

SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH

Pastor: (Rev) Simon deGale; *Secretary:* Ms 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/>

ShareLife: <https://>

www.sharelife.org/Public/

**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 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

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES OF THE WORLD EXHIBIT

Friday, December 6 to Friday, December 13: 5PM—9PM

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

2565 Bathurst St., Toronto

Please join us as we host the Vatican approved Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit. The exhibit, which was designed and created by Venerable Carlo Acutis, features panels that each tell the story of a Eucharistic miracle and allow you to “virtually visit” the places where those miracles took place.

PHONE: 416-787-4547

WEB: <https://olassumptionto.archtoronto.org/>

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH
"The Creed"

THE FALL

73. How should we understand the reality of sin?

Sin is present in human history. This reality of sin can be understood clearly only in the light of divine revelation and above all in the light of Christ the Saviour of all. Where sin abounded, he made grace to abound all the more.

74. What was the fall of the angels?

This expression indicates that Satan and the other demons, about which Sacred Scripture and the Tradition of the Church speak, were angels, created good by God. They were, however, transformed into evil because with a free and irrevocable choice they rejected God and his Kingdom, thus giving rise to the existence of hell. They try to associate human beings with their revolt against God. However, God has wrought in Christ a sure victory over the Evil One.

75. What was the first human sin?

When tempted by the devil, the first man and woman allowed trust in their Creator to die in their hearts. In their disobedience they wished to become "like God" but without God and not in accordance with God (Genesis 3:5). Thus, Adam and Eve immediately lost for themselves and for all their descendants the original grace of holiness and justice.

76. What is original sin?

Original sin, in which all human beings are born, is the state of deprivation of original holiness and justice. It is a sin "contracted" by us not "committed"; it is a state of birth and not a personal act. Because of the original unity of all human beings, it is transmitted to the descendants of Adam "not by imitation, but by propagation". This transmission remains a mystery which we cannot fully understand.

77. What other consequences derive from original sin?

In consequence of original sin human nature, without being totally corrupted, is wounded in its natural powers. It is subject to ignorance, to suffering, and to the dominion of death and is inclined toward sin. This inclination is called concupiscence.

78. After the first sin, what did God do?

After the first sin the world was inundated with sin but God did not abandon man to the power of death. Rather, he foretold in a mysterious way in the "Protoevangelium" (Gen3:15) that evil would be conquered and that man would be lifted up from his fall. This was the first proclamation of the Messiah and Redeemer. Therefore, the fall would be called in the future a "happy fault" because it "gained for us so great a Redeemer" (Liturgy of the Easter Vigil).

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Advent Confessions	Wednesday, December 18	7:30PM-9PM
Advent Holy Hour	Sunday, December 22	3:30PM-5PM
Christmas Carols Children's Choir	Tuesday, December 24	11:15PM-11:50PM
Christmas Midnight Mass	Tuesday, December 24	11:59PM
Christmas Day Masses	Wednesday, December 25	9AM & 12:15PM
St Steven's Mass	Thursday, December 26	10AM
Holy Hour Vigil	Tuesday, December 31	5:45PM-6:45PM
Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass	Tuesday, December 31	7PM
Mary, Mother of God Masses	Wednesday, January 1	9AM & 12:15PM

OUR REFUGEE FAMILY

More Good News

Hello father simon, I have a good news for you this morning the embassy called us, they gave us an appointment for interview on 4 December. I emailed you to let you know. Please pray for us. May our lord richly bless you all.

Sincerely,

Somayah Ghafarian

Donations

GTA Iraqi Community: \$5,000/Anonymous: \$5,000;
Parishioners & Parish Fundraisers: \$12,026.15; Parish
Bequests: \$23,773.85; Parish Funds: \$500 (processing fees)
Total: \$46,300.00

THE REFUGEE COLLECTION

Monthly Second Collection

The purpose of this collection is to repay our parish savings so that we may have a reserve to fall back on if we encounter any emergencies: equipment, etc. In this way, we will all have the opportunity to contribute to towards helping this family suffering and exiled from their homeland because of their faith in Christ.



