday and a 10 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day, that would satisfy both obligations, even if the Sunday evening Mass was a Christmas Mass as well.

THANKS***For the Beautiful Christmas Party***

To everyone who contributed their time and effort to preparing the children for the nativity play; their time and effort with cooking and preparing and serving such a wonderful meal; for the music, the entertainment & Santa Claus, etc.

Especially thanks to Ahme Sanchez for preparing the children. To Mums & Dads for bringing your children for the practices; to our young people for participating so enthusiastically.

YOUTH GROUPS

Upcoming Youth Events**Next God Squad Social Night: New Year Party**

Fri, Jan 5 from 6-8PM in the Parish hall.

Join us as we celebrate the New Year together with a meal and baking. Youth are welcome to bring siblings and friends.

Next Kids of the Cross Night: Service

Fri, Jan 12 from 6-8PM in the Parish hall.

Announcements:

Catholic Women's League from St. John XXIII Parish Council have, for the third year in a row, invited our youth ministry to participate in youth awards taking place throughout the Diocese. This year, there are two contests, one service award, and one scholarship that youth in our Parish can apply for. Deadlines are to be announced soon.

Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest

Grade 7 & 8 students are invited to prepare a speech with a topic of their choice. We are looking for two youth to represent St J XXIII Parish. Details regarding criteria and prizes can be found in packages that are available in the youth minister's office.

Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry Contest

The Mary Dobell Pro-Life Essay & Poetry Contest supports and encourages an awareness and positive attitude towards a broad range of pro-life issues. We are looking for two intermediate level students (grades 7-9) to write an essay and poem, and two senior level students (grades 10-12) to write an essay and a poem. Details regarding criteria and prizes can be found in packages that are available in the youth minister's office.

Jean McCann Service Award

The Jean McCann Service Award for youth recognizes and affirms the role played in our Parishes by our confirmed Catholic youth ages 15-18. It is hoped that by recognizing a young person with this award we can emphasize the necessity of service to others and show appreciation to those young people who are taking the Gospel message seriously. There is an application form to be completed with a written submission component. Details regarding criteria and prizes can be found in packages that are available in the youth minister's office.


University of Toronto, St. Michael's College Scholarship

This scholarship is open to any young woman who is of the Catholic faith, who is completing her secondary school education, and who had indicated on her application to the University of Toronto that St. Michael's College is her first college of choice. The applicant must be entering the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in one of the following areas of study: Commerce, Computer Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, or Sciences. The value of this non-renewable scholarship is \$3,000. Details regarding eligibility can be found in packages that are available in the youth minister's office.

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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.

Contact/Info 416-465-2868 www.fertilitycare.ca/

MORE GOOD NEWS***Catholic Women's League (CWL)******& K of C of St JXXIII***

The Catholic Women's League of JXXIII & the Knights of Columbus are donating a new floor for our Hall this summer.

Also, CWL have kindly accepted to research the possibility of federal financing for a wheel-chair lift that can be installed on the staircase leading down to the hall. This is a program offered to charitable institutions for disability access to buildings.

