

St. Paul the Apostle and Immaculate Conception Churches

St. Paul the Apostle: P.O. Box 789, 190 King St. S., Alliston, ON L9R 1V9

OFFICE HRS: Tues-Fri 9-4:00 p.m.

Office: 705-435-6325 Fax: 705-435-6859

Immaculate Conception: 4791 Conc Rd 5, Adjala, Alliston ON L9R 1V1

email: stpaultheapostleal@archtoronto.org

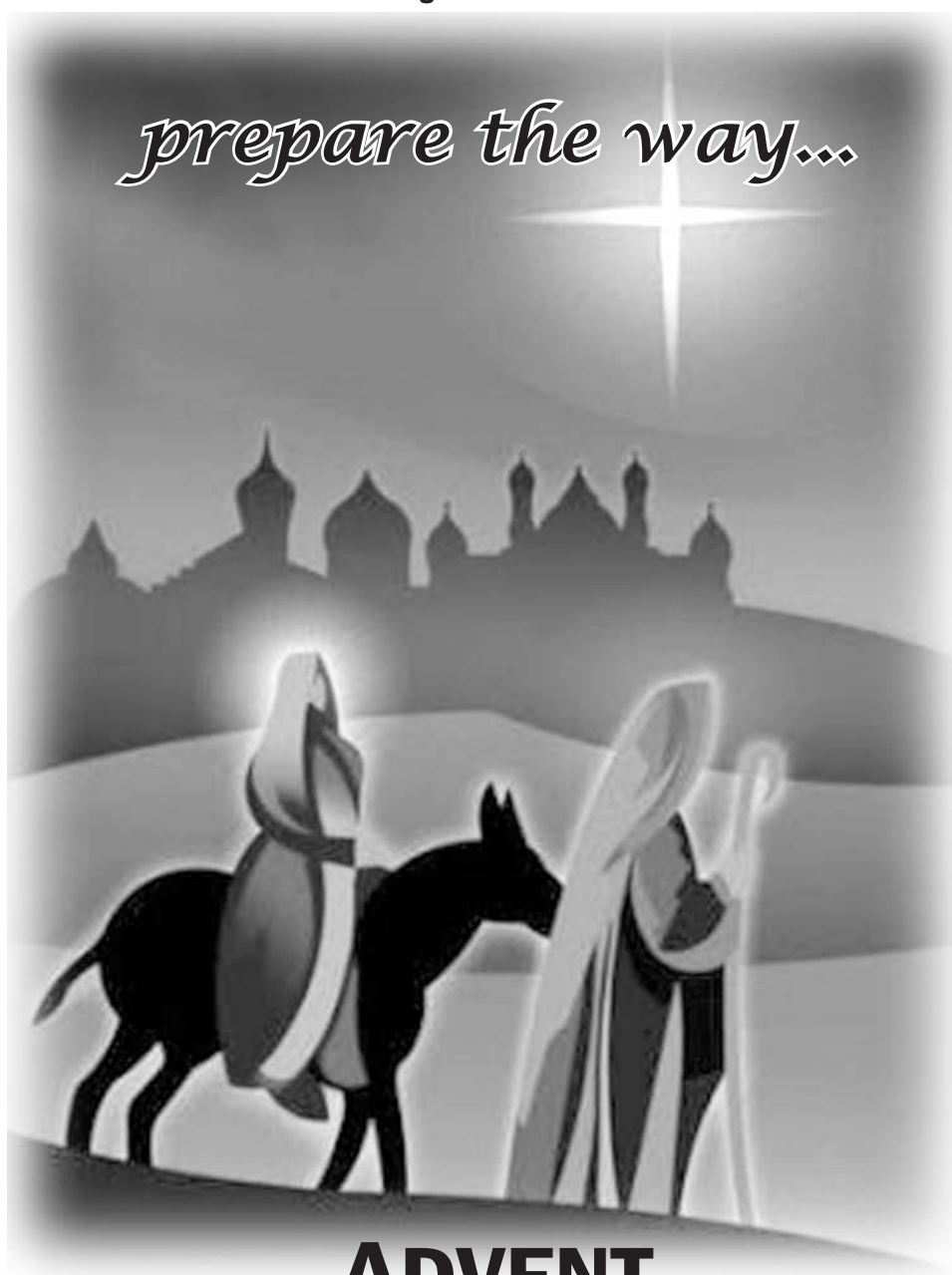
Parish website: stpaultheapostleal.archtoronto.org

