

# St. Pius X Parish

2305 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON M6S 1P1

Tel. 416-767-1859 Fax. 416-767-7715

office@saintpiusx.ca www.saintpiusx.ca



## Pastoral Staff

Fr. Massillamani Zacharias

(Fr. Mani), **Pastor**

Michelle Somers, **Parish Secretary**

## Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

## Weekend Masses

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9 am and 11 am

## Weekday Masses

Tuesday - Friday 8:30 am

## Rosary and Divine Mercy Prayer

9 am following Mass at 8:30 am

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

## Devotions to our Mother of Perpetual Help

9 am following Mass at 8:30 am Thursday

## Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every first Friday of the month at 9 am following 8:30 am Mass

## Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 4 pm to 4:30 pm or by appointment

## Sacrament of Baptism

Register online at [www.saintpiusx.ca/baptism](http://www.saintpiusx.ca/baptism), or call or email the office for more information

## Sacrament of Marriage

1 year advance notice is required

Call or email the office for an appointment

## Parish Ministries/Committees/Organizations

- Altar Servers
- Lectors
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Ushers/Greeters
- Musicians
- Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation
- Collection Counters
- Finance Council
- Building Committee
- Volunteer Screening Committee
- Catholic Women's League

## Catholic School

St. Pius X Catholic School

71 Jane Street Tel: 416-393-5237

## Holy Communion for SHUT-INS and SICK

If you know of anyone who is sick and would like to have communion brought to them or would like the Sacrament of the Sick, or simply would like to be included in the Prayers of the Faithful, contact us

## New Parishioners: Welcome!

We invite you to join our Parish family by registering with the parish office at [www.saintpiusx.ca](http://www.saintpiusx.ca) or by contacting the Office

To Join



To Donate



To Volunteer



PLEASE REMEMBER ST. PIUS X PARISH IN YOUR WILL



**Saturday, December 14**

5 pm + Fred Henes

**Sunday, December 15**

9 am Parishioners

11 am Engracio & Felipe de los Reyes

**Tuesday, December 17**

8:30 am + Maria Nguyen

**Wednesday, December 18**

8:30 am + Blazej Zawada

**Thursday, December 19**

8:30 am Judy Valera

+ Dorothy & Patrick Hayes

**Friday, December 20**

8:30 am + Joseph Rymarz

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-18a

Psalm: Isaiah 12.2-3, 4bcd, 5-6

Second Reading: Philippians 4.4-7

Gospel: Luke 3.10-18

**Sponsoring the Sanctuary Lamp**

The Sanctuary lamp signifies the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It burns for the greater glory of God. Parishioners are invited to become monthly sponsors of the Sanctuary Lamp. Please contact the parish office if you wish to donate. Doing so becomes an opportunity for friends and families to pray at the Tabernacle knowing the Lamp burns for their intentions.

**The Sanctuary Lamp burns in December for the intentions of:**

Marilyn Tremblay



**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

*...John proclaimed the good news to the people.*

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday’s Mass, which is also echoed in today’s second reading from Paul’s letter to the Philippians. We mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on the Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because, at the halfway mark of Advent, our salvation is at hand.

Joy stems above all from a sense of being loved. In the Christian community, the experience of the Spirit is essentially a sense that one is loved by God and lovingly grasped within God’s saving design. Of course, anxieties and worries remain. Paul’s remedy for this is that they be taken to God in prayer. He urges the community to cultivate at all times a sense of thanksgiving. Thanking and blessing God, even for the difficult things that come our way, creates a mysterious sense of peace that is truly the gift of God.

The people in today’s Gospel are “filled with expectation.” They believe John the Baptist might be the messiah they’ve been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: “What then should we do?” The messiah’s coming requires every man and woman to choose—to repent or not. That is John’s message and it will be Jesus’ too.

Repentance translates the Greek word “metanoia” (literally, “change of mind”). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a twofold “turning”—away from sin and toward God. This turning is more than an attitude adjustment. It means a radical life change. It requires good fruits as evidence of your repentance. That is why John tells the crowds, soldiers, and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty, and social justice.

John’s final description of the Coming One’s mission evokes the vivid image of wielding a winnowing fan to separate wheat from chaff. In fact, Jesus will hardly take up the threatening pattern of ministry that John sketches for him here. He will heal, and forgive, and warn, yes, but not judge or condemn; with sinners he will celebrate the mercy of God. (Excerpts from: Loyola Press; Brendan Byrne,SJ; Scott Hahn.)



## **PARISH NEWS**

### **Christmas & New Year Masses**

#### **Christmas Eve:**

5 pm – Special Mass for Parents with Children

8 pm – Mass for Everyone

**Christmas Day:** 9 am & 11 am

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God & New**

**Year's Day:** 9 am & 11 am

**Please Note:** There will be no Mass on December 26 and January 2. The office will close at noon on December 24 and December 31 and will be closed on December 26 and January 2.

#### **Advent Reconciliation (Confession)**

Parishioners who wish to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation may do so by calling the Parish Office to make an appointment with Fr. Mani.

#### **Annual Pastor Vacation**

Fr. Mani will be away on vacation from January 4 to February 4, 2025. In his absence, Fr. Jubin Lawrence will be available to celebrate Masses and minister to your pastoral needs.

#### **Red Poinsettia Memorial Garden**

We invite all parishioners to bring a red poinsettia in memory of their loved ones to be placed in our poinsettia memorial garden at the altar. We ask that you drop off your plants in the parish office between Tuesday, December 17 to Friday, December 20 from 9 am to 1 pm, and Saturday, December 21 until 5 pm. Labels will be available on which to write the name(s) of your loved ones. We will place them in front of the altar for our Christmas and New Year celebrations.

#### **Christmas Trees & Advent Wreath**

As part of the celebration of the Advent and Christmas season, our parish installs two evergreen trees near the altar. These trees have deep Christian significance. For a fascinating history of the symbolism of Christmas trees, see: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/christ>

[mas-tree-legends-traditions-history-1763](#). We have also placed an Advent wreath beside the altar. Any assistance with donations for the purchase of these trees or the wreath would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Furniture Donation Request**

If anyone has small side tables they are no longer keeping, we would be grateful to receive them for use in the rectory. We have need for up to 4 of them.

#### **Friars Student Writing Contest 2025**

**Theme:** "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26).

**Deadline:** January 13, 2025

High school students aged 13 to 19 from the Catholic School Boards in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event, which honours the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity taking place from January 18 to 25. To learn more and to submit your entry, go to <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

Email [ecumenical@archtoronto.org](mailto:ecumenical@archtoronto.org) or call 416-934-3400 ext. 527 for more information.

#### **"Journey Through Advent"**

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is presenting an online weekly video series. This year, the reflections will be led by Archbishop Leo and will offer meaningful reflections on the Gospel readings during each of the four Sundays of Advent. Visit <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>.

#### **Vocations**

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, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997, or email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org). For information, go to [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca).



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