

# St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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

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## PASTORAL TEAM:

Rev. Fr. Thomas Lim

*Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Anish K. Antony C.F.I.C.

*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch

*Chaplain to the Faithful participating in the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass*

Julia Di Paolo - *Secretary*

## PARISH OFFICE AND HOURS:

**Mon to Thurs:** 9:15 AM — 12:00 PM  
1:00 PM — 4:00 PM

**Friday:** 9:15 AM — 2:00 PM

**Sunday:** 9:15 AM — 1:00 PM

**Closed on Saturday and Holidays**

## DEVOTIONS:

Holy Rosary: before Mass

Divine Mercy: Friday after Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Wednesday

Novena to Our Lady of Miraculous Medal:

Every Monday, October - May

Novena to St. Anthony de Padua:

13 Tuesdays (March - June 13)

Eucharistic Adoration:

Monday - Thursday: 9am-12pm (Chapel)

Every Friday: 9am - 7pm (Church)

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

For assistance call 416-410-3589

## PARISH SCHOOL:

St. Lawrence Catholic School 416-393-5264

## 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

(or by appointment)

## BAPTISM:

Visit our website or call the Parish Office for more information.

## MARRIAGE:

Couples must contact the Pastor ONE YEAR in advance. Marriage Preparation Course is required. Visit our website for more information.

## ANNOINTING OF THE SICK:

If one of your loved ones would like to receive this Sacrament, please contact the Parish Office.

## COMMUNION OF THE SICK:

Visitation and/or Holy Communion for the sick upon request.

*A warm Welcome to New Parishioners!*

*Please fill out a parish registration form found in the foyer of the Church, and kindly introduce yourself to the Pastor.*

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



### Gospel Reflection ...

'Repentance' is an unattractive idea. It conjures up morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea. This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. In Hebrew and Greek the concept is a change of behaviour, a change of direction. John is calling on them to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet who was to return to announce the final coming of the LORD. He proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan Valley, below sea-level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the East. So he makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the LORD. We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving Saviour, but John was not yet proclaiming Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God, when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our scale of values. Am I the only person who matters to me?

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In san Matteo e san Marco, la predicazione di Giovanni Battista è il segnale dell'inizio dell'azione pubblica di Gesù. Con il suo discorso che chiama alla conversione, la presenza vicina diventa il messaggio di Gesù: "Il regno dei cieli è vicino!", e la differenza con questo si fa chiara: i battesimi di Giovanni non permettono di rimettere i peccati. San Matteo con le sue parole ci dà un'idea della grande importanza di Giovanni Battista, della sua influenza e della sua azione. Nelle parole di san Matteo si legge la convinzione che Israele si trovi in una situazione senza uscita. Non vi è più la sicurezza collettiva che derivava dall'appartenenza alla discendenza di Abramo. L'avvenire di ognuno dipende dalle proprie azioni: "Fate frutti degni di conversione!". Tuttavia l'avvenire è anche nelle mani di Dio, cioè nelle mani di colui che verrà dopo Giovanni: la mano che separa il buon grano dalla zizzania compirà presto la sua opera. Il giudizio che verrà è anche la ragione per cui Giovanni invita alla conversione. Israele è alla fine della sua sapienza. Anche se Giovanni Battista non ha ancora un'idea chiara di colui che verrà dopo di lui, sa una cosa: egli è il più forte. Giudicare è fare una scelta. Così, prepararsi al giudizio è prendere una decisione.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> – SABATO

5:00 P.M. - Fr. Roy Farrell

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. + Hanna Porawa

10:00 A.M. - Padre Raffaele Paonessa

Tony Lamanna - Antonio Savella

Susanna e Gianni Onisto

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia

Vito Sciuto e defunti famiglia

Matilde Pagliaro

Franco e Elisabetta Sinopoli e defunti famiglia

Vito De Nardo e defunti famiglia

Vito e Mike Cuoppolo

Angelo Lamanna e defunti famiglia

Antonio e Rosaria Lisciandro – Vincenza Di Tacchio

Immacolato Lombardi e defunti famiglia

L'Anime del purgatorio

11:30 A.M. + Basil, Yolande & Paulette Friolet

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. + Incarnacion Bautista

### MONDAY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

11:00 A.M. - Maria Georgina Jose

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. + Noel Cordeiro

11:00 A.M. + Paul & Pauline Lam

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. + Fr. Adrian Pereira

11:00 A.M. - Oto Lam & Family

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Pro Populo

8:30 A.M. + Andre Gouveia

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + P/F/V Palomares & R Lozano

