

# ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

# ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021



Son of man, coming unexpectedly into Mary and Joseph's life and ours, show up in our advent preparations. Meet us in the busyness and silence. Interrupt our comfortable lives with your newness of life. Prepare us to be unsettled by the unconditional love of God who is born in our lives, over and over again — Amen

Our mission at St. Francis de Sales is to joyfully welcome you to our parish family of faith, trusting that: if you are seeking Christ, you will find Him here. If grieving, you will receive comfort. If troubled in spirit, you will receive the blessing of peace without being judged. If discouraged, you will rejoice in hope. If alone, you will find companionship and Christian love. May our parish be a sanctuary of peace for you as we journey together to the Father's house.

#### **Parish Hours**

#### **DAILY MASS**

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 am **FRIDAY** 7:00 pm **SATURDAY** 9:00 am

#### **SUNDAY MASS**

**SATURDAY** 5:00 pm

**SUNDAY** 8:30 am | 9:45 am | 11:00 am | 12:15 pm

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

FRIDAY 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm **SATURDAY** 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

MONDAY - SATURDAY 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

#### **Parish Contacts**

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St. Francis de Sales Parish

www.stfrancisdesales.archtoronto.org

# 3rd Sunday of Advent



"'May it be done to me according to your word'. Mary does not require confirmation, but responds in Faith. She agrees to carry out the Word Gabriel has addressed to her. Her response again calls forth OT language - Abraham's "Here I am" (Gn 22:1) -Isaiah's "Here am I, send me" (Is 6:8) - Hannah's "Think kindly on your maidservant" .... Raymond Brown says "Mary's response qualifies her as Jesus' first disciple.... Her humble acquiescence to the will of God commends itself to every believer: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me." Mary is thus presented as the perfect disciple. Those who find out what God wants of them and accept His message as Mary did are Jesus' true followers. Those who only hear the Word but never put it into action are deceiving themselves. Christian Faith is a matter of continually making Jesus a part of our lives."

Source of Quote: https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2017-12/gospel-reflections-sunday-gospel.html

Mary - "the first and most perfect disciple of Jesus"

# **Advent Confession Night & Christmas Schedule**

(schedule subject to change)

No Registration Required. Please arrive early - capacity is limited.

#### **Advent Confession Night**

Tuesday 14 December: 7pm

This Annual Advent Confession Night will be the last major opportunity to partake in this sacrament before the celebration of Christmas.

Many priests will be available for confession.

#### **Christmas Eve**

#### Friday 24 December

- 4:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m.
- 8:00 p.m.
- 10:00 p.m.
- 11:30 p.m.

#### **Christmas Day**

#### Saturday 25 December

- 9:45 a.m.
- 11:00 a.m.
- · 12:15 p.m.

#### Mass of Sunday Obligation & Feast of the Holy Family:

#### Sunday 26 December

- 8:30 a.m.
- 9:45 a.m.
- 11:00 a.m.
- 12:15 p.m.



IMPORTANT Notice: There will be no 5pm Mass on December 25, 2021

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#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER** 

