

ST. ISAAC JOGUES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Paul Dobson

ASSOCIATE PRIEST: Fr. Tom Kluger

DEACON: Rev. Mr. Rudy Ovcjak DEACON: Rev. Mr. Ken Sylvan

YOUTH MINISTER: Shelly Coish SECRETARY: Pat Smith Robertson



prepare the way...

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions & Parish Activities

MONDAY 24 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

7:30am Mass: + Sonny & Nan McDonagh & Isa Kerr
4:00pm Mass: + James & Sheila Baptiste & Jack Smith
6:00pm Mass: Thanksgiving Mass – Dias family
8:00pm Mass: + Mat (Matija) Obal
10:00pm Mass: + George & Kathy Downes
12:00 midnight Mass: + Dorothy Britton

TUESDAY 25 DECEMBER – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:00am Mass: + Charles Alves
11:30am Mass: + Patrick Jordan Rosos

WEDNESDAY 26 DECEMBER – ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

10:00am Mass: + Marlene Dubeau & Margarey Massey

THURSDAY 27 DECEMBER – ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

7:30am Mass: + Magdalene Mansey

FRIDAY 28 DECEMBER – THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

7:30am Mass: + Bernadette Van Slytman

SATURDAY 29 DECEMBER

8:30am Mass: Multiple Mass Intentions
4:30pm Mass: Thanksgiving

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

8:30am Mass: + Zobeda Razak Jardine
10:00am Mass: Pro Populo
11:30am Mass: Special Intentions – Randy Dabreo
7:00pm Mass: + Domenico & Victoria Decaria & Bart Lollino

THIS WEEK THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN HONOUR OF SYDNEY, CELIA, KNOPFLER & SAMANTHA DIAS

SANCTUARY LAMP: the lamp hanging in the sanctuary, when lit, indicates the Real Presence of Christ, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, reserved in the Tabernacle (the veil of the Tabernacle indicates the same reality). The flickering light is also a sign of the prayers of the faithful which remain after they have left the parish church. This is the whole purpose of votive lights, which we have before images of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St Joseph, etc. The suggested offering is \$20.00.

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED

The Gospel of the Last Sunday of Advent always draws our attention to Our Blessed Lady, as we, like her, await the birth of her Son. This year we hear what happened immediately after the Annunciation, when she had consented to God the Father's request, communicated to her by the Angel Gabriel, to become the Mother of His only-begotten Son. Our Lady had been at first perturbed by the Angel's message, yet she did not *doubt* it, that is, *she did not disbelieve it*. Having asked the Angel how it was possible for her to conceive a son while remaining a Virgin, she was perfectly content to accept God's Will, saying: "*Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word*". The final proof of her complete trust in God's message was her response to the news the Angel gave her about her kinswoman Elizabeth. Learning from Gabriel that Elizabeth, who was now well past childbearing age, was expecting a son, she set off immediately without thought for her own comfort, in

order to be a support and helpmate to her cousin, and to share in her joy that she was no longer childless. The Gospel reading we hear today begins at the point where the Angel had just left Mary. The scene we witness is that of the meeting between the two cousins. Both were expecting their firstborn sons. Elizabeth had conceived wonderfully, despite being past the usual age of childbearing and having been barren all her life. Mary, however, had conceived miraculously, through the power of the Holy Spirit "*without losing her glorious virginity*" as a Preface in the Missal puts it. The first thing we are told about Mary's arrival is that she greeted Elizabeth. This greeting brought about an extraordinary effect in Elizabeth. We are told that she "*gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed'.*" This ecstatic reaction is grace-filled. Elizabeth herself was filled with the Holy Spirit upon Our Lady's coming into her presence and greeting her. Wherever she goes, Our Lady brings the Holy Spirit who had overshadowed her. So Elizabeth went on to say, "*Blessed is the fruit of your womb!*" She was given the grace to recognize the special status Mary enjoys in God's sight because of the divine child Mary had accepted from God. Elizabeth was overwhelmed at the presence of the person whom she was given grace to recognize as "*the Mother of my Lord*". How privileged she felt to receive such a person into her own home! Our Lady does the same for us, too, when we make her welcome. When we pray to her, she answers by bringing us into the presence of her divine Son and of the Holy Spirit who dwelt in her heart. Elizabeth, who had conceived St. John the Baptist as a special gift of God's grace, was also given grace to recognize that Mary was "*Blessed because she believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled*". That promise was not for Mary only, but for all who accept her Son as the Saviour of the world, born in our hearts at Christmas.

