



# St. John Chrysostom

Roman Catholic Church - Established 1841

432 Ontario Street, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 2K4

Phone: 905-898-4137 | Fax: 905-898-0277

Email: [parish.office@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

Website: <https://stjohnchrysostomne.archtoronto.org> | twitter: @parishsjc

## Weekend Masses

**Saturday Vigil**

5:00 pm

**Sunday**

8:30 am & 10:00 am

12:00 pm (Spanish)

live stream available

## Weekday Masses

**Monday 8:00 am**

**Tuesday 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday 12 noon**

**Thursday 8:00 am**

**Friday 8:00 am**

**Saturday 9:00 am**

## First Friday

**Mass at 7:00 pm**

No morning Mass on  
First Friday

## Reconciliation

Saturdays after 9am Mass  
or by appointment

## Pastoral & Office Staff

### Pastor

Fr. Landorff García

[fr.landorff@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:fr.landorff@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

### Associate Pastor

Fr. Rafał Bartosiński

[fr.rafal@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:fr.rafal@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

### Deacons

Deacon Gary Johnson

[deacon.gary@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:deacon.gary@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

Deacon Don McMillan

[deacon.don@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:deacon.don@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

### Office

Louisa Steele, **Office Admin**

Joan Turco, **Secretary**

Mirella Lupo, **Office Staff**

Joseph Follows, **Office Staff**

[parish.office@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

### Accounting

Maria De Ruyte, **Accountant**

[accountantstjc@archtoronto.org](mailto:accountantstjc@archtoronto.org)

Theresa McNicol, **Acct Asst.**

[TMcNicol@archtoronto.org](mailto:TMcNicol@archtoronto.org)

### Property

Dan Christante - **Manager**

[property@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:property@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

Leo Lopez, **Custodian**

### Cemetery

Chris West & Christine Allen

[cemetery@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:cemetery@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

Fax: 905-884-0477

## Office Hours:

The office is now open daily Monday through Saturday. Appointments are no longer necessary.

Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Office closed Monday through Friday

12 pm—1 pm for lunch.

Most of the activities listed below have been put on hold or have been adapted to observe COVID-19 regulations. Please contact the parish office if the contact information below does not provide you with the communication you need.

## Welcome New Parishioners

New parishioners are asked to register in the parish office where you can also learn how you can share your time, talent and treasure in the parish.

## Baptism

Contact the parish office a minimum of three months before the desired date of Baptism.

## First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation & Christian Initiation-RCIA

Adults wishing to become Catholic, please contact the parish office and ask to speak to the Pastor.

## Marriage

Contact the parish office at least one year in advance of the desired date.

[weddings@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:weddings@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

## Anointing of the Sick

For home visits, call the parish office.

From the hospital, ask for a priest directly at the nursing station.

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Postponed until further notice.

## Visiting Ministry

To arrange for a visit and/or to receive Holy Communion to someone at home, contact the parish office.

## Volunteer Screening

[ScreeningSTJC@archtoronto.org](mailto:ScreeningSTJC@archtoronto.org)

## Catholic Women's League

President – Madeleine Burke

[cwl@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:cwl@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

## Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight – Vince Scarfone

[facebook.com/kofc6643](https://facebook.com/kofc6643)

[knights@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:knights@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

## St. Vincent de Paul

To volunteer, make a donation or if you require assistance call 905-898-4264

Blog: [sjcses.blogspot.com](http://sjcses.blogspot.com)

## Community Bread

For information, to volunteer or to donate, contact

[communitybread@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:communitybread@stjohnsnewmarket.ca)

## Catholic Schools

Canadian Martyrs 905-895-8530

Notre Dame 905-895-5001

St. John Chrysostom 905-895-7411

St. Nicholas 905-895-3777

St. Paul 905-895-4122

Sacred Heart H.S. 905-895-3340

Chaplain: Erica Gismondi

Trustee: Theresa McNicol 905-898-2210

## Second Sunday of Lent

### Mass Intentions

**Saturday, March 12**

5:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, March 13**

8:30 am Mass

10:00am Mass

12:00pm Mass (Spanish)