9:00 AM S.I. IN THANKSGIVING

+ ALEXAMINA PODUR

+ ELENA F. FAMATIGAN

**TUESDAY, 14 DECEMBER** 

9:00 AM + ARTHUR FETALVERO

+ MAY ANTHONY & MEHMOOD ALI

+ PASKINA & ANTHONY ALEXANDER

**WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER** 

9:00 AM S.I. HEALING FOR JEJI

+ JULIO & MARIA DIAS

+ HORACIO ALVEREZ

**THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER** 

9:00 AM S.I. IN THANKSGIVING

+ STEPHANIE GERMAIN

+ ROSAMMA ABRAHAM

**FRIDAY, 17 DECEMBER** 

7:00 PM + GUIHUA YU

+ DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE LEGION

**OF MARY** 

+ ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY

**SATURDAY, 18 DECEMBER** 

9:00 AM S.I. IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LOPEZ

**FAMILY** 

+ MILAGROS & EDUARDO AQUINO

+ DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE

SEMELHAGO, COUTO AND LEE FAMILIES

5:00 PM + CONSTANCE & GRACE VAZ

+ ROGER FISCHER

+ RITCHIE D'SOUZA

**SUNDAY, 19 DECEMBER** 

8:30 AM + ANNA & TERRENCE JOSEPH

+ JOSEPH ALBERT

+ REV. FR. VICTOR JEYASINGHAM

9:45 AM S.I. VERGIN JOSEPH & JOSEPH D'CRUZ

+ PHILIP & HECTOR FERNANDES

+ DOROTHY & ALBERT FERNANDES

11:00 AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH

12:15 PM S.I. FR. JOE, FR. DAVID & DEACON

**ALBAN SOARES** 

+ NATALIA MASAQUE

+ EDUARDO AQUINO

#### **ADVENT CONFESSION NIGHT**



Our Annual Advent Confession night will be on **Tuesday 14 December at 7 p.m**. There will be many priests available for confession. Please take advantage at this time, as it will be the last major opportunity before the celebration of Christmas.

#### Visit our NEW website:

www.stfrancisdesales.archtoronto.org

#### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Friday 24 December:

4 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM, 10 PM, & 11:30 PM

Saturday 25 December:

9: 45 AM, 11 AM & 12:15 PM

Please Note: Our Christmas Masses are on a first come, first serve basis. There will be no 5 PM Mass on 25 December. The doors will be locked after we have reached our capacity. You will be required to attend a Mass on Sunday 26 December at 8:30 AM, 9:45 AM 11 AM & 12:15 PM, to fulfill your Sunday obligation.

#### **NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

On New Year's Day we celebrate Mary Mother of God. For Catholics in Canada, this is a day of obligation where you are expected to attend mass.

Friday 31 December:

5 PM & 6:30 PM

**Saturday 1 January:** 

8:30 AM, 9:45 AM, 11 AM & 12:15 PM

Please Note: Our New Year's Masses are on a first come, first serve basis. There will be no 5 PM Mass on 1 January. The doors will be locked after we have reached our capacity. You will be required to attend a Mass on Sunday 2 January at 8:30 AM, 9:45 AM 11 AM & 12:15 PM, to fulfill your Sunday obligation.

#### **ONLINE DONATIONS**

Dear parishioners,

If you are not able to attend, but still wish to donate, here are the ways in which you can continue to support our parish at this time:

- Mail your regular weekly offertory contribution to the parish or drop off to the parish locked mailbox by the office door, or drop off in the donations box at Mass.
- Online donations can be made at <a href="https://www.archtoronto.org">www.archtoronto.org</a>. Simply click on the donate now icon, select St. Francis de Sales parish from the drop-down menu and the fund you wish to donate to. This can be done as a onetime donation or as an ongoing monthly donation. It will give you a place to choose that option.
- Contribute through pre-authorized giving. You can obtain a form from the parish website. Mail the completed form and a voided cheque to the parish office. Or e-mail the form and a scanned copy or photo of a voided cheque to <a href="development@archtoronto.org">development@archtoronto.org</a> for processing. Contributions are withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month.

Thank you for your many contributions to our parish community.

#### **REFLECTION**

This week we continue on the last 4 petitions of the Our Father prayer. As the Commandments can thus be divided into 2 categories, the first 3 dealing with God and the last 7 dealing with our neighbour, we can say that the first 3 petitions of the Our Father is focused on God and the last 4 are focused on human beings.

The second half of the Our Father looks to the disciples' needs. Each of the 4 petitions uses "us." In this way, Jesus transforms each petition into a simultaneous act of intercession for all of humanity.

