

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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

Tel No. 416-759-9359 / Fax No. 416-759-6725

Email: stlawrencemartyr@archtoronto.org

Website: stlawrencemartyr.archtoronto.org

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.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17TH, 2023

John 1:6-8,19-28



“THERE STANDS AMONG YOU THE ONE COMING AFTER ME”

So, John the Baptist came as a witness to the light. In today's gospel reading he seems rather to refuse witness. He is quite negative, answering with a stalwart and repeated 'No!'. He witnesses only 'There is one standing among you whom you do not know'. It is not always easy to find Jesus. All the way through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus, as people fail to recognise him for what he is: the Samaritan at the well, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalen beside the empty tomb, even Peter and the disciples as they fish on the Lake. We can easily become so wrapped up in our own troubles and worries that we fail to recognise the one figure who can bring their solution, although he is standing among us, the one who 'has the words of eternal life'. He may come to us in a way we do not like, as a corrective, blocking or diverting the way we had chosen. He may come as suffering, disappointment, failure or bereavement. All of these may be acts of God's love, to show us the way, though we cannot see it at the time. It is just like John the Baptist, saying steadily 'No!', until eventually we turn around and see Christ as our true light.

Il messaggero, annunciato nel vangelo di domenica scorsa, è descritto in modo più dettagliato dall'evangelista Giovanni. Egli ci ricorda, infatti, i dialoghi che Giovanni Battista ebbe con sacerdoti e leviti, venuti da Gerusalemme per interrogarlo. Era forse il Messia? No, rispose Giovanni Battista: "Io sono voce di uno che grida nel deserto: Preparate la via del Signore, come disse il profeta Isaia" (Gv 1,23).

Sant'Agostino commenta: "Giovanni Battista era una voce, ma in principio il Signore era il Verbo. Giovanni fu una voce per un certo tempo, ma Cristo, che in principio era il Verbo, è il Verbo per l'eternità" (Serm 293)

"Egli - dice l'evangelista Giovanni - venne come testimone per rendere testimonianza alla luce, perché tutti credessero per mezzo di lui". Vi sentiamo un'eco del prologo: "Veniva nel mondo la luce vera, quella che illumina ogni uomo" (Gv 1,9).

Anche noi dobbiamo essere suoi testimoni (Gv 15,27) e ciò, prima di tutto, nella santità delle nostre vite perché "mi ha rivestito delle vesti di salvezza, mi ha avvolto con il manto della giustizia" (Is 61,10).



Vocation Reflection There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? 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 ~ ~ Email vocations@archtoronto.org

"Do you want to know yourself better? Then discover silence."

~ Pope Benedict XVI ~



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 16TH – SABATO

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

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. - Charles Abreu

10:00 A.M.

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia - Lia Matinello

Antonino Tuccitto e famiglia

Vicenzo Pitino e famiglia

Giuseppe Canina e famiglia

Totonno e Rosaria Francella

Vito e Mike Cuoppolo - Pasquale Volpe - Salvatore

Simone e famiglia - Nancy e Vicky Masellis

Maria D'Addario - Vincenza Di Tacchio

Lorenzo Volpe - Salvatore Malandrino - Defunti

Famiglie Longo e Russo - Benito Cortese

Angelo e Giuseppina Morra - Crescenzo e Angela

Intocchia - Mario e Incoronata Lallone

Paolo e Agata Casullo - Felice e Isabella Intocchia

11:30 A.M. + Armando Ilag

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. + Holy Souls In Purgatory

MONDAY DECEMBER 18TH – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Liam Finnegan

12:00 P.M. - Kusun Perera

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19TH – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. + Jose R.Mejia

12:00 P.M. - Jean-Pierre Mazare

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20TH – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. - Fr. Thomas Lim

- Zack Noranho

+ Alvin Marshall & Family

+ Fr. Ralph Paonessa O.F.M.

12:00 P.M. - Rodel & Emelina Torres & Family

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21ST – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Pro Populo

8:30 A.M. - Julia Di Paolo

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22ND – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Emmanuel Cruz

7:00 P.M. - Christina Mar

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23RD – SABATO

8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

10:00 A.M. - Chloe & Sadie Chin-You



Last Weekend Offertory:

Regular Collection: \$6,191.70

Christmas Flowers: \$2,906.85

thank you

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17TH, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ, this past Monday while I was attending to some personal errands on my day off, I happened to drive to a Tim Horton's in Etobicoke for a cup of coffee. As I was entering the drive-thru lane, I passed a young woman (approximately in her late 20's), who was standing on the sidewalk holding a sign with the words, "I am homeless and will accept any kind of help." At first glance, neither the young woman's appearance nor the contents of her sign really made a significant impact on me. Nevertheless, I was quickly awakened from my "slumber" shortly thereafter, when I noticed the sight of a dozen or so tents - of varying sizes and colours - all pitched on a small patch of grass some two hundred metres away.

