

St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church

345 Glad Park Ave., Whitchurch - Stouffville, ON L4A 1E4

Tel. no.: 905-640-6954 Email: stmarksst@archtoronto.org

Fax no.: 905-640-0642 Parish Website: stmarksst.archtoronto.org

PASTORAL TEAM

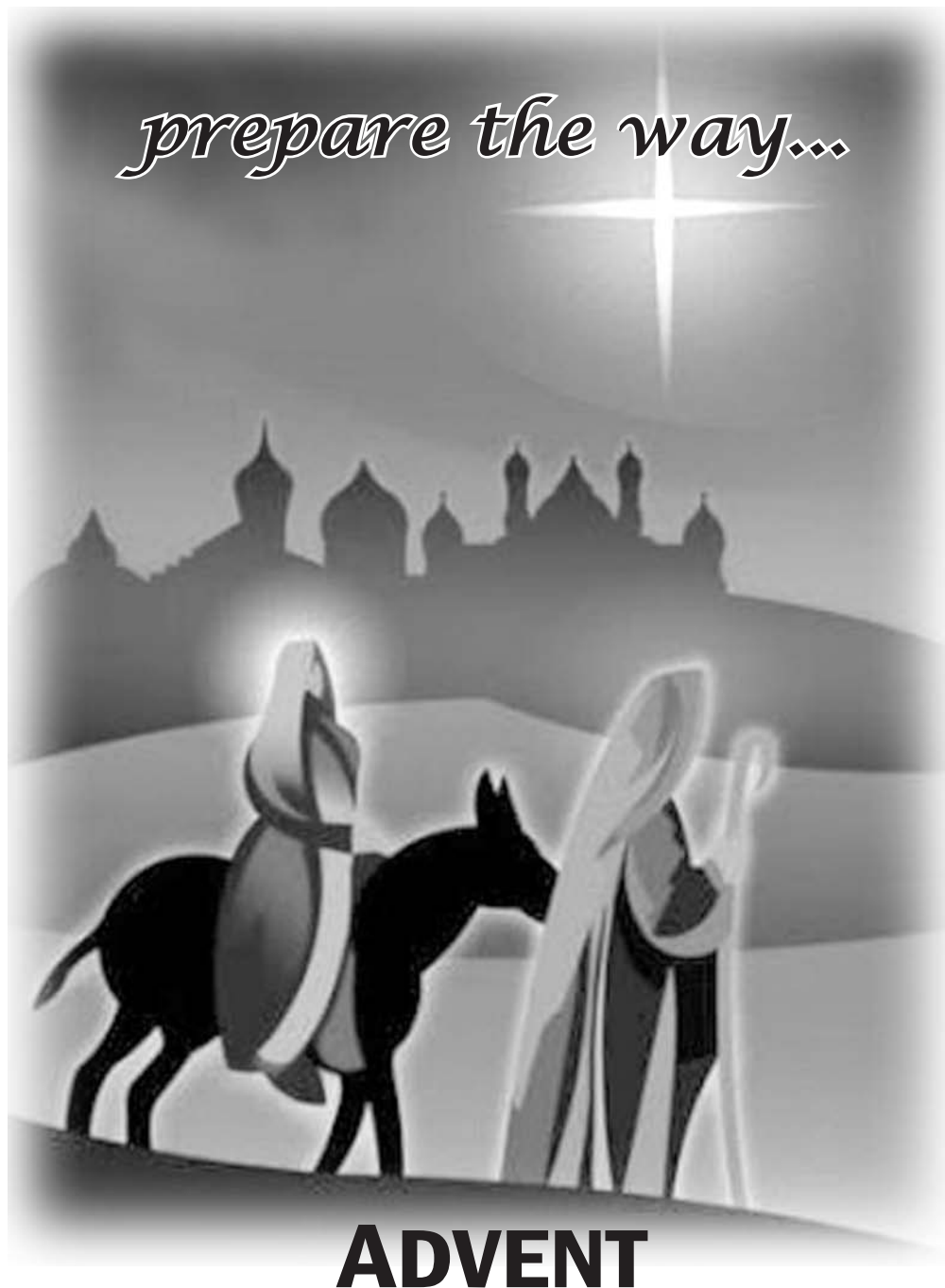
Fr. Tad Walczyk - Pastor

Deacon John Schwarzbauer, Deacon Wayne McCulloch, Deacon Gordon Lee

STAFF

Sara Moreno-Stober - Office Administrator Lisa Baker - Pastoral Administrator

Marcel Raes - Custodian Emy Lomibao-de Asis - Friday Asst. Grant Lalata - Youth Minister