Together with the parish staff, I wish you all a blessed Christmas.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

St Stephen (1st c.) A renowned preacher and one of the first seven deacons chosen by the Apostles, his success in converting others led to him being brought before the Sanhedrin. His masterly witness to Our Lord's Divinity resulted in his being sentenced to death by stoning, the first person to die for the Faith.

St John (1st c.) Apostle and Evangelist, he was the brother of St James, and with St Peter, they were chosen by Our Lord to witness His Transfiguration. John "the Beloved Disciple", was particularly close to Our Lord due to his purity of heart and understanding of Our Lord as God. For this reason, he is also known as "*The Divine*", that is, Theologian. Our Lord chose him to care for Our Lady after the Crucifixion.

The Holy Innocents were put to death, as St. Matthew recounts for us, by King Herod. Though too young to give witness to Christ by their lives and by speech, their young deaths witness to Christ and were inflicted on account of hatred of Christ. Therefore the Church honours them.

Please Notice This



The office will be **closed from noon Friday, December 21st through Sunday, January 6th.** The office will reopen on Monday, January 7th, 2019 at 9:00am.

RIGHT TO LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS are now on sale in the foyer after all Masses. Please support this worthwhile cause "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets will also be available.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING PLAN (PAG)

PAG allows parishioners to make their **regular Sunday offering, Renovation fund** and if they wish their **ShareLife offering** using the direct debit system. PAG is an option, not a requirement. It is widely used in the Toronto Archdiocese and we want to make PAG available to all parishioners who would like to take advantage of it.

When you participate in pre-authorized giving, your offering is withdrawn from your account once a month on or about the 20th day of each month and deposited into the parish account.

If you are enrolled in our PAG (Pre-Authorized Giving) you will still be getting a box of envelopes for next year. Please continue to drop your offertory envelope in the basket – just write PAG across it before placing it in the basket. This way we encourage each other to support our parish and continue to teach our children the value of Christian stewardship. Also, the colored envelopes in your boxed sets for special collections are not included in PAG. Continue to use your special collections envelopes at their designated dates. Thank you for your continuous support of our parish needs!

If you are interested in PAG or want additional details, please visit our website at <http://stisaacjogues.archtoronto.org> and look under "Forms & Information" for the *Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG) brochure*.



Please do not park in front of St. Isaac Jogues **School** beside the wall where it is posted "Fire Route" or "School Bus Loading Zone" otherwise you may be ticketed.

Also, the road allowance in front of the church on Finch Avenue is signed "No Parking" and must be observed to avoid a ticket.

Kindly remember the designated accessible parking spots in front of the church are for those who are handicapped. A current valid permit must be displayed and clearly visible on the vehicle's sun visor or front dash.



Would you like to have the current parish bulletin delivered to you via email? Would you like to be notified about funeral Masses taking place in our parish? You choose which items you wish to know about and we do the rest.

Visit

<https://stisaacjogues.archtoronto.org/> and open the "Contact Us" and "Sign Up" tabs.

Smile of the Day:

Where do spies do their shopping?
At the snooper market.



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Monday 24 December
4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm
& 12 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Tuesday 25 December
10:00am & 11:30am

NO 8:30am OR EVENING MASS

FEAST OF ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

Wednesday 26 December 10:00am

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

Thursday 27 December – 7:30am

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Friday 28 December – 7:30am

MEMORIAL OF ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR

Saturday 29 December 8:30am
Fifth Day of the Octave of Christmas

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Saturday 29 December 4:30pm
Sunday 30 December 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30am
& 7:00pm

Monday 31 December 7:30am

Seventh Sunday of the Octave of Christmas

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Holy Day of Obligation ~ New Year's Eve Mass
Monday 31 December 4:30pm
New Year's Day Masses
Tuesday 1 January
10:00am, 11:30am & 7:00pm (no 8:30am Mass)

WEDNESDAY 2 JANUARY

7:30am & 7:00pm - *St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors*

THURSDAY 3 JANUARY

7:30am – *Christmas Weekday – The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

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