

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/>



Sunday Mass

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

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on the second Saturday of the month at 11AM and third Sunday of the month at 1:30PM. Preparation session is required.

Reconciliation (confession)

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

Anointing of the Sick

At any time by appointment. In case of emergency, please ask hospital for Catholic priest. Or see Fr Simon.

Marriage

See Fr Simon before setting a date.

RCIA

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

Catholic Cemeteries

Head Office: 416-733-8544

SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

Holy Hour

4 to 5PM

Coming and be with your Lord and Saviour for an hour in adoration.

Beginning TODAY—1st Sunday of Advent— and for the 4 Sundays of Advent the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration 4 to 5PM; at the end of the hour benediction will be celebrated.

On the first two Sundays, the music of Taize and Advent with some reflections will be part of the hour.



ST VINCENT D'PAUL COLLECTION

Next Sunday—December 9

We take up our annual collection for the families in need in Flemingdon Park.

All monies go to the those in need.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**Part One—The Profession of Faith***I Believe in God the Father—The Symbols of Faith***33. What are the symbols of faith?**

The symbols of faith are composite formulas, also called "professions of faith" or "Creeds", with which the Church from her very beginning has set forth synthetically and handed on her own faith in a language that is normative and common to all the faithful.

34. What are the most ancient symbols (professions) of faith?

The most ancient symbols of faith are the baptismal creeds. Because Baptism is conferred "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19), the truths of faith professed at Baptism are articulated in reference to the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity.

35. What are the most important symbols of the faith?

They are the Apostles' Creed which is the ancient baptismal symbol of the Church of Rome and the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed which stems from the first two ecumenical Councils, that of Nicea (325 A.D.) and that of Constantinople (381 A.D.) and which even to this day are common to all the great Churches of the East and the West.

*"I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth."*

36. Why does the Profession of Faith begin with the words, "I believe in God"?

The Profession of Faith begins with these words because the affirmation "I believe in God" is the most important, the source of all the other truths about man and about the world, and about the entire life of everyone who believes in God.

37. Why does one profess belief that there is only one God?

Belief in the one God is professed because he has revealed himself to the people of Israel as the only One when he said, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord" (Dt 6:4) and "there is no other" (Is 45:22). Jesus himself confirmed that God is "the one Lord" (Mk 12:29). To confess that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are also God and Lord does not introduce any division into the one God.

38. With what name does God reveal Himself?

God revealed himself to Moses as the living God, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" (Ex 3:6). God also revealed to Moses his mysterious name "I Am Who I Am (YHWH)". Already in Old Testament times this ineffable name of God was replaced by the divine title Lord. Thus in the New Testament, Jesus who was called Lord is seen as true God.

39. Is God the only One who "is"?

Since creatures have received everything they are and have from God, only God in himself is the fullness of being and of every perfection. God is "He who is" without origin and without end. Jesus also reveals that he bears the divine name "I Am" (Jn 8:28).

40. Why is the revelation of God's name important?

In revealing his name, God makes known the riches contained in the ineffable mystery of his being. He alone is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the One who transcends the world and history. It is he who made heaven and earth. He is the faithful God, always close to his people, in order to save them. He is the highest holiness, "rich in mercy" (Ep 2:4), always ready to forgive. He is the One who is spiritual, transcendent, omnipotent, eternal, personal, and perfect. He is truth and love.

"God is the infinitely perfect being who is the most Holy Trinity." (St Turibius of Montenegro)

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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 16: 6:30PM—9:30PM

Book this date in your calendars—come on out for a fine meal, entertainment, carolling, etc. *6:15PM—Nativity Play in the Church; *7PM—Dinner in Hall; *8:15PM—Entertainment/Carolling.

—POT-LUCK—

Families call to arrange what to bring. Contact Ahme: (647) 878-2534 Benji: (416) 696-6133

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & SHUT-INS

Call parish office and let us know—416-429-4000

VOCATIONS

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ.

Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact FrLemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997 / vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

MASS
INTENTIONS

Mon, Dec 4, **7PM:**
Thanksgiving by Laguatan Family

Tues, Dec 5, **9AM:**
For the Bondoc & deJoya Families

Wed, Dec 6, **7PM:**
+Editha Vetalsa

Thurs, Dec 7, **9AM**
+Deceased of Quiambao Family

Fri, Dec 8, **7PM:**
Thanksgiving for Ana M. Leger

Sat, Dec 9, **9AM:**
+Consolacion Robas

Saturday, December 9
5:15PM: *Thanksgiving by Bruck Mueller*

Sunday, December 10
9AM: *+Deceased Members: Baker Family*
12:15PM: *+Celestina & +Gregorio Occiano*
5:30PM: *The Parishioners*

VIGIL CANDLES

Saturday, Dec 9—Friday, Dec 15
Sanctuary Tabernacle: **+Klara Zathmarie**
Chapel Tabernacle: **+Jim Shontaler**