† Harby Neira

**Monday, March 14**

8:00 am Mass

**Tuesday, March 15**

7:00 pm Mass

◆ CWL members past & present

**Wednesday, March 16**

12:00 pm Mass

† Jim Antonio

† Zofia Barut

**Thursday, March 17**

8:00 am Mass

**Friday, March 18**

8:00 am Mass

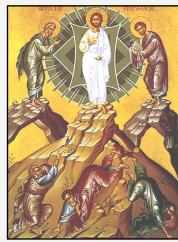
† Oscar & Angelica Valery

**Saturday, March 19**

9:00 am Mass

† Addolorata Priolo

† Lucia & Franco Siracusa



Our readings today remind us to keep our eyes fixed on heaven. God asks Abram to look up at the sky and count the stars. Philippians reminds us our citizenship is in heaven. Peter, James and John's eyes are fixed heavenward as they climb the mountain and witness Jesus' transfiguration. Where are our eyes fixed? On our electronics, on what others have? Today, let us ask for the grace to fix our eyes and hearts heavenward (by Sue Robb).

### THE SEASON OF LENT



*Lent is the yearly celebration by the Church of its conversion as a whole in Jesus Christ. During Lent, the liturgy prepares catechumens (unbaptized adults) to celebrate the Paschal Mystery by the various stages of Christian Initiation. It also prepares us for Easter as we recall our baptism and do penance in preparation for the greatest Feast of the year.*

*Lent has two major purposes: It recalls or prepares for Baptism, and emphasizes a spirit of penance. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and of more fervent prayer, believers are prepared to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. Lenten instructions stress these baptismal and penitential themes.*

*During Lent, it is important to remember the social consequence of sin as well as the fact that the heart of the virtue of penance is hatred of sin as an offence against God. The Church encourages penitential practices that are external and social, as we pray and do penance for sinners. Some of those practices are: Prayer, Fasting and Abstinence. Fasting and Abstinence are valuable practices to help us in our conversion, which leads us to charity towards our neighbour. All Christians are bound to practice abstinence and fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. All Fridays of the year are days of abstinence. Fasting means that we have one simple meal during the day. Abstinence means that we do not eat meat on that day. Abstinence is for those who are 14 years of age or older and fasting is for those from 18 to 59 years of age.*

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### Let us Pray For The Sick:

Joseph Shibley, Thomas Lauber, Linda Boudreau, Catherine Reynolds

### The Deceased:

Monica Alexandra Amaya, Delbert Hearty, Maria Mandjik, Maria Cornolo, Peter & Mary Ennamorato, Josephine Khashmanian



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS



During Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross immediately following either the **First Friday 7pm Mass** or **Friday Private Prayer**.

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

As part of our preparation for Easter it is good to look at the areas in our life where we are in need of God's mercy. The sacrament of reconciliation will take place at St. John's Church on **Tuesday, April 5** from **3pm to 6pm** and again from **7:30pm to 8:30pm**.



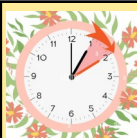
### SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH

Saturday, **March 19** - **9am** Mass. St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Vir-

gin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, is invoked as patron for many causes. *Well done, good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy. [Matthew 25:21]*

### FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Again Lent's austerity is interrupted as we solemnly keep a feast in honor of the Annunciation. It was at the hour of midnight, when the most holy Virgin was alone and absorbed in prayer, that the Archangel Gabriel appeared before her, and asked her, in the name of the blessed Trinity, to consent to become the Mother of God. St. John's celebrates on **Friday, March 25**, Holy Hour at **6pm** followed by **7pm** celebration of the Holy Mass. Friday morning Mass will be cancelled.



The first time change in 2022 is this weekend. Daylight saving time begins at **2am Sunday, March 13**, when we change clocks to "spring ahead" one hour.



