

# 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.*

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

Mark 1:1-8



### A VOICE CRIES IN THE WILDERNESS: PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

Each Advent has two John-the-Baptist Sundays, the first when we see John preparing a community for the Messiah, the second when he points out Jesus as the Lamb of God. Today is the first of these. John chose a point where the busy road from Jerusalem to the East crossed the Jordan River.

There he button-holed all the busy financiers, merchants and other travellers and tourists, warning them to change their ways – and to change them now, before it was too late. 'I am too busy', no doubt they said, 'I have other things to worry about; I have a wife and family to feed.' John was forming a community of repentance, but not so much a community which wept 'Boo-hoo!' about their sins, as a community of people determined to set their scale of values right. He meant them to stop going in one direction, to turn round and go in a different direction. Do we give ourselves a moment of pause to ask whether we have our priorities right? Where on our list of priorities does the entry of Christ into our lives come? John said rotten trees were going to be cut down, useless straw to be burnt. Do I need to feel the axe at my feet?

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).

*It is not wrong to want to live better; what is wrong is a style of life which is presumed to be better when it is directed towards 'having' rather than 'being,' and which wants to have more, not in order to be more but in order to spend life in enjoyment as an end in itself.*

*Pope John Paul 1*



### 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 9<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO

5:00 P.M. + Terrance Dal Gado

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. + Eric Ricardo

10:00 A.M. - Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia

Rosario Vella - Isabella Pagliaro

Franco e Elisabetta Sinopoli e famiglia

Vito De Nardo e famiglia – Antonio e Maria Ciciretto

Agostino Battaglia - Lorenzo Volpe

Vincenza Di Tacchio - Giovanna Costantino

Carmela Segreto - Franco Falsetti e famiglia

Luigi, Giovanni e Luigina De Rose

Mrco, Edda e defunti famiglie Carlevaris e Nevodini

L'Anime del Purgatorio

11:30 A.M. + Fr. Ralph Paonessa O.F.M

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

### MONDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – LUNEDÌ

8:30 A.M. - Robert How Chong

12:00 P.M. - Fr. Russell Asch

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> – MARTEDÌ

8:30 A.M. + Joaquim Lobo

12:00 P.M. - Family of David & Carmen Jose

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> – MERCOLEDÌ

8:30 A.M. + Otilia & Viliam Sinuncic

+ Fr. Ralph Paonessa O.F.M

+ Alejandro Libaque

+ Sebastien, Yolande & Paulette Friolet

12:00 P.M. - Vincenzo Corriero

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> – GIOVEDÌ

7:00 A.M. + Ossie & Swarna Amereskere

8:30 A.M. + Franciska Dimitrov

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> – VENERDÌ

8:30 A.M. + Kathrine & Alojz Surina

7:00 P.M. + Irene de Souza

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO

8:30 A.M. + Juro & Maria Zemljak

10:00 A.M. - Louella Lobo



### Last Weekend Offertory:

Regular Collection: \$4,890.45

Building Fund: \$3,649.80

*thank you*

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ, a few days ago the students from our neighbouring school came into the church to celebrate their sacrament of reconciliation, as is the custom for them to do so during the Advent season in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Unfortunately, and unsurprisingly, many of the children were once again ill-prepared to celebrate the sacrament. In the confessions that I heard, a small handful of students were able to remember the last time that they went to confession; while most, however, could not. Although a few children had an idea of the sins that they wanted to confess that day; most, however, were only able to offer a sin or two, but only after a great struggle, and usually from the top of their head. Regrettably, not a single child was able to recite the Act of Contrition from memory, with each needing to consult the prayer that I had placed on the kneeler. I must admit that listening to these confessions was mentally exhausting to say the least.

Let me be very clear, however, that the lack of preparedness to celebrate the sacrament of confession is not limited to just children; adults, too, are often guilty of being ill-prepared for the sacrament, albeit in different ways. Over the years, I have heard the “auto-pilot” or “pre-recording” confessions. These are the kinds of confessions where penitents bring the same laundry list of sins, which they tend to confess time and again, sometimes in the same exact order. They give very little thought of what they are saying, and make very little effort in trying to determine what are the root causes of their sins. There are some adults who come to confession clueless as to the sins that they wish to bring to the Lord, and incredibly they want me to give them absolution, even when they have not given me any matter to absolve. This is akin to me asking you to “forgive me” but when pressed “what for”, I respond, “I do not know.... just forgive me anyways.” What I find hard to fathom, however, is how many adult penitents still do not know the words to the Act of Contrition, including those who go to confession on a regular basis. There are many more examples but these should suffice....

