

ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CHURCH

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

<https://stlawrencemartyr.archtoronto.org>

Tel No. 416-759-9359

DECEMBER 19, 2021 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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



Luke 1.39-45 The Visitation
"Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?"

GOSPEL SUMMARY:

In today's Gospel we hear the story of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, her cousin. We are told that upon Mary's arrival the infant in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy. That infant is John the Baptist. John will grow up to become the prophet who prepares the way for the child within Mary's womb—Jesus, the Lord.

REFLECTION FOR PARENTS:

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he told her that Elizabeth was already in her sixth month of pregnancy. Mary again models true discipleship for us. Even though she too is with child and could easily choose to stay home, she says yes to helping and serving her elderly cousin. Today's Gospel tells us that she traveled "in haste" to do so. Take time today to consider older family members or neighbors who need your help and support. As Advent days continue, how will you say yes to serving them?

BRINGING THE GOSPEL INTO YOUR FAMILY:

Plan a family visit to an older friend or relative you haven't seen in awhile. Decide on a special gift or treat to take to that person. Once with him or her, give your friend or relative the gift of your presence—a listening ear, time, and a helping hand.

DISCUSSION STARTERS:

1. One of my favorite relatives is . . .
2. Something that fills me with joy is . . .
3. This week I will share the gift of joy by . . .

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a Web resource of RCL Benziger, Cincinnati OH*



VOCATION REFLECTION:

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of

God's great Love? Contact Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto.

Tel No. 416.968.0997 Email vocations@archtoronto.org
Website <https://www.vocationstoronto.ca>



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Lessons from our Mother. Mother Mary becomes the focal point of the Gospel on this fourth Sunday of Advent. Our Lady, shortly after discovering that she will conceive the Son of God, goes in haste to assist her cousin Elizabeth. After Jesus, Mary is the perfect model and example of how to live a life of deep stewardship. Let us take some time to reflect on this episode and glean insights on how we can better imitate her. Firstly, we can learn a great lesson from how Mary "went with haste" to help Elizabeth. As stewards, we should not sit idle by and be half-hearted in our attempts to serve our neighbour. Whenever we see a need in our parish community, let us strive to utilize our gifts to readily offer our help and support. Secondly, we should try to imitate Mary in her role of bringing Jesus to others. It wasn't so much Mary who brought help and comfort to Elizabeth, but rather, it was the presence of Jesus dwelling within her. As stewards, we need to constantly remind ourselves that it is not our own merits that bring about good and conversion in our parish. Rather, we must realize that everything is a result of the grace of God that is working through us. Let us conclude with the beautiful words of St. Teresa of Calcutta who says, "I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world."

Summary. After Jesus, Mary is the perfect model and example of how to live a life of deep stewardship and we can learn a great deal by reflecting on her visitation. Firstly, we should imitate Mary's "haste" in her visitation so that whenever we see a need in our parish community, we can readily use our gifts to help. Secondly, just as Mary brought the Child Jesus with her in her womb, we too need to constantly remind ourselves that it is not our own merits that bring about good, but Christ dwelling within us.





SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH – SABATO

5:00 P.M. — + Virgil Joseph Vieira



SUNDAY DECEMBER 19TH – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. — + Fr. Adrian Pereira

10:00 A.M. — Intenzioni di Agostino e Nellina Battaglia
 Intenzioni di Vito e Elisabetta Barbieri
 Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia - Rosario Vella
 Mike e Vito Cuoppolo - Tony Lamanna
 Giuseppe Canini e famiglia-Tottono eRosaria Francella
 Francesco Ferrante-Antonietta Malfara e famiglia
 Carmela Lamanna e famiglia-Rocco Racioppo e famiglia
 Angelo Lamanna e famiglia - Maria D'Addario
 Defunti della famiglia Giucca - Luigi, Lucia e Vincenza
 Di Tacchio - Angela e Cataldo Roselli
 L'Anime Del Purgatorio

11:30 A.M.— In thanksgiving for favours received

1:00 P.M. — Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. — + Holy Souls In Purgatory

MONDAY DECEMBER 20TH – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. — Special Intention

11:00 A.M. — Dolores & George Poblete

TUESDAY DECEMBER 21ST – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. — + Vincent Rebello

11:00 A.M. — Fr. Thomas Lim

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22ND – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. — Charles Abreu

11:00 A.M. — Marie de Souza

THURSDAY DECEMBER 23RD – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. — + Gracie D'Cruz

8:30 A.M. — + Manuel Dungca

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24TH – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. — + Eva Porawa

5:00 P.M. — Italian Mass

7:00 P.M. — English Mass

9:00 P.M. — English Mass

12:00 A.M. — English Mass

SATURDAY DECEMBER 25TH – SABATO

8:30 A.M. — English Mass

10:00 A.M. — Italian Mass

11:30 A.M. — English Mass

1:00 P.M. — Latin Mass

5:00 P.M. — No Evening Mass



Dear Padre



I just learned there are two versions of the Christmas story in the Bible. How can that be? What's the difference?