### UKRAINIAN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF



In response to the request of parishioners, the Archdiocese of Toronto has launched a humanitarian relief effort to help the Ukrainian people at this time. Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- ◇ Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto at: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)
- ◇ By phone through the Development Office - 416-934-3411
- ◇ Through the parish, making your cheques payable to:  
St. John Chrysostom Parish-  
Ukrainian Relief -  
Humanitarian Relief

### EASTER FLOWERS

**March 19-20** we have our annual collection to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. For those of you who do not have a box of offertory envelopes, special envelopes will be available **next weekend** at the entrance of the church. Thank you.



### COMMUNITY BREAD



Thank you to all the parishioners who responded to the Community Bread's search for two cooks. Success!! Community Bread hopes to resume in-hall dining very soon, following public health guidelines.

### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL is again having a Food Drive for the New-market Food Bank. A vehicle will be in the side church parking lot on the weekend of **April 2 - 3** before and after all Masses. Non-perishables (non-expired) items will be accepted by members of the CWL. Cash donations will also be accepted. Please support this worthy endeavor. Thank you.



### FROM FASTING TO FEASTING

- Fast from judging others; feast on Christ in them.
- Fast from wanting more; feast on being thankful.
- Fast from anger; feast on patience.
- Fast from worry; feast on trust.
- Fast from complaining; feast on enjoyment.
- Fast from negatives; feast on positives.
- Fast from stress; feast on prayer.
- Fast from anger; feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from fear; feast on truth.
- Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
- Fast from gossip; feast on silence.
- Fast from fighting; feast on peace.



### SHARELIFE

In this time of Lent, please reflect on the great needs of our brothers and sisters who are helped through your kind support. Please give generously on **ShareLife Sunday**, which is **March 27**. Our parish goal for this year's 2022 campaign will once again be **\$106,000**. Contact ShareLife at [slife@archtoronto.org](mailto:slife@archtoronto.org) or 416-934-3411 if you have any questions about pre-authorized giving. Congratulations to the parishioners of St. John Chrysostom Parish. Our goal for **2021** was **\$106,000**. We are very proud to announce our total ShareLife donations reached:

**\$110,501.75 - (104.2%)**  
**Thank you for your generosity.**

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Annual Mass celebrated **March 17, 10am** St. Michaels Cathedral Basilica. All are welcome in person or via livestream at: [www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live](http://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live).

### VOCATIONS

Peter, John and James had a mountaintop experience with Jesus by witnessing His transfiguration. We too can have a mountaintop experience when we open our minds and hearts to following God's Will for our lives. If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations Archdiocese of Toronto: 416-968-0997 [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)



### ASCENDING AND DESCENDING THE MOUNTAIN



Just as the apostles were invited to ascend the mountain for the Lord's transfiguration, we too are called to ascend our own mountains. We can do this whenever we take some time away from the noise of the world so that we may experience the glory and majesty of Christ in prayer. We are then called to descend the mountain and use the grace of our mountain-top experiences to spread the Gospel in the world.

### OUR OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Collection received on  
March 5-6, 2022  
**Offertory**  
**\$ 11,187.**  
**Maintenance Fund**  
March 5-6  
**\$1,453.**

*Thank you for your generosity*



## Voyageur Place Hotel

17565 Yonge St., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 5H6  
905-895-2131 [info@newmarkethotel.com](mailto:info@newmarkethotel.com)  
[www.newmarkethotel.com](http://www.newmarkethotel.com)

### MERCATO ON MAIN

COFFEE - BREAD - PASTRIES - HOT TABLE

**47 MAIN STREET SOUTH  
NEWMARKET, ON L3Y 3Y3  
905-235-6400**

[mercatoonmain.ca](http://mercatoonmain.ca) @mercatoonmain  
[mercatoonmain@gmail.com](mailto:mercatoonmain@gmail.com)

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all our Advertisers and  
their continued support  
and loyalty.*

*Please help support our  
Sponsors by patronizing  
their businesses, especial-  
ly during this time.*

## **Space Available!**

### **PLACE YOUR AD HERE!**

Please contact the parish office at  
[parish.office@stjohnsnewmarket.ca](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsnewmarket.ca) or call  
us at 905-898-4137 to advertise in  
our bulletin.

