

# 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. Russell Asch

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

Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Scollo

**In Residence**

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 8:30am Mass

Divine Mercy: Friday after 8:30am 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:

Mon - Thurs: 9am-12pm (Church)

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: 12:00 pm 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.*

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2023

Mark 13:33-37

## IF HE COMES UNEXPECTEDLY, HE MUST NOT FIND YOU ASLEEP



This brief parable of the master returning unexpectedly is typical of Jesus' vivid way of speaking. The message is typical, too, for Jesus was constantly stressing that there is no time to lose. In the gospel of Mark especially there is a feeling of hurry: in chapter one alone there are 14 instances of 'immediately'! When Jesus came

in his earthly ministry he again and again challenged his hearers to make up their minds NOW, to change their ways NOW. He challenges us to do the same. We can hear the rattle of the returning Master's key in the lock. There is no time to hide the contrabands, to pull our uniforms straight before greeting the Master at his entry. Even if we do not think that the world's end is imminent, even if death is not threatening, every moment counts, every decision is for or against Jesus. Saints are rumoured to have said that, if they received the news that they were to die that night, they would carry on doing what they were doing anyway.

Is this really a Christian attitude? If we need to put things a bit more in order to prepare for the Lord's coming, is there any valid reason to delay? The four weeks of Advent are anyway a good time to clean things up for the Lord's coming.

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L'anno B del ciclo triennale delle letture è l'anno di Marco. Eppure non si comincia dal paragrafo iniziale del suo Vangelo, che sarà oggetto di lettura nella settimana prossima: si parte dal punto in cui terminerà la penultima settimana dell'anno, con l'annuncio del ritorno di Cristo: "Allora vedranno il Figlio dell'uomo venire sulle nubi con grande potenza e gloria".

A prima vista, ciò può sembrare strano ed illogico. Invece, nella liturgia, c'è un'estrema sottigliezza nell'effettuare il cambiamento di tono: la nostra attenzione, che nelle ultime settimane era centrata sul giudizio e sulla fine del mondo, si sposta ora sul modo di accogliere Cristo: non con paura, ma con impazienza, proprio come un servo che attende il ritorno del padrone (Mc 13,35).

In quanto preparazione al Natale, l'Avvento deve essere un tempo di attesa nella gioia. San Paolo interpreta il nostro periodo d'attesa come un tempo in cui dobbiamo testimoniare Cristo: "Nessun dono di grazia più vi manca, mentre aspettate la manifestazione del Signore nostro Gesù Cristo" (1Cor 1,7).

### Zone 12 Scarborough Region Parish Confessions

- Our Lady of the Rosary—Friday Dec 8th at 7pm
- St. Aidan—Tuesday Dec. 12, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- St. Boniface—Thursday December 14-7pm
- St. Barnabas—Wed Dec. 13, 7pm-8:30pm / Dec. 11, 12, 14, 15: 6pm-7pm
- St. Joseph—Friday Dec 15 – 7pm-9pm / Thursday Dec 21 – 10am-2pm
- St. Thomas More—Tue Dec 19-7:30pm English / Wed Dec 20-7:30pm Spanish
- Epiphany of Our Lord—Tue Dec 19 6:30am-7:30am, 9am-12pm, 5pm-6:45pm  
Wed Dec 20 6:30am-7:30am, 9am-12pm, 5pm-6:45pm
- St. Lawrence—Friday Dec. 22, 9am-12pm & 3pm-7pm



### Eucharistic Adoration



Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm (Church)\*  
Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)\*  
\*In the Chapel, when there is a funeral  
Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!

## Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



### SATURDAY DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> – SABATO

5:00 P.M. + JP, Maria & Terrance Dal Gado

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. + Chi Chong & Shen Thong Hsieh

10:00 A.M. - Susanna e Gianni Onisto

Pietro e Elvira Fugacia - Vito Sciuto e famiglia

Matilde Pagliaro - Leopoldo Volpe e famiglia

Angelo Lamanna e famiglia

Angelo Pagnielo e famiglia

Vito e Mike Cuoppolo – Camelo Moncada

Vincenza Di Tacchio - Lorenzo Volpe

Vincenzo Cucuzza

Immacolato Lombardi e famiglia

Rocco Racioppo e famiglia

11:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

1:00 P.M. - Pro Popolo

5:00 P.M. - Lydia & Rod Murphy & Family

### MONDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Teodoro & Cornelia Lim

12:00 P.M. + Joseph Pytel

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. -/+ L&D Members of SLM Craft Grp

12:00 P.M. - Theresa Burlton

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. + Sophie Kwan

12:00 P.M. - Beverley Corriero

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Michael, Maeann & Beatrice de Souza

8:30 A.M. + Antonio & Carmela Scarano

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. - For All Parishioners

7:00 P.M. - Pro Popolo

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO

8:30 A.M. + Rosemary & Maryrose Ho Hing

10:00 A.M. - For the Priests of SLM



### Weekly Offertory Last Sunday:

Regular Collection: \$5,913.45

All Souls: \$5,608.00

thank you

*"The times are never so bad that a good man cannot live in them"*

~ St. Thomas Aquinas ~

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ, this past Sunday on the Solemnity of Christ the King, I had the privilege of witnessing my youngest sister, Agatha, begin her vocation as a consecrated virgin ([please see parish website for photos](#)). The Rite of Consecration was celebrated by Bishop John Boissonneau at St. Agnes Kouying Tsao parish in Markham, and was witnessed by my siblings, family, friends and numerous faithful from throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The vocation to consecrated virginity has a rich history within our Catholic Church. From Jesus' time, countless women have been inspired to live a life of chastity in imitation of His celibate life and of the virginal life of his blessed mother, Mary. The oldest reference to the Ordo Virginum comes from St. Ignatius of Antioch (c. 90-100 AD), who greeted "*the ever virgins called widows in the church of Smyrnia*" - a reference to a distinct group of women, who had dedicated themselves to a life of virginity. A few of the early virgin Saints, such as St. Agnes, St. Anastasia, St. Lucy, and St. Agatha, are mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass (cf. Eucharistic Prayer 1). Today there are more than 5,000 consecrated virgins worldwide, based on an estimate from the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life