In the **fourth** petition, Our Redeemer teaches us to ask for "daily bread." On one hand, it can mean just "bread for the day," though Jesus elsewhere tells His followers not to be anxious about earthly food and drink (Mt 6:25-33). On the other hand, it can be translated as "bread for the coming day" or "supernatural bread." In an ancient Jewish context, either of these would call to mind the miraculous manna from heaven, which God gave Israel during their wanderings in the wilderness (Ex 16:1-31). If this is correct, the implications are enormous, since Jesus will later identify Himself, in particular, His flesh as the "true bread which came down from heaven" (Jn 6:48-51). Seen in this light, the first thing Jesus teaches us is to ask for in the Our Father, is the gift of "the Bread" that He "will give for the life of the world" (Jn 6:31).

In the **fifth** petition, Jesus teaches us to ask the Father "to forgive us our debts as we forgive those trespass against us." Debts are an ancient Jewish way of referring to sins. Interestingly, this is the only petition that is conditional. The point is important that Jesus repeats it immediately: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mt 6:14-15).

Jesus states in no uncertain terms that the forgiveness by God depends entirely on whether His disciples forgive others.

In the **sixth** petition, "lead us not into temptation" Jesus teaches us to ask the Father not to allow us to be tested beyond our strength. Contrary to what some may think, this line does not mean that God tempts people to sin. "Do not lead us into temptation" means "do not allow us to give in to temptation." The New Testament states that "God cannot be tempted with evil and He Himself tempts no one" (James 1:13). Here Jesus is instructing His disciples to ask the Father to be merciful in the face of their own weakness by not allowing them to fall into temptation.

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2021**

	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
SUNDAY OFFERTORY	\$60,000	\$42,553
MORTGAGE FUND	\$10,000	\$4,373
BUILDING FUND	\$5,000	\$3,857
SHARE LIFE	\$84,800	\$57,952
DEBT OUTSTANDING		\$2,246,503

Thank you for your continued support!



#### FIRST COMMUNION

It has been so nice to see the children at Mass. Please note that all children in the virtual school and the children who are in Gr. 3-6 picked up their First Reconciliation books after Mass last weekend. Please contact Mrs. Selda if you were unable to pick-up your book. Wishing all our families a beautiful Advent journey.

#### **CONFIRMATION**

Please remember that confirmandi are expected to attend the evening of Reconciliation on Tuesday December 14<sup>th</sup> between 7-9 pm. Parents are highly encouraged to go to Confession. Please stop by the table after Confession to pick-up your Confirmation preparation book.

#### **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The CWL ladies would like to extend a special thank you to all members and parishioners who donated and ordered baked items at the Whole Pie Bake Sale. A special thank you as well to the ladies who made items for the craft tables, and to parishioners who browsed and purchased from the craft tables at the Mini Bazar. Our fundraising initiative was a success!

#### Reflection Cont'd...

In the **seventh** petition, "deliver us from evil" Jesus teaches us to ask God to deliver us from the power of Satan. Seen in this light, the final line is not a prayer for protection from suffering and death but from the power of evil. Jesus' prayer is not just a spiritual exercise, it is part of a great spiritual battle between good and evil.

Pitre, Brant. "The Lord's Prayer." Introduction to the Spiritual Life. Walking the Path of Prayer with Jesus. Image, New York, 2021, pp. 88-98.

#### EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

# 1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.

- Do I give God time every day in prayer?
- Have I placed my trust in occult or superstitious practices such as the reading of horoscopes or tarot cards, Ouija boards, or seeking the advice of psychics, fortune-tellers or palm readers?
- Do I accept God's word as taught by the Church?
- Have I received Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin?
- Have I deliberately told a lie in Confession, or have I withheld a mortal sin from the priest in Confession?
- Are there other "gods" in my life Money? Power? Material wealth and security? Other human beings? Relationships? My own self-image?
- Has my work ever interfered in my relationship with God?

## 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

- Have I used God's name lightly or carelessly?
- Have I resorted to cursing or swearing?
- Have I perjured myself under oath?
- Have I been angry with God?
- Have I wished evil upon another person?
- Have I insulted a sacred person or abused a sacred object or participated in jokes aimed at demeaning religion, the Church, or God's authority?
- Have I followed Church rituals while not actually living out my faith in practice?