- 1 block @ \$400/year
- 2 blocks @ \$550/year
- 3 blocks @ \$750/year
- 4 blocks @ \$950/year

*For the balance of 2022 only, these  
prices will be prorated based on  
which month the ad first appears.*

# Total Consecration To Jesus Through Mary

FEBRUARY 20-START OF THE 33-DAY PREPARATION

MARCH 25-FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM PARISH: 6PM HOLY HOUR FOLLOWED BY HOLY MASS

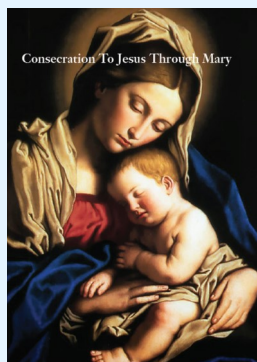
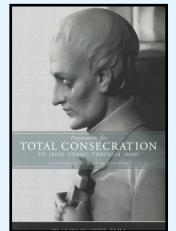
You are invited to make the Total Consecration to Jesus Christ Through Mary: According to St. Louis De Montfort. The 33 days of preparation for the consecration will guide you in a beautiful way of Marian Spirituality, in the footsteps of her Son, Jesus. The preparation will end on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord and will make the Consecration at the 7pm Holy Mass. For those of you who have made the act of Total Consecration in the past, it is a good to renew it annually. St. Louis believed that Consecration is a gift to God. During the 33 days of preparation, we consecrate our time much like we do for school, sports and our work. In setting time aside for a sacred purpose and it requires effort which is a significant gift because we make space in our busy lives for God.

Mary calls us to pilgrimage into the depths of our heart so that we come to know the truth of ourselves and into knowing who we are. Our Lady calls us to consecration to get know her and draw closer to her son, Jesus. The act of consecration is more than a prayer or an act of a moment. It is a lifestyle, an attitude, it is a disposition of the heart to live with the understanding that all we have is from God and this life we live is all for God

## PREPARATION STARTS FEBRUARY 20

People will pray the preparation on their own, one day at a time as outlined in the book (as well as the app). The preparation ends with the Consecration on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord on **March 25**.

- ◇ You can obtain the book or app by purchasing a paperback book from Chapters or your local Catholic book store or Amazon. Title: Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus Christ Through Mary: According to St. Louis De Montfort  
Author: Fr Hugh Gillespie.
- ◇ On your computer using the link below to a site that has the 33-day preparation. Go to the "Preparation" page. <https://totalconsecration.newevangelizers.com/schedule/>
- ◇ iPhone/iPad users - There is free app called My Consecration.  
*Please note, to make the consecration you are required to do the preparation.*





# St. John Chrysostom Parish

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432 Ontario Street, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 2K4  
905-898-4137 (phone), 905-898-0277 (fax)  
parish.office@stjohnsnewmarket.ca  
<https://stjohnchrysostomne.archtoronto.org>

March 4, 2022

Dear Parishioners of St. John Chrysostom:

As you have no doubt heard, our churches and parish facilities are able to safely reopen at full capacity. Fr. Rafal and I look forward to welcoming all parishioners back to their spiritual home and participating in parish life.

These changes to public health directives have been long awaited. If you have not been to Mass during the pandemic, I encourage you to return to church when you feel comfortable. Please know we are doing our best to make sure you feel safe and welcomed.

Cardinal Collins reminds us that the Eucharist remains the source and summit of our life in Christ. Participation in the Sunday Eucharist is the central experience of the week. It is also the obligation of Catholics, if they are able, to be personally present at Mass.

It is understandable that some may well feel hesitant at first about returning to personal participation. Rest assured, we remain in step with public health and, for the time being, you'll need to wear masks. Sign-in is not required, nor is pre-registration for Mass.

