

The Parish Community of St. Leonard

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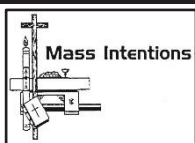
OUR PARISH TEAM:

Pastor - Fr. P. John Nosan

Associate Pastor - Fr. Benny Joseph Ezhormattam

Deacon - James Bell





Saturday, December 23 - St. John of Kanty
 9:00 a.m. - **UMBERTO FRANCESCHINIS R.I.P.**
 5:00 p.m. - **BRUNO DEFINA R.I.P.**

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent
 9:00 a.m. - **FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**
 10:30 a.m.- **RORY & ANNETTA MCGUCKIN R.I.P.**
 12:00 noon- **MATTHIAS HEIERMANN R.I.P.**

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
 5:00 p.m. - **DECEASED MEMBERS OF CARUANA & ABELA FAMILIES R.I.P.**
 7:00 p.m. - **PRINCE MACHADO R.I.P.**
 9:00 p.m. - **MANUEL & MARIA GOUVEIA R.I.P.**
 12:00 Midnight- **FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**

Monday, December 25 - Christmas
 10:30 a.m.- **RAMAN MAKASARE R.I.P.**
 12:00 noon- **THANKSGIVING INTENTION**

Tuesday, December 26 - St. Stephen
 7:00 p.m. - **OLGA GREGORIS & GARY HALLGREN R.I.P.**

Wednesday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
 7:00 p.m. - **CHAO JUNG YANG R.I.P.**

Thursday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents
 7:00 p.m. - **INT. FOR ASHLEIGH FERNANDES**

Friday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket
 9:00 a.m. - **SPECIAL INTENTION OF NOEL**

Saturday, December 30
 9:00 a.m. - **VICTOR BELLUOMINI R.I.P.**
 5:00 p.m. - **BARBARA FERNANDEZ R.I.P.**

Sunday, December 31 - Feast of the Holy Family
 9:00 a.m. - **KENNETH & VIRGINIA HO R.I.P.**
 10:30 a.m.- **FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**
 12:00 noon- **JENNIFER MAHABIR R.I.P.**

Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)
 5:00 p.m. - **IRENE & LOPE VIDAD R.I.P.**

Monday, January 1-Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
 10:30 a.m.- **ANTONIO DI MASCIO R.I.P.**
 12:00 noon- **FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

O Child, who willed to have for your crib a manger; O Creator of the universe, who stripped yourself of divine glory; O

Redeemer, who offered your vulnerable body in sacrifice for the salvation of humanity!

May the radiance of your birth light up the night of the world. May the power of your message of love thwart the proud snares of the evil one. May the gift of your life make us understand ever more clearly the worth of the life of each human being.

Too much blood is still being shed on the earth! Too much violence and too many conflicts trouble the peaceful coexistence of nations!

You come to bring us peace. You are our peace! You alone can make of us "a people purified" and belonging to you for ever, a people "zealous for good deeds" (Tit 2:14).

For to us a Child is born, to us a son is given! What an unfathomable mystery is hidden in the humility of this Child! We would like to touch him; we would like to embrace him. You, Mary, who keep watch over your all-powerful Son, grant us your eyes to contemplate him with faith; grant us your heart to worship him with love.

In his simplicity, the Child of Bethlehem teaches us to rediscover the real meaning of our existence; he teaches us "to live sober, upright and godly lives in this world" (Tit 2:12).

O Holy Night, so long awaited, which has united God and man forever! You rekindle our hope. You fill us with ecstatic wonder. You assure us of the triumph of love over hatred, of life over death. For this reason we remain absorbed in prayer. In the luminous silence of your Nativity, you, Emmanuel, continue to speak to us. And we are ready to listen to you. Amen!

(Prayer of Pope St. John Paul II - Midnight Mass)

Readings for December 24

2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Romans 16.25-27
 Luke 1.26-38

The parish office will be closed until January 2nd.



Fr. John, Fr. Benny, Deacon James, and the office staff would like to take this opportunity to which you and your families a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Masses for Christmas Eve - December 24

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., and
12:00 Midnight (Carol singing at 11:30 p.m.)

Masses for Christmas Day December 25

10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon
(No 9:00 a.m. Mass)



NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 31 - 5:00 p.m.
Monday, January 1 - 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon
(No 9:00 a.m. Mass)

LESSONS AND CAROLS



You are invited to join St. Leonard's Choir to participate in the Lessons and Carols program at 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This will consist of carol singing and scripture reading before Midnight Mass.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul would like to thank all those who provided help for Christmas to those in need in our community through the 'Christmas Angel Tree' and donations of non-perishable food items.

Confirmation Enrollment forms for students **not** attending one of our seven parish schools are available on our website or contact the office. Please return the form, along with a copy of the student's Roman Catholic baptism certificate. Classes will begin later in the new year.



Congratulations to Fr. Benny on the Anniversary of his Ordination December 28th

Lord, we lift up Fr. Benny to You on his anniversary, asking for Your continued grace and blessings upon him. Fill his heart with Your love and compassion, that he may guide and inspire us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Amen.



Offertory envelopes for **2024** are available downstairs in the first room. If you used envelopes in 2023, you will find a box with your name.

If you would like to begin using envelopes in 2024, unlabelled boxes are available in the sacristy upon request or call the office. Please write the name to be used for your tax receipt and full address on the first few envelopes that you use.

PLEASE DO NOT START USING THE NEW ENVELOPES UNTIL JANUARY 1ST.

Tax receipts for 2023 will be issued by the Archdiocese of Toronto early in the new year. All **2023** envelopes received by **December 31st** will be included in the 2023 tax year. Donations with **2024 envelopes** will be included in the 2024 tax year.

Friars Student Writing Contest 2024 (November 8, 2023, to January 15, 2024)

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

High school students (ages 13-19 years) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event that commemorates the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18-25. Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2024 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions.

Resources for the theme: <https://rb.gy/> ; Entries can be submitted to:

<https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

CONTACT: ecumenical@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 (Ext. 527) for more information or questions.

Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Update

On December 12, 2023 the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

Recipients include **Aboriginal Legal Services** located in Toronto, Ontario, that will receive \$538,000 to help fund their Indigenous family dispute resolution program called *Giiwedín Anang*.

Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation.

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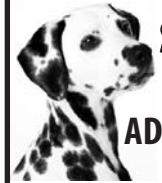
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