7:00 P.M. - Theresa Burlton

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO

8:30 A.M. + Rita Dias

10:00 A.M. + Miguel Ortiz-Sosa



### Weekly Offertory

Last Week's Collection: \$4,494.70

thank  
you

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



Dear Friends in Christ, one of the central figures in the story of salvation is John the Baptist, who the Church calls the greatest prophet in the Old Testament. John, like all the other prophets, was given the special mission of preparing the people for the Messiah; but, he alone had the privilege of announcing Jesus' arrival with the words, "*Behold, the Lamb of God!*" (Jn 1:29)

One recurring theme that John preached, when he carried out his mission in the wilderness of Judea, was the call for repentance and conversion. John told his audience, time and again, to "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near*" (Mt 3: 1-2) and he exhorted them to "*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!*" (Is. 40: 3).

John's words remain very relevant today, especially as we continue to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord during Advent. While there are many good ways we can "*Prepare the way of the Lord*" in our own life, perhaps the greatest way is by getting our spiritual house in order - by examining our conscience thoroughly and making a good Confession with a priest.

During my years in ministry, I have heard countless Confessions while sitting in the confessional. In many of these Confessions, penitents perform what I will call the "machine gun confession." What do I mean by that phrase? The penitent begins with the customary opening words, "Bless me Father, for I have sinned..." He/she then proceeds to give a long litany of ALL the sins - both mortal and venial - that they have committed by saying, "These are my sins.... rat, tat, tat, tat...rat, tat, tat, tat...rat, tat, tat, tat..."

It is important to remind ourselves that the Church makes a big distinction between mortal and venial sins. St. John makes this clear when he says that "*...All wrongdoing is sin, but not all sin is deadly*" (1 Jn 5:17). Unfortunately, many penitents are often so confused or unsure as how to differentiate between the two kinds of sins, and the degree of damage which each kind causes in his/her personal relationship with God.

Let me offer a brief recap in case you need it.... Mortal sins are grave offenses against God that destroys our union with Him. Three elements must be simultaneously present before a sin can be deemed mortal: the act must involve a grave or serious matter; it must be done with full knowledge, and with a deliberate consent of the will. Since mortal sins causes us to lose sanctifying grace, it can only be restored in Confession. Thus, the Church teaches that every penitent must confess every mortal sins - both in kind and number - that he/she has committed after baptism, which have not yet been forgiven in Confession. Those who do so make a good, integral confession. I should not have to say it, but unfortunately I must, **anyone who is in a state of mortal sin may not receive the Eucharist!**

Venial sins are offenses that offend the Lord and diminishes our relationship with Him; nevertheless, they do not cut us off from the life of grace. The Catechism states, "*Venial sin weakens charity; it manifests a disordered affection for created goods; it impedes the soul's progress in the exercise of the virtues and the practice of the moral good; it merits temporal punishment. Deliberate and unrepented venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin*" (CCC 1863). While a Catholic who commits a venial sin remains in the state of grace, venial sins should not be seen as insignificant.

Many Catholics seem unaware that there are various ways by which venial sins can be forgiven outside of Confession. In his Summa, St. Thomas Aquinas writes, "*No infusion of fresh grace is required for the forgiveness of a venial sin, but it is enough to have an act proceeding from grace, in detestation of that venial sin, either explicit or at least implicit, as we move fervently to God*" (Summa III, 87, 3). In other words, according to Aquinas, venial sins can be forgiven by three different ways: acts that confers the infusion of grace (e.g., receiving Holy Communion and the other Sacraments), acts that are performed in detestation or hatred of sin (e.g., reciting the Confiteor, making an act of contrition, saying the Lord's prayer), and acts that move us toward the reverence of God (e.g., sprinkling oneself with Holy Water, any sacramental anointing, prayer in a dedicated Church) (*cf. Summa III, 87, 3*). Strictly speaking, then, a penitent may confess venial sins during his/her Confession; however, it is optional, not mandatory, since he/she may obtain forgiveness by the stated means noted above.