Some additional information:

- The use of hand sanitizer is highly encouraged and available at the entrance of the church.
- Congregational singing has resumed. Masks need to be worn while singing.
- The back doors are open for accessibility.
- Communion on the tongue has resumed. One minister will be assigned to distribute Communion in this way.
- Parish social events will return to the hall.

For the time being, our Mass schedule is as follows:

Saturday: 5 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am

10 am

12 pm, in Spanish

Monday: 8 am

Tuesday: 7 pm

Wednesday: 12 pm

Thursday: 8 am

Friday: 8 am

First Fridays of the month: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 1 pm to 7 pm. Mass at 7 pm.

In closing, thank you for your patience during this time of transition, and a special thanks to all our volunteers who have worked so hard these past two years. Please know of my prayers as we enter the season of Lent.

God bless you,

Fr. Landorff J. Garcia Mariona,  
Pastor

P.S. I invite you to view this brief and inspirational 'welcome back' video:

<https://youtu.be/ylazmUIUXNs>

## St. Vincent de Paul Society Report Newmarket -2021

February 20, 2022

Dear Fellow Parishioners

Thank you for your continued financial support. Combined, the people of Newmarket donated \$132,770 toward the work of our SSVP Conference in 2021 – with most of that money coming from the parishioners of the two Newmarket parishes of St John Chrysostom and St Elizabeth Seton. This was an amazingly generous response in the circumstances. So, how did we use the \$130,487 that we spent of your donations?

Our Conference offers four main ways of helping the families and individuals in need who come to us:

1. **Good Food Box:** A monthly package of fresh vegetables and fruit valued at \$15 from the York Region Food Network; some families in need receive this twice per month. In 2021 we sponsored 998 of these Good Food Boxes.

2. **Grocery Food Cards (Food Basics/Metro):** Families and individuals in need also need to buy other groceries not available in the Good Food Box and may request food cards from our Society for this purpose *once every 3 months* - \$20 per family member plus \$40 for the household. *Is this enough? Of course not, but it is all our budget will allow.* In 2021 we distributed food cards to a total value of \$49,280 to 463 different families and individuals in need.

3. **Christmas Programs:** This last year, pandemic constraints again forced us to abandon the traditional way of selecting stars from the Giving Tree and bringing gifts. Nevertheless, your financial gifts this past Christmas enabled us to provide Christmas cheer for approx. 283 individuals who are seniors and home-bound, and approx. 16 families in shelters. In addition, your contributions to our Christmas Program for families with children enabled 117 of our families in need to buy food for a festive meal and Christmas gifts for 272 children. We reported separately on this already in January. The total value of these two programs was \$54,628.

4. **Special Needs:** They say that most families in Canada are just one or two pay cheques away from being homeless. Sometimes a family finds themselves in a crunch and needs a leg up or a helping hand to keep their home (for example) or to have a decent bed for a senior with a health condition. We have a budget of \$500 per month to help one or two such families or individuals at a time.

Last year it is estimated that your Vincentians, all volunteers who see their work as a ministry to the Body of Christ, spent just shy of 2,500 hours ensuring that your donations went to the people who needed assistance, especially food assistance – for the low cost of only 1.93% on administration.

*If being a Vincentian sounds like something you would be interested to find out more about, please call our food assistance line and leave a message: (905)898-4264. Someone will get back to you within a few days. We especially encourage men, couples, people of colour and visible minorities to apply.*

**To support us financially, you can DONATE (once-off or monthly) by credit card on our web site:**

<https://sjcses.blogspot.com/p/donate.html>

Shalom

Terry McCann

President

St John Chrysostom/St Elizabeth Seton Conference

*“I was hungry...”*





## Canadian Conference Of Catholic Bishops

### Share Lent 2022

#### Message of Bishop Raymond Poisson, CCCB President



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In 2015, Pope Francis published a letter addressed to all of us entitled *Laudato Si'*. In this letter, he tied the protection of the environment with love of neighbour, particularly by casting light on the fact that the poorest nations are generally the main victims of ecological degradation: “a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”, he tells us. The upcoming Lenten period is a time for a call to conversion, in order to bring us closer to the Lord, to go out to encounter our neighbour and to care for Creation, our common home.