NEXT COLLECTION—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, December 2, 7PM:

+*Maria E. Sabud*

Tues, December 3, 9AM:

+*Rosita Dacanay*

Wed December 4, 7PM:

+*Olivia Dizon*

Thurs, December 5, 9AM:

+*Estelita Labrador*

Fri, December 6, 7PM

+*Lourdina Figueiredo*

Sat, December 7, 9AM

+*Maria Mamorno*

Saturday, December 7

5:15PM: +*Salvacion Bentic*

Sunday, December 8

9AM: *Thanksgiving of Amanda e Ana Marie*

12:15PM: +*Gargio e Celistina Occiano*

5:30PM: *The Parishioners*

VIGIL CANDLES

Saturday, Dec 7—Friday, Dec 13

Sanctuary Tabernacle: **Healing of Rodolfo Donado jr.**

Chapel Tabernacle:

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & SHUT-INS

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

CHALICE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

SUSPENDED FOR REFUGEE COLLECTION

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Last Sunday's Offering—\$2937.25

To break even weekly—\$3,000 needed.

Monthly Refugee Collection

October: \$699

Refugee Collection Total To Date:

\$1479.

Shepherds Trust Collection

\$2027.

**SACRAMENTS OF
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFESSION**

Second Test

Month of February/March

Call office for appointment with Fr Simon when child knows the material.

Sunday Mass

Confirmandi attendance at Mass every Sunday is a sign that you are ready to receive God, the Holy Spirit, in a new and deeper way.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFIRMATION

HOLY HOUR

TODAY Sunday: Advent—December 1

4-5PM

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, December 19 @ 7:30PM

SUNDAY MASS

Confirmandi attendance at Mass every Sunday is a sign that you are ready to receive God, the Holy Spirit, in a new and deeper way.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Next Youth Ministry Night: Service

Friday, Dec 6 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Next Youth Ministry Night: Social

Friday, Dec 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

VOCATIONS

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

If God is calling you to

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

vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

RETRouvaille WEEKEND

Help for Troubled Marriages

Friday, January 24, 6PM to Sunday, January 26, 2PM,
Niagara Falls, Ontario

If you are thinking of separation or divorce — or you are already separated but want to try again — then Retrouvaille can help. This program will give you the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will also give you the opportunity to rediscover one another and examine your lives together in a new and positive way.

416-281-6007 / info@torontoretrouvaille.com

www.torontoretrouvaille.com

DVD LENDING LIBRARY

Please Return DVDs

Do you have a DVD at home which you have forgotten to return? Lent it out? Please get them back! Many of the DVDs have been missing for too long.

HOLY HOUR

*The Holy Hour On The 4 Sundays of Advent.
Exposition & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
3:30PM to 5PM.*

The word Advent means "coming" and/or "waiting". Advent celebrates and prepares us for the 3 comings of Christ: His coming now into our hearts; His first coming which we celebrate at Christmas in His Nativity; and His final coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. *Come, Watch, Prepare For His Coming During These Holy Hours.*

PRAY FOR THE HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS', DECEMBER MISSION INTENTION
The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

ADVENT RETREAT

*Reflections on the Blessed Trinity
Sat, Dec 14: 9:30AM-3PM; St. Augustine's Seminary
2661 Kingston Rd., Scarborough*

Father Charles Anang will explore the profound depths of the Christian's identity and sublime destiny. Through baptism, we have become the temple of the indwelling Holy Spirit, so as to share in Christ's sonship of the Father. The new child of the Father is to become a new Christ: "We are no longer two people, Jesus and I; we are just one: Jesus alone" (Blessed Dina Bélanger). This reflection offers an opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Holy Mass is included with registration. Feel free to invite friends and family to join us on this day.

COST: \$50, includes lunch; PHONE: 416-261-7207
EMAIL: layspiritualformation@sastoronto.org
WEB: <http://www.staugustines.on.ca/>

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 14

Our Parish Christmas Party will begin with a Nativity Play immediately following the 5:15PM Mass. Following this we go downstairs to the hall for our meal and entertainment.

UPCOMING LENTEN MISSION

St John XXIII Parish

Preacher: Fr Francis Ching, Companions of the Cross

"Growing in Partnership with Christ."

