

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 15TH, 2024

Luke 3:10-18



“Someone is coming Who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire ...”

In this second of the two Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse. First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation; tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power of intimidation by bullying those they were meant to protect. The second half of John’s task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke’s gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the Church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit.

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L’annuncio profetico di Giovanni Battista trova un’eco in quelli che lo ascoltano. Vanno da lui per domandargli: “Cosa dobbiamo fare?”. Giovanni si rifà alla tradizione dei profeti e risponde che la condizione necessaria è il compimento del comandamento dell’amore del proprio prossimo, espressione reale dell’amore di Dio. Giovanni non esige la durezza della vita che egli conduce, non disapprova neanche le attività proprie ai laici che vanno verso di lui. Tuttavia, egli sa indicare a ognuno quello che deve convertire in se stesso, e come realizzare i propri doveri verso il prossimo, e nello stesso tempo indicare loro chiaramente dove risiedono l’ingiustizia e l’errore che devono essere superati.

Quando gli si domanda se egli è il Messia, Giovanni Battista risponde di no, e non accetta alcun legame alla sua persona, nessuna adesione personale qualunque essa sia. Con umiltà proclama che il Messia si trova sulla terra, che lui solo possiede il battesimo vero. Questo non si farà con l’acqua, ma con lo Spirito Santo e il fuoco, per tutti coloro che vorranno vivere la conversione completa. Solo il Messia potrà riunire il frumento e bruciare la paglia in un rogo, dettare il giudizio della misericordia. Giovanni non è neanche degno di slegare i suoi sandali; a lui, Giovanni, è stato solo chiesto di preparare il cammino del Signore.



Eucharistic Adoration

Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm (Church)*

Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)*

*In Chapel, when there is a funeral.

Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!



Mass Intentions for the week



SATURDAY DECEMBER 14TH – SABATO

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

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. - Francis Hsieh & Family

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia – Rosario Vella

Tony Lamanna – Antonio Savella

Defunti famiglie Deciantis e Mastroianni

Benito Cortese - Giuseppe Canini e famiglia

Caterina e Salvatore Simone e famiglia

Agostino Battaglia e defunti famiglie B e G

Vito e Mike Cuoppolo – Francesco Ferrante

Lorenzo Volpe - Michelina Colangelo

Vincenza Di Tacchio e famiglia

11:30 A.M. - Emile Tumaliuan

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. + Bonifacio & Emeteria Solomon

MONDAY DECEMBER 16TH – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Alojzia & Ivan Sopic

12:00 P.M. - Lisandro & Marlene Zepeda

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17TH – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. + Armando Ilag

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

WEDNESDAY DEC 18TH – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. + Lito Solitario

+ Jesusa Santos Mamangon

- Xavier Johnpulle

- Alexander & Denise Amizola

12:00 P.M. - Richard & Anamaria Nielsen

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. + Carmen & Bayar Campos

8:30 A.M. + Holy Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20TH – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + MariaFeliceAntonio Tersigni

7:00 P.M. - Luciana & Christian Gravel

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21ST – SABATO

8:30 A.M. - Priests of SLM Parish

10:00 A.M. - Christina Mar



Vocation Reflection ~ "Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother, or sister and announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did. Contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, AoT at 416-968-0997. Email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca



OFFERTORY LAST WEEK

Regular: \$6,450.90

Christ Flowers: \$2,590.65

All Souls: \$6,676.10

thank you

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 15TH, 2024

**Pastor's
Corner**

Dear Friends in Christ, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. As we reach the half-way point of our Advent Season, the Church directs our attention away from the penitential spirit of Advent and exhorts the faithful to rejoice, to exult, and to be joyful.

Our opening prayer – the Collect – captures this beautifully when it says, *“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.”* The theme is also found in today’s second reading from St. Paul to the Philippians. In his epistle, Paul tells his small community of believers to *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice”* (Phil. 4:4).

The Greek word from which we get our English translation “rejoice” is *chairete*. Although *chairete* is often associated with the emotional state of joy or happiness that a person can experience, its primary meaning however refers to grace. In this vein, *chairete* means to delight joyfully in and by God’s grace, to experience God’s favor (grace), to be conscious of and to be glad for His grace. Given that *chairete* is a work of grace, this kind of joy tends to be more serene, confident and stable, since it is not rooted in the passing moods of our fallen human state or the things of this world.