Confessions will be made available in many parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto during Advent. We will have Confessions available all day at SLM on **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 9pm**. I invite you to take a few moments to take inventory of your spiritual life. Examine your conscience and ask the Lord to give you the light of wisdom - to see yourself not as you see yourself, but as God sees you! Critically discern who are those people, or what are those things, which might have become be a source and/or an occasion of sin for you; and make a firm decision to remove it/them, or diminish their influence(s), from your life. After making an honest assessment of your life and having distinguished which sins are mortal from those which are venial ones, come to Confession so that you can receive God's sacramental grace and His loving mercy. You will truly experience it when you hear those beautiful words spoken by Christ through the mouth of his priest: "God the Father of mercy, through the death and resurrection of His Son.... I absolve you from all your sins....+" Pax Christi, *Jr. Thomas*



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



### FIRST RECONCILIATION/ COMMUNION



#### Advent Promise Weekend - Dec. 10th/11th

Advent promise weekend is next weekend December 10th/11th. During the Mass, children receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be asked to come forward before the altar to present their “My Advent Promises” to our Pastor, Fr. Thomas.

You and your families are invited to attend ONE of the following weekend Masses:

- Saturday, December 10th at 5:00pm
- Sunday, December 11th at 8:30am or 11:30am

The “My Advent Promises” activity sheet was distributed to students attending St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic School registered to receive the Sacrament; students in public, private school, or other Catholic School will receive the activity by email.

### Collect Prayer...

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to His company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. AMEN.



## Dear Padre

December 4, 2022

**Many LGBTQ+ youth are homeless, suicidal, or even murdered because of who they are. How can we support them?**

Your desire to be compassionate is very much in keeping with the Church's teaching. In 1986, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, led by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now emeritus Pope Benedict XVI), issued a strongly worded call for civility and respect for homosexual persons. On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons emphasized, “It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses that homosexual persons “must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity” (CCC 2358).

“The Church actively asserts and promotes the intrinsic dignity of every person. As human persons, persons with a homosexual inclination have the same basic rights as all people, including the right to be treated with dignity,” wrote the US Bishops in “Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination” (2006). In terms of offering support, this document reads, “As baptized members of the Catholic community, persons with a homosexual inclination continue to look to the Church for a place where they may live in authentic human integrity and holiness of life. Being welcomed into and participating in their local faith community is the foundation of spiritual support that the Church offers to them. Full and active participation is encouraged. Participation in a worshipping Catholic community is a support for living a life of chastity and integrity and an encouragement to an ongoing personal conversion.” ●

— The Redemptorists  
DearPadre.org

### PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY and GREECE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL, THE APOSTLE Under spiritual guidance of our Pastor Fr. Thomas Lim

June 02-15, 2023, 14 days

Flyers/registration forms are found at the lobby of the Church Or Visit [St Lawrence Martyr Website](#)

To book CALL Tour Co-ordinator Theresia Sisca 4167318252



**2023 SUNDAY MISSALS**  
St. Joseph Sunday Missals will be available for sale this weekend at a cost of \$5.00 each.

### 2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP!



Parishioners are asked to pick up their 2023 Offertory Envelopes at the back of the Church. It is important that you discard all previous envelopes when the New Year commences. Please enter your full name and address on the first few 2023 envelopes so that we may allocate donations correctly for income tax purposes.

If you don't have offertory envelopes and would like a box, please fill out a request form in the parish office.

For our Christmas decorations, you may make your donations by using the “Christmas Flower” envelope found in your offertory box, or with the envelopes available in the foyer of the Church. Please place your envelope in the weekend offertory collection.



Thank You!



### PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.

*“No one should follow what he considers to be good for himself, but rather what seems good for another.” - St. Benedict*