"We will focus on living a responsible discipleship, fighting vices and growing in virtues"

March 29 to April 1, 2020

Fr Francis is returning to lead us in this parish mission and the above is his theme for this mission.

PLEASE PICKUP YOUR 2020 DONATION ENVELOPES NEXT WEEK

*Please call the office 416-429-4000
or email saintjohnxx_iiiparish@outlook.com*

1. If you want to use pre-numbered donation envelopes;
2. If there are changes in your name, address or contact information;
3. If you have not registered yet in the parish and want to use envelopes.

Note

If you have not used your 2019 envelopes, your number will be assigned to someone else.

Benefit To You

Using pre-numbered envelopes means at the end of the year you will receive an income tax receipt by which you can reclaim the tax you paid on your donations.

Benefit To Your Parish

Using envelopes reminds you to give each week. Your Church depends on your generosity.

Thank You!

ST VINCENT D PAUL**Talk**

Anita Dias, president of the Conference, will speak TODAY after communion about the work of St Vincent d Paul in the parish.

Collection

Next week, December 7/8, we will take up a collection after communion for those families who are in need this Christmas season.

SMILE**Plumbers**

Call a Plumber: "We Repair What Your Husband Fixed"

A prestigious neurosurgeon calls a plumber to tend to his leaky faucet. The problem requires an easy fix and the entire job takes less than two minutes. Before leaving, the plumber says, "That will be \$200."

The surgeon replies, "I am a surgeon and even I do not charge \$100 a minute."

The plumber says, "Yeah, I didn't either when I was a surgeon. Why do you think I switched?"

A doctor calls his local plumber late at night to fix a clogged sink. The plumber complains that he has regular hours but the doctor explains, "I get called into work late all the time so you can too." The plumber gives in and arrives a half hour later. Upon arriving, the plumber looks at the sink but is clearly uninterested in it. He hands the doctor two aspirin and says "I have a golf match to get to. Take two and call me in the morning."

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST—*Memorial: Tues, Dec 3; St JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR*—*Optional Memorial: Wed, Dec 4;*

St NICHOLAS, BISHOP—*Optional Memorial: Fri, Dec 6:* The absence of the "hard facts" of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to Saint Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honour him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colourful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.



Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

Reflection: The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding Saint Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season, and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.

Saint Nicholas is the Patron Saint of: Bakers, Brides, Grooms, Children, Greece, Pawnbrokers, Travellers.

St AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR—*Memorial: Sat, Dec 7:*

ADVENT

Begins TODAY, December 1

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.

Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple colour associated with Advent is also the colour of penance. The faithful should fast during the first two weeks in particular and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



The colour of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This colour symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. It is formerly called "Gaudete" Sunday; gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin.

Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. It is important to remember, however, there are no particular rules for how the laity should observe Advent.

“Keep Awake, Therefore, For You Do Not Know On What Day Your Lord Is Coming.”

Jesus



This Sunday's Readings: *1st Reading: Isaiah 2.1-5; 2nd Reading: Romans 13.11-14; Gospel: Matthew 24.37-44 - The Necessity for Watchfulness*

Preparing Ourselves for Christ

This Sunday marks the beginning of the beautiful season of Advent, a time to deepen our relationship with Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts us to “keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.” This exhortation doesn't imply that we are expected to never sleep, or sin, again, but that we must consistently strive to move from a life of running towards sin, to a life of running away from sin.

One tremendous way we can do this is to receive God's merciful love in the sacrament of reconciliation. It is important to remember that the Lord eagerly and lovingly awaits to forgive us. The whole purpose of the Incarnation was for this reason, as St. John says in his first letter,

“in this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” Jesus became man for our salvation. In going to confession, we are enabling the Lord to fulfill His salvific mission in our lives which brings Him boundless joy.

This cleansing of our sins will greatly help us live out our lives as stewards by infusing all of our actions with the grace that flows from the sacrament. In order to receive the graces well, let us foster a sense of contrition for our sins, a firm purpose of amendment for our lives and a commitment to penance. All parishes in the Archdiocese will be hosting an Advent Day of Confessions (St. JXXIII is Wednesday, Dec 18) to make it easier for us to avail ourselves to this sacrament. Let us take this season of preparation to become better stewards by properly preparing our own souls for the coming of Christ in our lives.