What is a consecrated virgin? Strictly speaking, she is a woman who has been consecrated - that is, she has been set aside as a sacred person in the Church - according to the approved liturgical rite by the diocesan bishop, or his delegate. In giving her life totally and perpetually to Christ, a consecrated virgin resolves: to persevere to the end of her days in the holy state of virginity and in the service of God and his Church; to promise to follow Christ in the spirit of the Gospel to be faithful witness to God's love and a sign of the kingdom of heaven throughout her life; to accept solemn consecration as a bride of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (cf. Rite of Consecration to the Order of Virgins). By making these promises, Agatha (and other consecrated virgins) become mystically betrothed to Jesus, the Son of God.

As a spouse of Christ, a consecrated virgin is called to reflect the face of the Church, the Bride of Christ. She is to live that spousal relationship by offering the love, which she would otherwise have given to her beloved husband and children, to Christ and the people of God in his Church. She is called to be a sign for others that points toward the Kingdom of God. As Pope Benedict XVI noted in his 2008 address: "*That your whole life may be a faithful witness of God's love and a convincing sign of the Kingdom of Heaven. Take care always to radiate the dignity of being a bride of Christ, expressing the newness of Christian existence and the serene expectation of future life. Thus, with your own upright life you will be stars to guide the world on its journey*" (Pope Benedict XVI's address to the participants in the International Congress-Pilgrimage of the Ordo Virginum 2008).

While a consecrated virgin falls under the same general category of the more familiar forms of religious life (e.g., Sisters of Life, Sisters of Charity, Loretta Sisters, etc.), she is different in that she does not make the latter's three vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. She simply promises to live a life of chastity and to follow Christ more faithfully.

Nor is a consecrated virgin required to live in community as is the case with various members of consecrated life. In fact, there is no specific character proper to how a consecrated virgin should live her life in the world. The Code states that "*In order to observe their own resolution more faithfully and to perform by mutual assistance service to the Church in harmony with their proper state, virgins can be associated together*" (Can. 604, §2). She is fully free to lead her life in whatever manner she sees fit. She may choose to live in her own home, with her family, or with other virgins. She can live her vocation within a concrete and cultural setting, rooted in a particular Church, being responsible for her own livelihood, living in the world but never belonging to the world.

In the prayer of consecration, Bishop Boissonneau prayed: "*Loving Father... look with favour on your handmaids. They place in your hands their resolve to live in chastity, you inspire them to take this vow... protect those who seek your help. They desire to be strengthened by your blessing and consecration.... They have chosen you above all things; may they find all things in possessing you.*" As my sister, Agatha, begins her vocation, my prayer for her is that she will remain closely united to her beloved spouse, our Lord, Jesus Christ, by living her life in perfect chastity, a promise that she professed before God and his holy people .

Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*

### Vocation Reflection



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 the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life,

contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

Email

[vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)

### Stewardship Reflection



Advent is a time of preparation that invites us to rouse from our sleep and prepare for the Lord's coming. One great way to prepare for His coming is to seek God's cleansing

healing in the sacrament of

Confession. Let us strive to be reconciled with God and as stewards, let us try to invite our family and friends to join us ?

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2023

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
(Year B)



## Collect Prayer...

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. AMEN.



**Archbishop Leo invites you to join ShareLife's fight against hunger**

*Your year-end gift will double in value! From now until December 31, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched up to \$500,000.*

"It is heart-wrenching and unacceptable that anyone today lacks access to food which is a most basic human right," shares Archbishop Francis Leo. "Our parishioners are taking action in response to the Lord's call to feed the hungry. Since the earliest days of the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Toronto, the faithful have cared for those in need, on the margins of society and we continue this life-giving legacy."

Please support the fight against hunger at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate) or by giving at our parish using a ShareLife envelope. Thank you for reaching out with the hands of Christ to feed the hungry.

## Sponsor a Christmas Poinsettia:



For parishioners who wanted to sponsor poinsettia pot for the altar in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving, prices are:  
\$25 for 10" Poinsettia,  
\$20 for 8" Poinsettia, and  
\$15 for 6" Poinsettia  
**Please visit or call the 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 ~

## First Reconciliation/Communion Advent Promise Weekend - Dec 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup>

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

- Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm
- Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am or 11:30am

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.

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.

## Dear Padre

December 3, 2023

**Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?**

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK:



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



**FATHER  
YOU CALLED**

**SAINT LAWRENCE  
TO SERVE YOU BY LOVE  
AND CROWNED HIS LIFE  
WITH GLORIOUS  
MARTYRDOM.**

**HELP US TO BE LIKE HIM  
IN LOVING YOU  
AND DOING YOUR WORK.**

**AMEN**

**"Commitment is doing what you said you would do after the feeling you said it in has passed."**

~ St. Camillus de Lellis ~