



St. Joan of Arc

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PARISH STAFF

Fr. Anish Alex
Pastor (ext. 2)

Parish Office
(ext. 1)

email: stjoanofarcto@archtoronto.org

Ms. Anne Francis
Accounting Office (ext. 3)
email: afrancissja@archtoronto.org

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday

10:00 AM 4:00 PM

Lunch 12:30 - 1:30 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

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.devpo.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

First Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 23rd

No Mass

Tuesday, February 24th

**5:30 pm Thanksgiving Mass from
Kenneth Donato**

Wednesday, February 25th

5:30 pm – Kenneth Gergins+

Thursday, February 26th

5:30 pm – Stanley & Family

Friday, February 27th

**5 :30 pm – SI of Zrinka,
Annemarie, David & Turalija
Family**

Saturday, February 28th

5:30 pm Joseph & Family

Sunday, March 1st

**10:00 am - For Parish
Community & Ross Best +**

**12:00 pm – Marianna
Lewandowska +, Stanislaw
Lewandowska+**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

**Maryann Chard, Anne Szuba,
Ted Daniel, Cecilia Salazar, Ted
Kowalczyk, Dianne, John Huges
and Anna Maria Silva**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Vivian Prus



Walking with Jesus Christ Through the Desert of Lent

Have you ever noticed how quietly temptation comes? Not usually with noise or drama but in those small moments: when we are tired... discouraged... lonely... or simply longing for something more. And that is exactly where today's Word of God meets us not in theory, but in the real landscape of our daily lives. Lent begins not with condemnation, but with invitation. An invitation to walk again with Christ honestly, gently, courageously.

In the first reading from Genesis, we see the story of our human beginnings. Adam and Eve were not evil people; they were simply human - curious, vulnerable, searching. Temptation did not begin with rebellion but with a question, a doubt, a subtle whisper: "Did God really say...?" How familiar that sounds.

Many of us carry similar whispers today: Is God really with me in this struggle? Does prayer really matter? Will forgiveness truly change anything? Temptation often begins where trust becomes fragile. Yet Scripture reminds us: temptation itself is not sin. Even Jesus faced it.

In the Gospel, we see Jesus in the desert hungry, alone, physically weak. And it is precisely there that the tempter comes. But notice something beautiful: Jesus does not fight alone. The Spirit is with Him. He is grounded in prayer, in fasting, in the Word of God. His strength is not stubborn willpower it is loving communion with the Father.

That is comforting for us. Because many of us feel weak sometimes: Families carrying hidden worries... Young people discerning their path... Seniors facing illness or quiet loneliness... Those grieving, those searching, those barely holding hope together... Christ does not wait for us to become strong. He comes to us in our desert. As St. Augustine once wrote, "God is closer to us than we are to ourselves." Even in temptation, grace is already present.

Saint Paul tells us today that where sin entered, grace abounded even more. That means no struggle is wasted. No failure is final. No Lent is ever routine. This Lent is not last year's Lent. Our heart is different now. Our story has grown. God is doing something new quietly, patiently, lovingly.

Perhaps what needs resurrection this year is: A tired marriage rediscovering tenderness, A prayer life that has grown silent, A heart burdened by guilt, Hope that has been slowly fading or simply the courage to begin again. And the path is the same one Christ walked: prayer... small sacrifices... acts of kindness... honest repentance... trust in mercy. Not heroic gestures just faithful steps.

If Easter is to become more than a date on the calendar, Lent must become more than obligation. It becomes a relationship renewed. A heart softened. A life slowly reshaped by grace. The cross we carry is never pointless. It is always a passage toward resurrection.

So, as we begin this sacred season together, let me offer a gentle invitation: Take one small step this week. Not perfection just intention. Maybe a few quiet minutes with Scripture. Maybe reconciliation with someone. Maybe fasting not only from food, but from harsh words or distractions. Maybe simply whispering, "Lord, walk with me."

And trust this: Christ walks beside us already. He knows our desert. He believes in our resurrection even before we do. May this Lent be a season of grace for you a season where temptation becomes trust, struggle becomes prayer and every small step leads you closer to the light of Easter. Amen.

Please note: No Mass on Mondays

Stations Of The Cross – Friday, Feb. 27th

We invite you to pray the Stations of the Cross this Friday right after the 5:30 Mass. This is a prayerful way to accompany Jesus on His journey of suffering, death and resurrection. This week, the Stations will be lead by the 12:00 Choir.

Lenten Recollection, Reconciliation & Healing Service March 6, 2026

This Lent, give your soul the gift of stillness, prayer, and renewal. St. Joan of Arc Parish warmly invites you to a special evening of Lenten Recollection, Reconciliation, and Healing service led by Fr. Roy Palatty, CMI Spiritual Director of Shalom World, renowned preacher, and Professor of Philosophy.

With his inspiring guidance, this grace-filled gathering will help you pause from the busyness of life, listen to God's Word, and open your heart to His mercy. Come to deepen your faith, experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receive healing prayers, and rediscover the peace that only Christ can give.

Program Schedule (5:30–8:30 PM): Stations of the Cross, Lenten Recollection, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Mass, Healing Service. All are welcome individuals, couples, families, and anyone seeking renewal. Step into God's presence. Be refreshed by His love. Let this Lent be a time of true transformation.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help – A New Parish Devotion

Beginning this March, we warmly invite you to join us every Wednesday after the 5:30 PM Mass for the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This beautiful and powerful devotion offers a special time of prayer, hope, and trust in Our Blessed Mother. As we begin this devotion in our parish, may it bring abundant blessings to our community and all our families. Everyone is most welcome to come, pray, and grow spiritually together.

Catholic Social Teaching Video and Conversation Series

On Sunday March 8th after the 10 AM mass, bring your coffee and join Creation Care Ministry in the Friars' Lounge for our third video and conversation in our Catholic Social Teaching series. This third video highlights Pope Leo XIII, who in 1891 initiated modern Catholic Social Teaching with his encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (Of New Things), which focused on worker conditions and rights during the Industrial Revolution. What might our current Pope's chosen name mean for the Church's social doctrine today? "I chose to take the name Leo XIV... mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defence of human dignity, justice and labour." Pope Leo XIV, May 10, 2025.

Catholic Women League

All C.W.L Members, must pay their annual fees of \$32. Please bring the payment at Parish office with your name.

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.

Your Gifts to God

Envelopes	\$2,105.00
Loose	514.00
PAG	1,361.59
Total	<u>\$3,980.59</u>

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

Parishioners are warmly invited to consider Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) a simple, secure, and worry-free way to support our parish through automatic monthly offerings. PAG forms are available at the church entrance, in the parish office, and on our parish website. We sincerely thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support; your stewardship helps sustain the mission of our parish and the work of the Lord among us.

Q: What's the best Lenten diet?

A: Prayer.

Upcoming events

First Sunday of Lent - Sunday, March 1, 2026

Lenten Recollection and Reconciliation -Friday, March 6, 2026

The Parish Contact Information

Parish Website is:

<https://st.joanofarcto.archtoronto.org>

Our parish email is:

stjoanofarcto@archtoronto.org



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