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions for the Week

Tuesday, December 24th

- @ 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass
- @ 7 pm Christmas Eve Mass
- @ 12 Midnight Christmas Mass

Wednesday, December 25th

- @ 10 am Christmas Mass
- @ 12 pm Christmas Mass

Thursday, December 26th @ 7 pm

† Egidio Gullo req. by Pasquale Gullo

Friday, December 27th @ 9 am

† Robert & Jean Bull req. by Baker Family

Eucharistic Adoration from 9:30 am to 1 pm

Saturday, December 28th

@ 9 am

- † Prospero Gerardo req. by Abad Family
- † Luis Alonso Moreno req. by Moreno-Stober Family
- † Baker & Kelly Family Members req. by Lisa & Mark Baker
- † Angelo DePalma & Domenica Lozito req. by Parente Family
- Intentions of Bernice Hryniowski req. by Peter Willan
- Special Intention req. by Anonymous
- Intentions of Bem req. by Anonymous

@ 5 pm

St. Mark's Community req. by Fr. Tad

Sunday, December 29th

@ 9 am (also livestreamed)

† Matthew Benincasa req. by Onesima Raponi & Family

@ 11 am

† Tony, Dino, Valentino, Pasqualina Raponi & Virginia Arlt req. by Onesima Raponi & Family



Confessions

**Saturday 9:30 to 10 am & 4 to 4:45 pm
or by appointment**



Eucharistic Adoration Every Friday

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each **Friday from 9:30 am to 1 pm and on the First Friday of the month from 9:30 am to 7 pm ending with Benediction.** We ask for help to ensure at least 2 people in the church each hour of Adoration by **signing in** with the **paper registration sheet at the back of the church.** Please consider attending for even 5-10 minutes.

Is God Calling You

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? If you feel God is calling you to a church vocation, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org

www.vocationstoronto.ca

Advent Reflections

This Advent the CCCB presents an online video series titled "Journey through Advent." Lead by Archbishop Leo. The series will be released weekly on the Archdiocese website at www.archtoronto.org.

Christmas Schedule 2024



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

- ◆ 5:00 pm Mass
- ◆ 7:00 pm Mass
- ◆ 12:00 Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

- ◆ 10:00 am Mass
- ◆ 12:00 pm Mass



MARY MOTHER OF GOD SOLEMNITY (NEW YEAR)

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

- ◆ 5:00 pm Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

- ◆ 10:00 am Mass
- ◆ 12:00 pm Mass

Church Office - Holiday Hours

Tuesday, December 24	Open from 9 am to 12 noon
Wednesday, December 25 Thursday, December 26	Closed
Tuesday, December 31	Open from 9 am to 12 noon
Wednesday, January 1	Closed

SL ShareLife

Warming hearts with your support for ShareLife

NEW: Your gift will double in value! From November 1 until year end, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$500,000. As we shelter from the winter storm, we're thankful for your ShareLife support, keeping many off cold streets and igniting hope for a brighter future.

Wishing you a warm and safe Christmas season, and thanking you for your enduring compassion that extends the same to others.

Thank You



Thank you to O'Neill Funeral Home for donating the lovely Poinsettia arrangements and to all our volunteers who helped decorate the church. God bless you all!



The 2025 envelopes are ready for pickup in the foyer. Please do not begin using these envelopes until January.

DECEMBER 22, 2024

Women's Ministry Retreat Saturday, January 25th

Footprints with Jesus

A Women's Day Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 25th in St. Mark's Church Hall.