Recent international gatherings have highlighted the direct impacts of the climate crisis; at a time when our Canadian communities are just starting to experience them, our brothers and sisters in the Global South have suffered them for a long time. For us Christians, in order that our faith in Jesus might be expressed in action, I encourage you to respond enthusiastically to the invitation of *Share Lent 2022*, which is being organized by **Development and Peace – Caritas Canada** under the theme “People and Planet First”. This campaign is an expression of the Gospel message and of the Church’s social teaching, both of which take into consideration the integral development of the human person.

Despite the difficult ecological situation of those communities where Development and Peace’s partner organizations are active, those communities are finding ways to adapt so as to live in harmony with their environment. This coming Lent, Development and Peace will highlight their efforts in order to encourage Canadians to fast sincerely and to pray that we may all work together as one family in caring for Creation.



Every year, Development and Peace also invites the Catholics of Canada to practice almsgiving by donating to the collection taken up on Solidarity Sunday (3 April 2022). The funds that are gathered then will allow Development and Peace to fulfill its mission and to transform lives in almost 30 countries around the world. Therefore, I invite you, in Christ’s name, to support the *Share Lent 2022* campaign by spreading its message in your communities (especially by means of a letter of support), by participating actively in the activities in which you will be invited, and by encouraging fundraising in order to place people and the planet at the heart of our priorities. “For the kingdom of God depends not on talk but on power” (1 Cor. 4:20).

Fraternally in our Lord,

*Raymond Poisson*

Bishop of Saint-Jérôme and of Mont-Laurier  
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

## RENOVATION PROJECTS

We are happy to report that our new boiler system is now up and running. The system will take a few weeks to stabilize and calibrate so you may find temperatures fluctuate from time to time. However, the church will be warmer than it has been for the last couple of weeks. Please consider bringing or wearing a heavier coat to mass for a couple more weeks just in case you find you need it.

In the process of starting our bell tower brick renewal project, we have found areas of deterioration that will need more investigation before we put new bricks in place. As a safety precaution, we will be installing scaffolding over the north exit doorway from the Church to the rear parking lot that will stay in place until all work is completed. Additional scaffolding will be installed around the tower to facilitate worker access to the areas to be looked at. We anticipate that the investigation will take about two months to complete and we will update you when we have new information to share.

Lastly, the order details for our new ovens in our Parish Hall should be in place early in the new year. There is a considerable lag time right now between ordering and delivery due to the strain on the supply chain from the pandemic. Look for an update on this project in early February.

All these projects will use the Family of Faith funds to complete. They are part of the infrastructure maintenance and renovations to the Parish Hall. The Parish Building Committee, Finance Council, the Pastor, and our Regional Bishop have been consulted, and they have approved these projects.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we work through these very important projects.

Dan Christante - Property Manager

## RENOVATION PROJECTS UPDATE



Repairs to the church are on hold for the moment and will be announced when they resume. In the meantime, all areas of the parking lot are available, and the rectory mailbox is accessible without restriction. Scaffolding remains in place to ensure parishioner safety.

## Update on the Delegation to Rome

### Canadian Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Provide an Update on Delegation to Rome

December 7, 2021,

After careful assessment of the uncertainty and potential health risks surrounding international travel amid the recent spread of the Omicron variant, the Canadian Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami have jointly decided to reschedule a delegation to the Vatican in December 2021 to the earliest opportunity in 2022.

The decision to postpone was a heartbreaking one, made after careful consultation with delegates, family members, community leaders, public health officials and the leadership of each of the three National Indigenous Organizations. Particularly for many elderly delegates as well as those who live in remote communities, the risk of infection and the fluid nature of the evolving global situation presents too great a threat at this time.

We take comfort in the desire, conveyed to us by the Holy See, that the safety of the delegation should inform any decision to move forward. It is also important to note that the delegation is postponed not cancelled.