#### 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

- Have I deliberately been absent from Mass on Sundays or on other Holy Days of Obligation (December 25th and January 1st)?
- Have I tried to observe Sunday as a day of worship and prayer, as well as a day for family and a day of
- Do I engage in needless work on Sunday, having wasted other opportunities to work outside of Sunday?
- Have I done unnecessary shopping on Sunday?
- Do I ever say, "I am too busy" to go to church?

#### Honour your father and mother.

- As a young person in the family home, do I listen to, respect and obey my parents?
- As a parent, do I give my children good religious example?
- As an adult, do I visit and care for my aged and infirm relatives?
- Do I harbour resentment towards family members?
- Do I try to bring peace into my home-life?

#### 5. You shall not kill.

- Have I physically struck someone, intending to injure that person?
- Have I destroyed the spirit of another person by my words or actions?
- Have I been angry at someone to the point of harbouring hatred in my heart?
- Have I had an abortion or encouraged or helped someone else to have an abortion? Have I participated in the process of artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, etc. or promoted such
- practices to others, even though the Catholic Church prohibits them? Have I been sterilized (vasectomy or tubal ligation) or encouraged someone else to be sterilized?
- Have I abused alcohol or drugs? Have I driven a car or operated equipment while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, thereby placing my life or the lives of others at risk?
- Have I given scandal to anyone because of my own inappropriate behaviour?
- Have my words or actions led others into sin?
- Have I participated in or approved of euthanasia?
- Have I entertained thoughts of suicide?

#### 6. You shall not commit adultery.

- Have I engaged in any sexual activity, by myself or with another, outside of marriage?
- Have I used artificial contraception or "birth control"?
- Have I thought of other people as mere objects of sexual pleasure?
- Have I participated in homosexual activity?
- Have I been impure in my thoughts, words, or actions [e.g. with my boyfriend / girlfriend or fiancé(e)]?
- Have I been immodest in the way I have dressed?
- Have I ever watched, purchased or sold pornography (books, 'movies, internet)?
- Have I participated in lewd or obscene jokes or stories?

#### 7. You shall not steal.

- Have I taken something that does not belong to me without asking and/or without the intention of returning it?
- Have I made restitution for what has been stolen?
- Do I waste time at work, school, or at home?
- Do I gamble excessively?
- Do I pay my debts promptly?
- Do I seek to share what I have with the poor?
- Do I withhold financial support from the Church?
- Have I cheated anyone out of what justly belongs to them, (e.g., the government (income tax), creditors, insurance companies)?
- Have I been irresponsible, wasteful or needlessly extravagant in my manner of living?

#### 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

- Have I told lies?
- Have I engaged in gossip, or have I defamed the reputation of another person?
- Have I spoken ill of others behind their back without any desire to help them overcome their failings?
- Am I critical, negative, or uncharitable in my thoughts of others?
- Do I respect the confidences of others?
- Do I always keep promises I have made?

#### 9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife (spouse).

- Have I sought the affections of someone other than my spouse?
- Have I contemplated infidelity, flirted, or actually been unfaithful (physically or emotionally) to my spouse?
- Have I indulged in reading, movies, television, internet sites, or conversations which are impure?
- Have I upheld and defended the dignity of my spouse in all circumstances?
- Have I rejected my spouse or family in my heart, wishing to distance myself emotionally and personally from them?

#### 10. You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

- Do I envy the relationships, status or personal qualities of others?
- Do I envy the material possessions, success or financial security of others?
- Have I been greedy or selfish?
- Am I ungrateful for my own personal and spiritual gifts, relationships, and material possessions?
- Do I exercise responsible stewardship over what God has given me?

<u>ACT OF CONTRITION</u>: O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, Who are all good and worthy of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, to avoid near occasions of sin, and to sincerely try not to sin any more.







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