One Christmas story is in Matthew, and the other is in Luke. They differ on some details—but at their hearts, the teaching is the same. In both, Mary is a virgin betrothed to Joseph but not yet living with him, and Jesus is conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Both also have Jesus born in Bethlehem.

In Matthew, the angel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph; in Luke, Mary receives the announcement. Jesus is named by Joseph in Matthew and by Mary in Luke.

The biggest difference involves the Christmas visitors. Matthew's Magi were educated Gentiles from a pagan country. They worshiped Jesus and brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showing us at the start of the Gospel that Jesus is King, Priest, and Savior. Luke is always partial to the poor, so he has shepherds rather than Magi witness to Christ.

The Christmas stories are different because the authors and their audiences were different. But there's no need to get lost in the details. Read both accounts and allow God's grace to deepen your faith.

Fr. John Murray, CSSR Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO



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 Mattews, 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, Pat Mancuso.

SVDP CHRISTMAS ANNUAL FUND DRIVE:

Thank You for helping our parishioners and our neighbors in need this Christmas. We raised \$1,700 in our recent collection. Any additional donations may be dropped at the parish office. Make sure you provide your full name and address to obtain a tax receipt.





Dear Parishioners,

We wish Father Jimmy well as he moves to his new assignment in Kerala, India, on January 5th, 2022. We will miss him.

Goodbyes can always be challenging as the ending of a relationship means saying farewell. But we trust that the next step on the journey will be good because the people we say goodbye to are in good hands, in God's hands, and He'll always be there for them.

Joyce Rupp of "Praying our Goodbyes" writes, *"Goodbyes, when reflected upon in faith, can draw us to a greater reliance upon the God of love, our most significant other. We can learn to live in hope, with greater meaning and deeper joy with God."* She provides an additional insight regarding the importance of saying farewell, *"We all need to learn how to say goodbye and acknowledge the pain that is there for us to eventually move on to another hello."*

Rupp provides her readers with a very beautiful prayer, *"When we learn how to say goodbye, we truly learn to say to ourselves and others: 'Go, God be with you. I entrust you to God. The God of strength, courage, comfort, hope, and love is with you. The God who promises to wipe away all tears will hold you close and fill your emptiness. Let go and be free to move on. Do not keep yourself from another step in your journey. May the blessing of God be with you.'"*

Parish life involves a lot of 'hellos' and 'goodbyes.' It is an never ending cycle—because those we meet, those we care for, those we serve, those we love, are never really ours to keep. They merely pass through our hands, through our lives, and then we let go. And that's alright. Because in the end, that's what a parish is meant to be. It is not the final destination, only a path, one that ends not in ourselves, but in God alone whose work we all strive, however imperfectly, to do every day.

In early January, we get to say "Hello" to our new Associate Pastor, Father Anish Kizhackemundakam Antony, C.F.I.C. who is currently as associate priest at Immaculate Conception Parish in Woodbridge. So get ready to say, "Welcome, Father Anish!" and give him your usual warm St. Lawrence Martyr Church welcome. He will reside with his community at the Epiphany of Our Lord parish. Keep him in your prayers as he comes to serve our parish.



God Bless, *Father Roy Farrell*

Let's invoke our Parish Patron Saint everyday!



A PRAYER TO ST. LAWRENCE: 'HELP ME TREASURE THOSE WHOM OTHERS DISCARD'

Feast Day, August 10

Kind St. Lawrence, You cared for the material goods of the Church,
While showing great love for those cast aside —
Those in poverty and those who were sick, suffering, or forgotten.
These, you reminded the world, are the true treasures of the Church.
Guide my thoughts and prayers and actions
So that I may treasure those whom others discard, and be a servant to those in need.
Help me to see the dignity in every person I encounter:
to defend the defenseless,
give voice to the voiceless,
and seek justice for those treated unjustly.

Be with me as I seek to help the poor, and inflame my heart with love for all God's children.
Amen. *St. Lawrence pray to God for us.*