Pastor: Fr. Norberto Eyule, Ext. 22 Email: neyule@archtoronto.org

Deacon: Michael Lewis email: mlewis1@sympatico.ca Tel: 905-952-7970

Youth Minister: Dave McKendrick, Ext. 24 Email: DMcKendrick@archtoronto.org

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ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



4th Sunday of Advent ~ 22 December 2024

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." *Luke 1:41-42*

First Reading + Micah 5:2-5a
Second Reading + Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel + Luke 1:39-45

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 23

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, December 24 (All Masses at St Paul's)

****NO CONFESSIONS****

5:00pm+John & Edna O'DONNELL, RIP-Steip Family

7:30pm+Michael & Maria Berberick, Per. Int.- M/M Berberick

9:30pm+For the People of the Parish

Wednesday, December 25

(9:00am Mass at Immaculate Conception)

9:00am+For the People of the of the Parish

10:30am+ Elizabeth & Kurt STEIGHWART, RIP-B. Baumfeld

12:00noon+Menino ANTAO, RIP-Antao Family

Thursday, December 26

8:00am+Annie Agoncillo, Per. Int.-M. Agoncillo

Friday, December 27

(Mass at Immaculate Conception Church)

12:10pm+ *(Multiple Intentions Mass, RIP)*

Denis LEMAY, Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, December 28

(Morning Mass at Immaculate Conception Church)

9:00am+ Rev. Keith LANGSTAFF, RIP-Arch Toronto

5:00pm+Brian DURKAN, RIP-E. Durkan

Sunday, December 29

9:00am+ For the people of the Parish

10:30am+Lou BIFFIS, RIP-M/L Fanelli

6:00pm+Wayne MUNDY, RIP-S. Cranston

Saint of the Week:

Who shall resist Anti-Christ when he comes if we show such patience towards the vices and crimes of his precursors? By such leniency, we encourage kings to become tyrants and tempt them to withdraw every privilege and all jurisdiction from the Churches.

- Thomas Becket (1118-1170), Martyr, Bishop, Feast Day December 29

From the desk of Father Norberto

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gather on this final Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves on the threshold of Christmas. The anticipation of Christ's birth fills our hearts with joy and wonder. The Advent wreath's final candle, the candle of peace, reminds us of the profound gift Christ brings to the world: the peace that surpasses all understanding.

This year, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we do so in the light of the Church's Jubilee Year, which invites us to embark on a "*Pilgrim of Hope*." The Jubilee theme calls us to reflect on the journey of our faith, the hope we carry in our hearts, and the ways we can become bearers of Christ's peace in a world longing for healing and reconciliation.

Our readings on this Sunday guide us to the heart of God's promise of peace. The prophecy of Isaiah tells of Emmanuel, "*God with us*," who will dwell among His people. In the Gospel, we hear of Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, whose "*yes*" to God brings the Prince of Peace into the world. Mary's willingness to trust in God's plan transforms her into the first "pilgrim of hope," carrying Jesus in her womb and journeying in faith.

The peace of Christmas is not just a fleeting sentiment or an absence of conflict. It is a deep, abiding peace that flows from knowing we are loved by God, redeemed by His Son, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. This peace begins in our hearts but is meant to radiate outward - to our families, communities, and the world.

The Jubilee Year theme, Pilgrim of Hope, reminds us that we are all on a journey, individually and as a Church. Like Mary and Joseph, who traveled to Bethlehem, we are called to move forward in faith, trusting in God's providence and seeking His will for our lives.

To be a pilgrim is to embrace a spirit of openness, humility, and trust. It is to recognize that our ultimate destination is not found in earthly achievements or material possessions but in union with God. As pilgrims of hope, we carry the light of Christ into a world that often seems overshadowed by darkness. Hope and peace go hand in hand. Hope keeps us anchored in the promises of God, even in the face of uncertainty or suffering. It is this hope that allows us to become instruments of peace, fostering reconciliation in our relationships, our communities, and even across nations.