WONDERFULLY GREAT THINGS

Children's Choir: Grade 1 Grade 8.
Sing 1st & 4th Sun @ 5:30PM Mass
Youth Choir—Defunct!!!!!!
Grade 9 & Up: Sing 2nd & 3rd Sun @ 5:30PM
Mass
Chalice Children's Collection
Sunday, Oct 29—Goal: \$2,220. Total to Date: \$0

COFFEE SUNDAY:

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

CONFIRMATION—UPCOMING

Holy Hour TODAY
1st Sunday of Advent—Dec 3: 4PM—5PM
Attendance required

Advent Confessions
Wed, Dec 20: 7:30PM—12 Priests available.
Attendance required

Movie
Go online to "formed.org"; input our parish access code: MRF27; fill out your profile and password. Click on "Watch", click on "Movies", scroll down to the movie "Maria Goretti" and watch movie.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION—UPCOMING

Movie
Mum/Dad: Get your son or daughter hungry for Jesus in the Eucharist—show them the video "The Bread of Life". Watch it on a smart phone, pad, or internet tv. —FREE—
Go online to "formed.org"; input our parish access code: MRF27; fill out your profile and password. Click on "Watch", click on "Movies", scroll down to "Youth" click on "The Bread of Life".

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 Saturday, March 17 @ 11AM in the Church.

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.

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: MRF27; fill out your profile and password.

CHRISTMAS CAKES

Pro-Life Fundraiser

Get your Christmas Cakes **today**, Sunday, and support the work of those who fight for the protection of human life from conception to natural death.

- Regular Size Christmas Cake (600 grams) \$18.00
- Deluxe Size Christmas Cake (1 kg) \$25.00
- Abbey Gift Basket \$30 (contains 6 hazelnut chocolates, 6 maple filled chocolates, 10 chocolate church mice, mini fruit cake and a jar of caramel spread all in a decorative box).

ADORATION OF OUR LORD IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Takes place in the Adoration Chapel

Every Friday: 9AM to 6PM, concludes with evening prayer and Benediction at 5:40PM. Come for an hour and keep watch with the Lord. Pray for the Church, your family, yourself.



WIN GREAT PRIZES

The Friar's Student Writing award.

Ages 14–18 are invited to write a 500 word essay on the theme for the Week of prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated Jan 18-25, 2018. The theme is

"Your right hand, O Lord, Glorious In Power" (Exd5:6).

Read the scripture passage Exodus 15:1-21 and respond to the following question: *Just as the Israelites sought deliverance from enslavement, in contemporary society the dignity of all people is treated by new enslavements to poverty, violence, injustice and addictions. In what ways can Christian of all denominations work together to stave off these assaults to human dignity? Explain.*

1st prize: iPad Pro(128GB); 2nd prize: Kobo Aura H₂O Edition2; 3rd prize to 6th prizes: 1 year subscription to the Catholic Register and other prizes. Essays will be edited and published in The Catholic Register. Deadline for entries: **Jan 8, 2018**. E-mail your essay to editor@catholicregister.org or Fax it to 416-934-3409 (full name,email address,tel#,name of school on front page of essay). 416-934-3410,ext 403

SCHEDULE OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

DATE & FEAST	DATE	TIME
Advent Confessions 12 Priests Available	Wed Dec 20	7:30PM-9PM
4 th Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass	Sat, Dec 23	5:15PM
4 th Sun of Advent Masses	Sun, Dec 24	9AM & 12:15PM
Advent Holy Hour	Sun, Dec 24	4PM
Christmas Carols	Sun, Dec 24	11:15PM
Christmas Midnight Mass	Sun, Dec 24	Midnight
Christmas Day Masses	Mon, Dec 25	9AM & 12:15PM
St Stephen Mass	Tues, Dec 26	10AM
Holy Family Vigil Mass	Sat, Dec 30	5:15PM
Holy Family Masses	Sun, Dec 31	9AM & 12:15PM
Holy Hour Vigil Exposition & Benediction	Sun, Dec 31	6PM
Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass	Sun, Dec 31	7PM
Mary, Mother of God Masses	Mon, Jan 1	9AM & 12:15PM

NEXT CATHOLIC MOM'S GROUP

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Last Sunday's Offering—\$2,603

To break even weekly—\$3,000 need.

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

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Solemnity—THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—Date: Fri, Dec 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 saviour 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.

Reflection: In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" (or "highly favoured"). 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.



SMILE

Terrible Two (Hundreds)

Hanging up with my 90-year-old mother, I sighed, then said to my 96-year-old uncle, "She's so stubborn."

He shook his head sympathetically and warned, "You're going to have trouble with her when she gets old."

Piping Up

A Scottish mother visits her son in his New York City apartment and asks, "How do you find the Americans, Donald?"

