

ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CHURCH

2210 LAWRENCE AVE E. SCARBOROUGH , ONTARIO, M1P 2P9

<https://stlawrencemartyr.archtoronto.org>

Tel No. 416-759-9359

DECEMBER 12, 2021 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)



St. Lawrence,
Pray for Us

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS.

We are happy you decided to worship with us today. Please introduce yourself to one of the priests following Mass in the Gathering Area in the back of the church. If you would like information about registering as a new parish member, please call 416-759-9359 for a registration form; or [click here](#).

Ways in which You can support Your Parish:

SUNDAY ENVELOPES: A set of offering envelopes will be prepared for you to pick up at the parish office.
2022 envelopes available in the parish hall.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING: This new way of supporting the church is now being offered in our parish and many of our parishioners may find this method practical and convenient.

DONATE ON-LINE: Alternately to donate online to St. Lawrence Martyr Parish, please [click here Archdiocese of Toronto](#) and select St. Lawrence Martyr Parish from the drop list.

Thank you and GOD bless you!



PARISH OFFICE and HOURS:

Julia Di Paolo — Parish Secretary

Mon to Thurs: 9:15 AM — 12:00 PM

1:00 PM — 4:00 PM

Friday: 9:15 AM — 1:00 PM

Sunday: 9:15 AM — 1:00 PM

Closed on Saturday and Holidays

PASTORAL TEAM:

Rev. Fr. Roy Farrell, *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Jimmy Joseph, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch, *Chaplain to the Faithful participating in the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass*

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm (English)

Sunday Mass : 8:30 am (English)

10:00 am (Italian)

11:30 am (English)

1:00 pm (Latin)

5:00 pm (English)

DAILY MASSES:

English: 8:30 am Monday to Saturday

Latin: 11:00 am Monday to Wednesday

7:00 am Thursday

7:00 pm Friday

10:00 am Saturday

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays following the 8:30 am Mass

Saturdays 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm

Any time by request

PARISH GROUPS:

We invite you to consider joining a parish group.

For more information, call the parish office.

FOR SACRAMENTS (BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANNOINTING of the SICK, RCIA, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS):

Please contact the parish office Tel No. 416-759-9359

PARISH SCHOOL:

St. Lawrence Catholic School Tel No. 416-393-5264

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What Should We do?

Luke 3:10-18

GOSPEL SUMMARY:

In today's Gospel reading, those in the crowd, tax collectors, and soldiers all ask John the Baptist what they should do. In each response, and according to each group's circumstance, John emphasizes keeping or taking only what is needed or prescribed. John also makes it clear to all that the Christ for whom they have been waiting is yet to come.

REFLECTION FOR PARENTS:

This Gospel highlights several Christian values that are learned in the home—generosity, fairness, truthfulness, and contentment with what you have. Take some time today to think about each of these values. How are your children learning these values through your example? How can you make these values more a part of your family life as Christmas nears?

BRINGING THE GOSPEL INTO YOUR FAMILY:

At this halfway point in Advent, choose as a family one way you can share what you have with others. Perhaps you can donate gently used coats and sweaters or new hats and mittens to a local shelter. If your parish food pantry is in need of donations, go grocery shopping and help meet the need for food. If you are a musically gifted family, plan to carol in your neighborhood or at a local care facility.

DISCUSSION STARTERS:

1. Something that I have more than enough of is . . .
2. I can share the extra that I have with . . .
3. Something that is hard for me to share is . . .

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a Web resource of RCL Benziger, Cincinnati OH*

GAUDETE SUNDAY :

Is the Third Sunday of Advent. The Introit for Gaudete Sunday, in both the Traditional Latin Mass and the Novus Ordo, is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always").

Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation—especially prayer and fasting—for Christmas.

For this same reason, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally — rose colored.



Special Prayers
For Those in Need



FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Please remember in your prayers: those who are sick and for those who love and minister to them—John

Miceli, Gianna Ramzi, Francisco William, Stephanie Solomon, Antonio Sorbera, Bill Matthews, Vanessa Melone, Rosemarie Sorbera, Amelia Barroso, Joey Bagnato, Alicia Alvares, Charlie Abreu, Domingo Catolos, Marylou Gaerlan, Eileen and Mary Nicol, Betty Byrne, Verna Quinn, Luca Fitz-Charles, Geraldine Senewiratne.

VOCATION REFLECTION:

Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother, or sister and announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? Contact Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto. Tel No. 416.968.0997
Email vocations@archtoronto.org
Website <https://www.vocationstoronto.ca>



God ^{be} with
you
till we meet again;

FAREWELL TO OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR, FR. JIMMY:

He will return to Kerala, India on January 4th 2022 to take up his new roles as Vice-Provincial of his religious community, Rector and Professor at a Minor Seminary, and Manager of a Highschool. We thank him for his devoted and generous service to the parish and in particular to the Italian community. He will be truly missed. To thank him, parishioners may greet him in the parish hall following the morning Masses (8: 30 am, 10:00 am and 11: 30 am) on December 19th. Due to the pandemic only water, coffee and tea and cake will be served.