As we reflect on the theme of peace, we cannot ignore the many places in our world where peace feels distant. We think especially of the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and other regions affected by war, conflict, and division. The celebration of Christmas calls us to pray fervently for peace in these troubled areas and to work for justice and understanding wherever we can. As pilgrims of hope, we are also called to examine our own hearts. True peace begins within, in a heart reconciled to God and aligned with His will.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember that Christmas is the ultimate affirmation of God's faithfulness to His promises. In Jesus, God enters our world in the most humble and vulnerable way, as a newborn child. He comes not as a distant ruler but as Emmanuel, "God with us," walking alongside us in our joys and struggles.

The Christmas story is filled with journeys: Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, the shepherds seeking the newborn King, the Magi following the star. Each of these journeys is marked by hope, faith, and the discovery of God's peace. This Christmas, let us consider how we, too, are called to embark on a spiritual journey - to seek Christ more deeply, to trust Him more fully, and to share His love more generously.

As we light the candle of peace and prepare to celebrate Christmas, I encourage each of you to take a moment to reflect on how you can be a pilgrim of hope and a bearer of peace in the coming year. Perhaps it is through prayer, deepening your relationship with God. Perhaps it is through acts of service, reaching out to those who are lonely, struggling, or in need. Or perhaps it is through reconciliation, healing a strained relationship in your life.

Let us remember that peace is a gift from God, but it is also a task entrusted to us. The angels who announced Christ's birth proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill." Let us strive to be those people of goodwill, bringing glory to God through our lives and sharing His peace with the world.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent, a joyful Christmas, and a New Year filled with peace and hope.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Norberto A. Eyule

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2024

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? Contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

Email: vocations@archtoronto.org

www.vocationstoronto.ca

NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

December 31st

5:00pm at St. Paul's
(changed from 7:00pm)

January 1st

9:00am at Immaculate Conception
10:30am at St Paul's

Street Patrol

Parish Life Teen will once again be collecting clothing for the Homeless this year. Donations will be accepted **until Dec. 29**. (Donation boxes are in the narthex at St Paul's).

Mostly men's wear needed.

Please see posters in the narthex for suggested items required.

Thank you for your generosity.

2025 CWL Membership Drive

Our annual CWL membership drive commenced with the fall dinner. There is a pre-printed **blue CWL envelope** in your offertory box or you may use a plain envelope. Please fill out the front of the envelope completely with your full name, address, postal code, phone number and email address. The 2025 membership remains at **\$40**. A check is preferred for tracking purposes. Checks made payable to **St. Paul's CWL**. Please drop the envelope in the collection basket or give it to a CWL member before the deadline of **Dec. 31st** to win **free membership for 2025**.

We are looking forward to growing our membership and we welcome newcomers to join us!

Knights of Columbus 50/50 Lottery Draw

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!! The final draw will take place on December 31st, 2024, and the Grand Prize is now 50% of \$22,000 and still growing. Tickets may be purchased at <https://www.knightsofcolumbusalliston.ca>.

In addition, tickets will be available after mass next weekend for those who wish to purchase tickets in person by cash or credit.

*****Please note the parish office will be closed from 1200 noon on December 24th to January 2nd.*****

Toonie for the Lord

We have an ongoing second collection after every weekend mass. The amount collected will go towards 150th anniversary celebrations for St Paul's. Till take we have collected over **\$2700**. Your generous donations are most appreciated.

Every toonie counts....

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Paul's Society of St. Vincent de Paul is striving to ensure the less fortunate of our community experience moments of joy at Christmas. Our Conference is holding a Christmas Drive during the month of December to raise funds so we can purchase gift cards so they can shop for gifts for children and themselves. Please contribute by using the green envelopes in your regular church envelope box or find a special St. Vincent de Paul envelope found on the table at the rear of the church. Please provide your name and address so we can send you an income tax receipt.

Also, we require volunteers to join our ministry in helping the poor. Please call Paul Healy on (705) 435-4951 for more information.

Brain Trust: Share Your Talents with Our Parish!

Our parish is blessed with the many hidden talents among you and your families, and we invite you to help build and strengthen our community. Whether your skills lie in construction, marketing, fundraising, legal expertise, entertainment, or other areas, your God-given abilities can make a meaningful difference in our parish projects.

If you can spare some time, please reach out!

Contact our parish office (705-435-6325) or via email at StPaultheApostleAL@archtoronto.org You can also fill out the inventory form at the narthex and drop it in the collection basket.

Let's work together to create something beautiful for our community!

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas!



From Fr Norberto and the Pastoral team

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