As we begin another Advent season, perhaps, I can offer you a few recommendations on how to better prepare yourself for the sacrament of reconciliation. The first step involves making an examination of conscience each night before you go to bed. The examination should take no more than one or two minutes at most. The simplest way to do it is by dividing your day into three parts - morning, afternoon and evening - and discerning when and where you had fallen into sin during each section of the day. While there are many ways to define sin, perhaps the best one comes from our Catechism, which states it as: *“Sins can be distinguished according to their objects, as can every human act; or according to the virtues they oppose, by excess or defect; or according to the commandments they violate. They can also be classed according to whether they concern God, neighbor, or oneself; they can be divided into spiritual and carnal sins, or again as sins in thought, word, deed, or omission. The root of sin is in the heart of man, in his free will...”* (CCC 1853). By faithfully carrying out this short but invaluable spiritual practice each night, the Lord will enable you to see with greater clarity your true sinful tendencies. With this knowledge in hand, you are then able to go to the confessional with the full knowledge of what you are guilty of, and to receive in turn absolution for these sins, and the sacramental grace to help you to heal or overcome them sins in time.

The second step involves never failing to make a good, sincere Act of Contrition before going to bed. Praying the Act of Contrition is a key step that enables us to make changes to our thoughts and actions, or what the Church traditionally calls metanoia - a conversion, or the turning around of one’s mind or heart. While there are different kinds of Act of Contrition, the most commonly prayed version reads, *“O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.”*

I invite you then, if you have not already done so, to make both these recommendations - a daily examination of conscience and the daily recitation of the Act of Contrition - a part of your spiritual life. By doing so, you will not only have a better gauge of your spiritual life and well-being, but also be better prepared for your next confession.

Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*

### Vocation Reflection



John the Baptist is sent by God to prepare the way for His Son. In our present time God sends priests, religious and deacons to prepare the people to receive His Son. 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



As stewards, we must imitate the example of John the Baptist and help prepare the way for others to encounter Christ. People can most readily encounter Christ through His church which is why we must play our part in making our parishes as hospitable and welcoming as possible.

This Advent and Christmas season, as we may begin to see new faces in the parish, let us welcome them with loving hearts and smiles.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

### 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.

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
(YEAR B)



*Your compassion helps people with disabilities*

*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.*

Through your compassionate generosity, Mary Centre partners with adults with a developmental disability in its mission of "building a good life." This ShareLife-funded agency offers integrated support services, providing respite for clients and their caregivers."

Double the impact of your kindness by giving at the parish with a ShareLife envelope or anytime at [sharelife.org/donate](https://sharelife.org/donate).

### 2024 SUNDAY MISSALS

St. Joseph Sunday Missals are now for sale at a cost of \$5.00 each.



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!*

### 2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP!



Parishioners are asked to pick up their 2024 Offertory Envelopes at the Parish Hall. **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 2024 envelopes so that we may allocate your donations correctly for income tax purposes.

If you don't have offertory envelopes and would like a box, please complete the [registration form](#) found on the parish website or at the back of the Church and return in the Sunday Collection.

### Sacrament of Confirmation Rite of Enrolment Weekend - Dec 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup>

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

- Saturday, December 16th at 5:00pm
- Sunday, December 17th at 8:30am or 11:30am

During the Mass, candidates will be asked to come before the altar to formally give their "Letter of Intent" to our Pastor, Fr. Thomas.

#### Prayer for Confirmandi:

Open my heart and my mind as I prepare for Confirmation. Help me to know that you are confirming all the goodness that I am, and all the goodness that I will become.

Increase my desire to know and follow Jesus as his disciple with a grateful and courageous heart. AMEN

## Dear Padre

December 10, 2023

**Do Catholics have to marry in the Church? If a couple decides to marry outside of the Church, are they still allowed to receive Communion and other sacraments?**

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

*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