"Mother," says Donald, "they're such noisy people. One neighbour won't stop banging his head against the wall, while the other screams and screams all night long."

"Oh, Donald! How do you manage to put up with them?"

"What can I do? I just lie in bed quietly, playing my bagpipes."

FERTILITYCARE TORONTO

Catholic Women's Fertility Health

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.

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

VOLUNTEER AT GOOD SHEPHERD

You Can

Contact any one of the following people and they will take you to help serve or prepare a meal, do the laundry, make up the beds, etc. Call—Lolita Perry @ 647-273-2147 / Alan Orozco @ 416-906-1316 / Fr Simon @ 416-429-4000. "The Good Shepherd", as it is affectionately called, is well known on the streets of Toronto. It's a place to get a hot meal, clean clothes, a safe, clean bed for the night. It's a place to go for someone to listen, someone to help.

"And What I Say To You I Say To All: Keep Awake"

Jesus

PRAYER IS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
CONVERSATION
OF YOUR DAY.
TAKE IT TO GOD
BEFORE YOU
TAKE IT TO
ANYONE ELSE!

This Sunday's Readings: *Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37*

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading.

In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne – to save and shepherd His people.

Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today – as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him?

God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours – to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see John 14:8-9). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see John 10:11-15) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him.

As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift – especially the Eucharist and penance – to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end – if we let Him.

So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning – repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel – to be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

DR. SCOTT HAHN

CATHOLIC ANSWERS

www.catholic.com

BOWING ISN'T WORSHIPPING

Question

Catholics say that they don't worship Mary, but isn't it the case that their actions suggest otherwise, such as when they bow before a statue of Mary?

Answer

The question assumes that bowing before something or someone necessarily involves worship. But this is not true.

For example, Solomon didn't offer worship to his mother when he bowed before her in 1 Kings 2:19. It was simply a gesture of honour, since Bathsheba was the queen mother. Isaac wasn't prophesying that the nations would worship his son Jacob when he said, "Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you" (Gen. 27:29). He was merely indicating that the nations would honour Jacob and his descendants.

Moreover, the act of bowing can't be idolatrous in and of itself, because God commands that it be directed to finite beings. For example, in Revelation 3:9 Jesus says that he will make "those of the synagogue of Satan" "bow down" before the feet of the Christians in Philadelphia. If bowing before another were an act of worship, then Jesus would be commanding idolatry. But that's absurd.

It's possible that someone who bows before a statue of Mary might offer the statue, or Mary herself, worship. But the idolatry would not be due to the act of bowing. It would be due to the intentional offering of worship; like in the case of Cornelius who bowed before Peter and worshipped him (Acts 10:25-26). If a Catholic were to do such a thing, they would need to repent and begin offering worship to the one who alone has a right to our worship—namely, God.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

***"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth
—and the right of every child to be born"***

Birthright, a pro-life crisis pregnancy service, needs your help. 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. For more information call 416-469-111 Or email: toronto@birthright.org

YOUTH GROUPS

Next Kids of the Cross: Service Night

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

Join us as we support Knights of Columbus who will be having an open house in the Parish Hall. We will help the Knights with set-up and serve in duties they need help with as they promote their ministry. Snacks and drinks will be provided, don't forget to bring a friend.

Next God Squad: Lesson Night

Friday, December 15, 2017 from 6:00 - 8:00pm in the Parish hall.

XLT: RESOLVE

How will you welcome in 2018?

Join Joel Stepanek, Joe Zambon, Jenn Reitzel, Andrew Santos and Msgr. Vid Vlasic (St.JustinMartyr) for an evening of Prayer, Praise & Worship, Witness and Eucharistic Adoration. This ministry team will help teens and adults alike discern what they need to "Resolve" so that 2018 can be a new, transformative and faith-filled year. All done in a fun, unique and spiritually engaging way. Don't miss out on this perfect opportunity to grow in your relationship with Jesus and the universal Church. This night promises to change your life. Be sure to usher in 2018 like you've never done before – at the Flato Markham Theatre. 171 Town Centre Blvd., Markham
Tuesday, January 2, 2018 – 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

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

**THEOLOGY ON TAP EAST –
CATHOLIC DATING 2.0: PRACTICAL
LANGUAGE**

***Mon, Dec 11 – 7-9PM. Boston Pizza
400 Progress Ave., Scarborough***


Faith Connections, the Office of Catholic Youth, and the local parishes invite young adults (19-39) to join us for an evening of thought-provoking theological discussion in a comfortable and relaxed setting, with special guests: Llorene & Renard Romero, Leanna Cappiello, and Leslie Gyulay. Munchies provided, cash bar, come and bring a friend!

TEL: 416-599-7676 / TICKETS: youth@ocytoronto.org

Bamboo Travel & Tours
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 Jay Wilson
 Managing Director
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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.