The lack of available, affordable, and adequate housing, the rising inflationary pressures, and the increased cost of living, etc., has pushed many Canadians into a social and economic crisis. This makeshift "tent city" situated near Dundas St. and 427 captures in a small way the harsh realities that many struggling people face today. Given that the woman was begging in close proximity to these pitched tents, it was very likely that she was in fact homeless and living out in the cold.

As I reflected upon my experience later that day, I could not help but ask myself a number of questions. Why wasn't I initially moved, when I first saw the young woman standing shivering in the cold with her sign in hand? Have I grown so accustomed to seeing people like her that I have become so desensitized to the painful realities of their situation? Have I become so complacent with living my own reality that I have become incapable of empathizing with the less fortunate, the homeless, etc....? Have I become so self-preoccupied that I have been unable to see those in need?

The season of Advent and Christmas is supposed to a joyous time, as we prepare for the arrival of the birth of Christ. Yet there is an inherent danger lurking close to us, given that we can become so preoccupied with our own "things" that we become indifferent, insensitive and unresponsive to the painful realities that others are unfortunately experiencing. So, the challenge for us during this period is to try to prepare for Christ in a faithful manner, while also being vigilant and on the lookout for those who may need our help, warmth, love, etc. St. Clare of Assisi once remarked: *"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others."* While the possibilities are endless on how we can help the less fortunate during the Christmas season, the key is to make an effort to make a difference in someone's life.

As I ordered my coffee that morning, I decided to buy an extra meal and a cup of coffee for that young woman. When I approached her, I asked her if she was hungry? Unsurprisingly, she said, "Yes!" As I gave her the meal, along with an extra few dollars, she flashed a small smile across her weather-beaten face and wished me a "Merry Christmas!" Her smile was a blessing for me, for through it I was reminded of Our Lord's words, *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me"* (Mt. 25:40). Pax Christi, *Jr. Thomas*



ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS

December 22nd ~Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm

3:00pm - 7:00pm

By appointment ~ Please call the office

4th Sunday of Advent

December 23rd~Saturday (Vigil)

5:00 pm (English)

December 24th~Sunday

8:30 am (English)

10:00 am (Italian)

11:30 am (English)

1:00 pm (Latin)

The Nativity of the Lord

December 24th~Sunday (Christmas Eve)

4:30 pm Carols / 5:00 pm Children's Mass

6:30 pm Carols / 7:00 pm (English)

8:45 pm Carols / 9:00 pm (Latin)

11:30 pm Carols / 12 Midnight (English)

December 25th~Monday (Christmas Day)

8:30 am (English)

10:00 am (Italian)

11:30 am (English)

1:00 pm (Latin)

~No 5pm Mass~

Feast of the Holy Family

December 30th~Saturday (Vigil)

5:00 pm (English)

December 31st~Sunday

8:30 am (English)

10:00 am (Italian)

11:30 am (English)

1:00 pm (Latin)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31st~Sunday (New Year's Eve)

5:00 pm (English)

January 1st~Monday (New Year's Day)

8:30 am (English)

10:00 am (Italian)

11:30 am (English)

1:00 pm (Latin)

~No 5pm Mass~

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM
DECEMBER 23RD TO JANUARY 1ST**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 17TH, 2023

Collect Prayer...

Almighty and merciful God, O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. AMEN.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year B)



The Society of St Vincent de Paul would like to thank you for your continued support. As Christmas approaches, we have many requests for help. If you would like to sponsor a family please call tel. 416 759-1865 or leave a message at tel. 416 410-3589.

Please pick up one of our Yellow Christmas envelopes to make a Christmas donation.

God bless all you for your support. Have a Blessed Christmas and good health for New Year'



Make a matching gift to support mental health

*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.*

Your support of ShareLife is making a difference in the lives of those in need. Last year, ShareLife supporters like you enabled 21,000 people to receive affordable mental health care through family service agencies across the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Double the impact of your kindness by giving at the parish with a ShareLife envelope or anytime at sharelife.org/donate.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK: We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.



Dear Padre

December 17, 2023

Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●

The Redeptorists / DearPadre.org



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

I ♥ MY CHURCH 2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP!

Parishioners are asked to pick up their 2024 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 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.



"What is it that stands higher than words? Action. What is it that stands higher than action? Silence."

~ St. Francis of Assisi ~