Stewardship, Archdiocese of Toronto

MY CATHOLIC LIFE! A JOURNEY OF PERSONAL CONVERSION!

<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-question-and-answer/>

QUESTIONING YOUR RELIGION...AND GOD!

Question: I have a friend who seems to be questioning her religion. She isn't sure she even believes in God. What can I tell her?

Answer: Well, first of all I'd say she is fortunate to have a friend like you who is concerned for her and for her faith! Often times the number one reason a person rediscovers God is because of the care and concern of a friend or family member. So stay close to her and keep talking to her.

But the question is, "What can I tell her?" I think the best way to answer this is to first look at why people seem to question their religion and belief in God in the first place.

Questioning God, or one's religion, is very common. And believe it or not I'd say that doing this is actually an essential part of growing in faith. As long as it's done the right way!

I think we can "question" our faith in one of two ways. First, the unhealthy way to question is to doubt our faith. Doubts can enter in for a variety of reasons. Perhaps some very difficult situation has entered someone's life. They can wonder why God let this happen. Or perhaps someone is lured away from God by the passing pleasures of this world or becomes steeped in materialism, work or some sin. In these cases it can happen that a person begins to doubt God's existence because they either don't understand God or they feel guilty about how they are living and doubting God is the easiest way to temporarily get rid of that guilt.

People can also believe in God but begin to doubt their religion. I can think of people who have left the Catholic Church, for example, and discovered God elsewhere. Often time this happens because of some hurt they experienced by members of our Church. This simply reveals the fact that the human part of our Church is imperfect. But what is important to point out is that the divine part of our Church is always perfect and that's the number one reason to continue to seek God within the context of a religion, which in this case is the Catholic Church. And we, as Catholics believe that, despite the imperfections within our Church on a human level, God still guarantees that the fullness of true faith is found within the Catholic Church. So for those who have been hurt or confused within our Catholic Church it is always important to give it a second chance.

There is also a "healthy" way to question our faith and religion. This is where we simply and humbly admit that we don't have all the answers and don't understand everything. But this questioning doesn't lead to doubts, rather, it leads to a zealous search for the Truth. This is the kind of questioning that Mary entered into when she asked

the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation, "How can this be?" She didn't doubt but she did want greater understanding. Indeed God, throughout her life, continued to give her greater insight and understanding when the time was right.

So what can you tell your friend? First, simply tell her you care and that you want to listen. Try to understand her questions and confusion. Try to discover if she was hurt or is angry. When you can get at the source of her current struggle you will be in a better position to offer her direction. Often the best way to do this is to share your own personal faith in God and love for your religion. And pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in this and give you the right words to say at the right time. And pray for her daily. Armed with this approach I trust that God will help you make a difference in your friend's life!

TOTUS TUUS RETURNS

Dear Parents Please Call Office & Register Your Child for Totus Tuus 2020.

Dates: August 9—14, 2020

Cost: \$10/for the week/per child payable week prior to Aug 9.

Day Program: children entering grades 1-6 in the Fall.

Evening Program: youth entering grades 7-12 in the Fall.

FR SIMON'S UPCOMING TRANSFER

12 Wonderful Years

Who will replace me has not yet been decided—this will be known sometime in May of 2020. *Let us begin praying for your 'new pastor to be'.* If we do this together, he will become a blessing to you, and bring you Jesus in a new and beautiful manner. Date of transfer is June 24, 2020.

PRAYER

Mercy. Ask. Thanksgiving. Adoration.
(M. A. T. A.)

Begin with seeking *Mercy*.

Continue *Asking* for grace.

Be amazed and *Thankful* for all His gifts.

Marvel in *Adoration* of His holy light.

(Don't be surprised if your prayer does not follow the above order)

THE WORDS OF POPE, SAINT JOHN XXIII

"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams.

Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do"

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

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

ADORATION OF OUR LORD IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Takes place in the Adoration Chapel

Every Friday: 9AM to evening prayer and 5:40PM. Come for a hour and keep watch others, the Church,



6PM, concludes with Benediction at few minutes or an with the Lord. Pray for your family, yourself.

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