Registration price is \$25

e-transfer to stmarkswomensministry@gmail.com to reserve your spot or place cash in an envelope marked with your name and Women's Ministry Day Retreat and deliver it to the church office.



2024 Tax Receipts

The books will be closed for 2024 donations on Sunday, December 29th, 2024

Tax Receipts

Any donations you wish to make for 2024 must be received by **December 29th, 2024**. Anything after this date will apply to the 2025 year. Your name and address will appear exactly as it does on your offertory donation box. If there are any changes, please contact the office.

Sign-up for Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

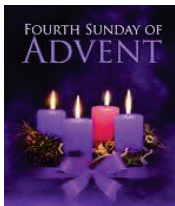
Give via pre-authorized transfers directly from your bank account.

To sign-up for St. Mark's Church Pre-Authorized Giving program, Please go to: www.stmarkstouffville.ca, click on the "Contact" heading then "Donations" to print off the form.

Complete the form and attach a void cheque which can be dropped off at the church office or put in the collection basket.

PAG allows you to support your parish even when you are away - a benefit to the church, since expenses continue all year long.

Making Room for Jesus



As Christmas fast approaches and Advent is drawing to a close, let us remind ourselves of the importance of this liturgical season. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas as well as His final coming at the end of time. However, the great saints of the church also speak of an intermediary coming, the coming of Christ to our present lives. Let us take a moment to ask ourselves, if the Lord showed up in our life today, would there be room for Him?

St. Vincent de Paul Society



St. Vincent de Paul Society
St. Mark's Conference
Know of a neighbour in need?
905-640-6954 ex.3



Pastor's Christmas Greeting



"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Is. 9.2) In this world filled with so much darkness, violence, and strife, we need hope and light. Let us open our lives, our minds, and hearts to the coming of Jesus so that He can fill us with his life, hope, and love. Jesus is coming not to take away our troubles but to help us to face them and overcome them just as He did. I hope and pray that all of us, and also our families, friends, and our parish will be touched and changed by the coming of Jesus this coming Christmas. Let us also not hold to this life and love for ourselves but to share it with others around us. We are to be Jesus' mouth, hands, and feet in this world, building God's Kingdom in our lives, in our families, communities, and the whole world.

This is my wish and prayer for all of you.

Fr. Tad, Fr. Leslie, Deacon John, Deacon Wayne, Deacon Gordon, Grant, Lisa, Sara, Emy and Marcel



Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year December 29th at 5 pm

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica for the opening of the Jubilee Year 2025 on Sunday, December 29, 2024 – 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to join in this special Mass to formally launch the Jubilee year in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Which Bible to Buy?



If you are considering the Bible as a gift for Christmas, we suggest the **NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) Catholic Edition**. As the daily and Sunday Mass readings in English Canada are taken from this version. It is known to be reliable, accurate and easy to read. Roman Catholic Bibles have 73 books (vs. Protestant Bibles which tend to have 66 books). A Roman Catholic Bible will also have an "Imprimatur" meaning it is free from doctrinal or moral error.

Spiritus Ministry for Young Adults

Spiritus Ministry is a regional Young Adult Ministry serving those ages 19-39 in the Archdiocese of Toronto. Spiritus Ministry hosts monthly ministry nights centred on prayer, theology, social issues, fellowship, and catechesis. Our young adult ministry also has a focus on community building including social activities and outreach initiatives. We are currently in 6 regions of the Archdiocese: **Central** (Downtown Toronto, Midtown, North York), **Durham** (Ajax, Oshawa, Pickering, Whitby), **East** (Scarborough, East York), **North** (Alliston, Barrie, Bradford, Newmarket), **West** (Brampton, Etobicoke, Mississauga), and **York** (Markham, Richmond Hill, Stouffville, Vaughan). Please email youth@archtoronto.org to find out more about Spiritus Ministry and other young adult initiatives.

Follow us on Instagram to stay up to date - @spiritusministry
<https://www.instagram.com/spiritusministry/>

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