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Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY DECEMBER 11TH – SABATO

5:00 P.M. — + Frankie Perreira

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12TH – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. — + Holy Souls In Purgatory

10:00 A.M. — In Ringraziamento A San Rocco
In Ringraziamento A Tutti I Santi
Intenzioni di Maria Fiorucci
Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia - Mike e Vito Cuoppolo
Isabella Pagliaro - Rosa Fulciniti
Rocco Racioppo e defunti famiglia
Maria e Giuseppe Doria - Angelina e Corrado Rabbito
Luigi, Lucia e Vincenza Di Tacchio
Angela e Cataldo Roselli
Marco, Edda e defunti famiglie Carlevaris e Nevodini
L'Anime Del Purgatorio

11:30 A.M.— + Gianna Ramzi

1:00 P.M. — Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. — + Emeteria & Bonifacio Solomon

MONDAY DECEMBER 13TH – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. — + Michele & Michael Volpe

11:00 A.M. — James Burlton

TUESDAY DECEMBER 14TH – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. — + Rosa & Michele Visconti

11:00 A.M. — David & Carmen Jose & Family

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15TH – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. — In Thanksgiving

11:00 A.M. — + Irene De Souza

THURSDAY DECEMBER 16TH – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. — + Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:30 A.M. — + Armando Ilag

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. — + Deceased Longo & Tambutto Family

7:00 P.M. — Parish Priests of St. Lawrence Martyr

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH – SABATO

8:30 A.M. — Special Intention

10:00 A.M. — Fr. Russell Asch

Dear Padre

I recently moved to a parish that includes a large Mexican community that's known for their annual posadas event. What is that?



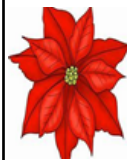
Las posadas, a nine-day novena preparation for the celebration of Christmas, begins December 16 and ends Christmas Eve.

Posada is Spanish for "inn." The ceremony remembers Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem and their difficulty finding a place to stay. Posadas are celebrated in many ways, but the traditional celebration involves a group of people, the "pilgrims," going to several houses, knocking on the door, and asking for posada. The pilgrims sing the part of Joseph as he explains their situation and asks for a place to stay. The people inside sing back that they have no room and that the pilgrims should just move on.

On the last night, the people in the last house recognize that Mary is the Queen of Heaven and that the child she carries is the Savior of the World. They invite the pilgrims inside and hold a prayer service that may include a Scripture reading or the rosary. The celebration ends with food and singing.

This tradition is more than a folksy reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging—it's a solemn dramatization by women and men who believe God searches with them, a touching ceremony that can help Christians today see the real needs of those who live without the security of a home, health insurance, or a steady job.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

Help adorn St. Lawrence Church for Christmas Eve and the twelve days of Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia for the cost of \$20.00 from the parish office in memory of a loved one who has died or in honor of a loved one. Twenty 25 red and 15 gold-colored poinsettias will be available through the office. Call early to avoid disappointment.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."



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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Luke 3:10-18
The Proclamation of John the Baptist
"Someone is coming Who will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit and Fire"

An Attitude of Gratitude: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." These are the beautiful words we hear from St. Paul on this Gaudete Sunday. This Third Sunday of Advent is a time for joy in the midst of the waiting and preparation for Christmas. It is a reminder for us that despite the crosses and difficulties of our lives, the joy of Jesus' birth should always shine brightly. One way in which we can cultivate a spirit of joy is through an intentional "attitude of gratitude." Former U.S. president, Theodore Roosevelt, once said that "comparison is the thief of joy." When we compare our lives, possessions, gifts and attributes with those of others, we inherently become ungrateful for the blessings God has placed in our lives. If we begin to thank God for all of the good things in our lives, we will quickly realize that there are far more things to be joyful about than upset over. This Advent, as society is trying to make Christmas more and more materialistic, let us take some time to be grateful for all the things we already have. Perhaps one tangible way we can express our gratitude is to offer our time and talents to others this Christmas. For example, we could visit a nursing home or a soup kitchen or perhaps help with a toy drive for those who are less fortunate than us. As stewards, let us constantly strive to be grateful for our blessings and then seek to share them generously with others.

Summary: On this Gaudete Sunday we are reminded that despite the crosses and difficulties of our lives, the joy of Jesus' birth should always shine brightly. If we begin to thank God for all of His blessings, we will quickly realize that there are far more things to be joyful about than upset over. Perhaps one way we can share this joy is by offering our time and talents to help others this season, whether it be at a nursing home, a soup kitchen or helping with a toy drive.

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience."

CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL:

As your parish priest, please find time in your busy schedules to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas. Frequent confession is 'good' for our souls. Today confession is disappearing from the lives and practices of so many Catholics. Because we have forgotten this sacrament, people have lost their sense of sin. Sin is not only frightful for what it does to the individual, but even more so for what it does to the Church. Sin paralyzes the Church, halts it, and limits its power for good. As mud on the headlight of a car dims its radiating power, so sin diminishes the missionary activity of the Church.



OLD-FASHIONED, SPIRITUAL CHRISTMAS?

"What has happened to the old-fashioned, spiritual Christmas? The cause is our disregard of Advent. The church set aside this four-week pre-Christmas season as a time of spiritual preparation for Christ's coming. It is a time of quiet anticipation. If Christ is going to come again into our hearts, there must be repentance. Without repentance, our hearts will be so full of worldly things that there will be 'no room in the inn' for Christ to be born again....We have the joy not of celebration. Which is the joy of Christmas, but the joy of anticipation." John R. Brokhoff, Preaching the Parables.

DAILY WE CAN MAKE AN ADVENT EXAMINATION:

Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.