



St. Joan of Arc

Proclaiming and Living the Gospel
through Stewardship. All are Welcome.

1701 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON M6P 1B1

<https://stjoanofarcto.archtoronto.org>

416.762.1026

email stjoanofarcto@archtoronto.org

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Anish Alex
Pastor (ext. 1006)

Parish Office
Ext 1007

Ms. Anne Francis
Accounting Office (ext 1004)
finance@joanofarc.ca

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers
Call the office

Eucharistic Ministers
Catrina Bova

Lectors:
Luz Sucilan
10:00AM Choir
Susan McElcheran
Rehearsal: Thursday 7:30 PM
12:00 Noon Choir

Greeters/Ushers: Call the office

CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Monday - Saturday

5:30 PM

Sunday

10:00 AM

12:00 PM

CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
and after First Friday mass or by
appointment.

BAPTISMS

Arrangements are made through the
Religious Education office. Couples
expecting a child are encouraged to
contact the office before the child is
born. Please contact ext 1003, for
more information.

MARRIAGE

Please contact Fr. Anish at least one
year prior to the planned wedding date.

Pastoral Visitation of the Sick:

To arrange for a visit
Call the office ext 1007

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday

10:00 AM 4:00 PM

Lunch 12:30 - 1:30 PM

ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women's League
4th Monday of the Month

Children's Liturgy
10:00 AM Mass

Creation Care Ministry
2nd Tuesday of each month 7pm.

Development and Peace
www.devp.org
3rd Monday of the month 7:00 PM

Merrymakers
3rd Thursday of the month 12:00 PM

Knights of Columbus
1st Thursday of the Month

Parish Council
Every two months

St. Vincent de Paul Society
2nd Saturday of the Month 4:00 PM



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 15

5:30 pm Fernando Trillo +

Tuesday, December 16

5:30 pm Anne Cornelius +

Wednesday, December 17

10:00 am High School Mass

5:30 pm Pietro Faion

Lil & Joe Zerdebeki +

Thursday, December 18

5:30 pm Anna Maria Senese

Friday, December 19

5:30 pm Intentions of Joanna

Saturday, December 20

5:30 pm Evilia Martin +

Sunday, December 21

10:00 am Victoria Senese

12:00 pm Ruth Cull

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE

Sick

Maryann Chard, Mark & Anne Szuba, Ted Daniel, Cecilia Salazar and Ted Kowalczyk and Anna Maria Silva

The Deceased

Trudi Cortens & Greg Sullivan



Third Sunday of Advent



Gaudete Sunday – Rejoice, for the Lord Is Near.



This Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday—the Church pauses our penitential journey to proclaim with gentle insistence: “Rejoice in the Lord always!” (Phil 4:4). The rose candle is lit not as a denial of darkness, but as a sign that the dawn is near, and that joy is not an emotion but a gift of God’s saving presence.

In the first reading (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10), the prophet announces a joy so deep that even the desert bursts into bloom. Why? Because God Himself is coming. “Be strong, fear not! Here is your God... he comes to save you.” Joy is born from this truth: we are not abandoned. Christ has ransomed us, lifted us, and chosen to enter our world not to condemn, but to rescue.

Saint Augustine reminds us, “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” Even in Advent’s waiting, we live with the certainty that Christ transforms suffering into blessing. Nothing that wounds us has the final word. As St. John Paul II wrote, “Christ takes up all human suffering and fills it with a new meaning.” This is why the Christian can be joyful even in trial. Joy is not the absence of hardship it is the presence of Christ in hardship.

In the second reading (James 5:7-10), we are invited to wait “like a farmer” who trusts the hidden work of God in the soil of our lives. Patience rooted in faith becomes the cradle of joy. As Pope Benedict XVI said, “Hope is the quiet joy of the one who believes in God’s promises.” When we complain or despair, we risk trying to take God’s place. But when we surrender and trust, joy begins to grow small at first, then strong and radiant.