Saint Pope Paul VI spoke of this idea during an address he gave on 9 May 1975 titled, *“Gaudete in Domino”* (*Rejoice in the Lord*). In his address, Paul VI said: *“Technological society has succeeded in multiplying the opportunities for pleasure, but it has great difficulty in generating joy. For joy comes from another source. It is spiritual. Money, comfort, hygiene and material security are often not lacking; and yet boredom, depression and sadness unhappily remain the lot of many. These feelings sometimes go as far as anguish and despair, which apparent carefreeness, the frenzies of present good fortune and artificial paradises cannot assuage.”*

Paul’s biblical imperative to *“Rejoice in the Lord always”* (4:4a) left his followers with only one option. They were not to rejoice sometimes, periodically, or occasionally, but always! As if to make his point really clear, Paul tells them a second time: *“Again I will say, Rejoice”* (v. 4b).

I suppose that some readers might view Paul’s exhortation as being quite unreasonable or unrealistic. Some might ask themselves: How can I rejoice in the Lord when I am currently experiencing pain, suffering, difficulties, or challenges in my life? Let us not forget, however, that Paul was not writing these words when his life was a “bowl of cherries.” In fact, it was quite the opposite for him! Paul wrote this epistle from prison, when he was facing the great possibility of suffering death for his faith. And yet against this bleak backdrop, Paul nevertheless still told his followers miles away to *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”*

Paul’s words should also serve as a reminder for us to cast away all our fears because the Lord is very near to us. The basis of our rejoicing lies in the fact that the Lord remains very active within our lives, just as the prophet Zephaniah reminded the people of his time: *“Sing aloud, O daughter Zion: shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart... The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more”* (Zep. 3:14-15). The Lord was not a passive bystander in their story but fully active and engaged in it. It was through His power that they would find their victory, gladness and vindication.

As followers of Christ, we too are called to remain joyful at all times, since the foundation of our joy continues to be the Lord. We rejoice in the One who never abandons or forsakes us. We rejoice in God who is our salvation. We rejoice in the Lord who by becoming our salvation is the very source of our strength and might.

Paul’s exhortation, however, is not limited only for Gaudete Sunday but every day of our life. On Christmas, we rejoice at the commemoration of the birth of Emmanuel – God is with us! If God remains in our midst and continues to be active throughout our life by His Divine Presence and grace, let us *“Rejoice in the Lord”* – not only today but always. *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”* Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*



SACRED JOURNEY
RESTORING THE HOUSE OF GOD

THANK YOU!!!

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$100,568.85

To donate SCAN the QR CODE or

<https://tinyurl.com/SLMDonationForm>



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 15TH, 2024

3rd Sunday
of Advent
(Yr-C)



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, for ever and ever. Amen.

BELL TOWER Envelopes Offertory THIS WEEKEND!



Your Donation is *appreciated*
no matter how *big* or *small*!
Thank you! GOD bless you More.



Christmas and New Year Schedule

ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS

December 20th ~ Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm & 3:00pm - 7:00pm
By appointment ~ Please call the office

The Nativity of the Lord

December 24th ~ Tuesday (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 ~ Wednesday (Christmas Day)

8:30 am (English) / 10:00 am (Italian)
11:30 am (English) / 1:00 pm (Latin)
~ No 5pm Mass ~

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

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

5:00 pm (English)

January 1st ~ Wednesday (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 24TH to JANUARY 1ST**



2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP!

Parishioners are asked to pick up their 2025 Offertory Envelopes at the Parish Hall.

Is important that you discard all previous envelopes when the New Year commences.

Please enter your full name and address on the first few 2025 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.

Dear Padre

December 15, 2024

My family, friends, and coworkers seem to be uncomfortable when I tell them that I've been praying for them. Should I just keep it to myself?

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with telling people you have been praying for them. Most people are probably grateful for such care and support. But it can be a little tricky. If the person believes the praying is actually a judgment and not a blessing, it may provoke a less-than-grateful response. This is where honest discernment on your part is invited. Are you coming across as prayerfully concerned, or is there some criticism or judgment in what seems to be an innocent blessing? People are able to perceive the difference.

Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays," which can often provoke the familiar idiom "them's fightin' words." My best advice is to keep praying for everyone, as no one truly understands or fully appreciates the power of prayer. That being said, temper your announcement when you suspect it will not be well received. This demonstrates a grateful and blessed heart, which is what you intend and hope for, after all. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Gaudete Sunday

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again,
I will say, Rejoice... The Lord is near"
Philippians 4:4-5



**2025 JUBILEE YEAR
ITALY PILGRIMAGE**

With our Pastor
Father Thomas Lim
September 27 to
October 10, 2025

[Click for Details](#)



**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

PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

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

*"Make sickness itself a
Prayer"*

~ St Francis de Sales ~