In the Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11), Jesus confirms that the Messiah is recognized by the works that restore life the blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear the Good News. Even John the Baptist, from the darkness of prison, finds reassurance in the light of Christ’s actions. So too in our prisons of fear, grief, or uncertainty, Christ sends us signs of His nearness. True joy comes not from favorable circumstances but from recognizing Christ at work in our midst.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said, “Joy is a net of love by which we catch souls.” When we live joyfully, even in trials, we become instruments of Christ’s compassion. Our wounds become ministries. Our sorrows become ways to lift others. Our pain becomes a place where Christ’s light breaks through.

Gaudete Sunday reminds us: The joy we taste today is only a foretaste of the joy that awaits us. For “the joy of the Lord is our strength” (Neh 8:10).

Therefore, as we continue our Advent journey:

- Let us carry joy as our lamp.
- Let us wait patiently for the Lord, trusting that He is already at work.
- Let us lift one another up as signs of Christ’s coming.
- Let us rejoice-not because life is perfect, but because God is with us, and His love is transforming everything.

May this Gaudete Sunday refresh our spirits, strengthen our hope, and fill our hearts with the joy that will one day be full and everlasting.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus. Come with Your joy.

Jesus, I trust in You

2026 SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES & PAG

2026 Sunday Offering Envelopes are now available in the parish hall. If your 2025 box number was above 220, you have been assigned a new lower number. If you cannot find your box, please contact the parish office.

Please do not use 2025 envelopes in the new year, as box numbers have changed. Begin using the new 2026 envelopes starting in January. Kindly print your name and address clearly on your envelopes for the first few weeks to help us ensure that your information is accurate in our parish database. Registered parishioners using visitor envelopes are also asked to write their name and address for tax receipt purposes.

We also invite you to consider Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) a simple and automatic way to support the parish monthly. Forms are available at the church entrance, in the parish office, and on our parish website.

Please do not tape envelopes shut. Simply tuck the flap over your cheque or cash to keep it secure. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS STAMPS

With the Christmas card season upon us, Development and Peace invite you to save your used stamps (tear off of envelope) and bring them in for our next Fair-Trade Weekend - January 24/25, 2026. Amazingly, these used stamps have raised over a quarter of a million dollars for D&P through stamp collectors. This is a simple way to support development projects in the Global South.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from December 23 to January 4 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. We will reopen on Monday, January 5.

If you require emergency assistance from the parish or the Pastor during this time, please leave a message on the Pastor's extension, and he will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you and your families a blessed Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 18 - 7:00 pm Advent Penance Service

December 24 - 5:30 pm Children's Christmas Liturgy
8:30 pm Christmas Liturgy
12:00 am Christmas Midnight Liturgy

December 25 10:00 am Christmas Mass
12:00 pm Christmas Mass

December 27 & 28 Regular mass times

December 31 5:30 pm Feast of Mary Mother of God

January 1 10:00 am Feast of Mary Mother of God
12pm Feast of Mary Mother of God

Your Gifts to God

Monthly Comparison November

Offertory	2025	2024
Envelopes	\$9,037	\$8,745
Loose	\$3,548	\$3,181
PAG	\$6,378	\$6,427
Total	\$18,963	\$18,353

Activities This Week

Wednesday, December 17

School Mass

Thursday, December 18

2:00 pm Merrymakers Team meeting

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Advent Reconciliation Service (Confessions)

Saturday, December 20

10:00 am SVDP

Please Note the parish Information has changed

Parish website is:

<https://st.joanofarcto.org>

Our Parish email is:

st.joanofarcto@archtoronto.org

Address Update Reminder

If you have recently changed your address, please contact the parish office or the bookkeeper so we can update our records. This ensures your tax receipt for 2025, and any future parish communications reach you without delay. Thank you!



Please follow us on social media

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DENTAL OFFICE
Dr. George Elias, DDS
Jim Durston, Denturist

Evenings available

1730 Bloor St. W. #4

(at Keele Subway/ 7-11 Store)

416-766-2222

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