Currently, the world's health experts are still learning about the transmissibility of the Omicron variant. As more information becomes available, we will continue to assess the feasibility of future travel plans, based on guidance from the Canadian government and relevant international authorities.

Our shared commitment to walking together towards healing and reconciliation remains strong. We understand that the Holy See is very much committed to rescheduling this visit in the new year and we look forward to the opportunity for Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers, residential school survivors, and youth to participate in private meetings with Pope Francis.

#### TOGETHER WE PRAY



“For the children who died in residential schools throughout Canada and for all those who continue on a journey through the darkness, that there may be healing founded on truth and that the Spirit will inspire our ongoing commitment to reconciliation. God, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, continue to offer us correction so that your grace might change and transform us in our weakness and repentance.

Give us humility to listen when others reveal how we have failed and courage to love others as ourselves, mindful of your love for the weakest and most vulnerable among us.

Amen.”

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us.

## Letter from Cardinal Thomas Collins

October 27, 2021



I am most grateful that Pope Francis has accepted the invitation of the Bishops of Canada for a pastoral visit to advance the healing and reconciliation journey with the Indigenous Peoples of this land.

I reiterate the unequivocal apology of the Canadian bishops from earlier this year as we sorrowfully acknowledged the historical and ongoing trauma and the legacy of suffering and challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples that continue to this day.

We affirm our commitment to walk with the Indigenous people on the lengthy path of healing and dialogue. I pray that the visit of the Holy Father will provide a space for that journey to continue through authentic encounters of compassion, understanding and reconciliation.

To assist in establishing the foundation for his pilgrimage to Canada, later this year, from December 17-20, the Holy Father will welcome a delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers and young people at the Vatican. Over the course of several days, through authentic listening and dialogue, Pope Francis will hear directly from those who have suffered.

I invite the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto to join me in prayer for all those who suffer from the legacy of the residential school system. We pray also for the delegates who will visit with the Holy Father in December. Finally, we keep Pope Francis close in prayer. May he be blessed with good health and strength to prepare him to join us at the appropriate moment to continue our journey of healing and reconciliation together.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us.

Thomas Collins

*+ Thomas Card. Collins*  
Archbishop of Toronto



## Canadian Bishops to Welcome Pope Francis to Canada on Historic Pilgrimage of Healing and Reconciliation

OTTAWA

October 27, 2021



The Catholic Bishops of Canada are grateful that Pope Francis has accepted their invitation to visit Canada on a pilgrimage of healing and reconciliation. The Holy Father's full statement:

*“The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has invited the Holy Father to make an apostolic journey to Canada, also in the context of the long-standing pastoral process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. His Holiness has indicated his willingness to visit the country on a date to be settled in due course.”*

In anticipation of this visit, the planned delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers and youth will travel to the Holy See, where they will have the opportunity to speak to Pope Francis about the timing, focus, and themes in preparation for his future pilgrimage to Canada.

“The Bishops of Canada have been engaged in meaningful discussions with Indigenous Peoples, especially those affected by Residential Schools who have shared stories about the suffering and challenges that they continue to experience,” said CCCB President, the Most Rev. Raymond Poisson. “We pray that Pope Francis’ visit to Canada will be a significant milestone in the journey toward reconciliation and healing.”

The Canadian Bishops recently pledged to work with the Holy See and Indigenous partners on the possibility of a pastoral visit to Canada by the Pope. Following this pledge and informed by three years of ongoing dialogue between the Canadian Bishops, the Holy See, and Indigenous Peoples, the President and former-President of the CCCB met in Rome with the Secretary of State of the Holy See to discuss next steps on the reconciliation journey earlier this month and in preparation for the delegation.

This delegation to the Holy See will take place from December 17-20, 2021, and is being planned in close collaboration with National Indigenous Organizations and other partners.

“We will invite the delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers, and youth who will meet with Pope Francis to open their hearts to the Holy Father and share both their suffering as well as their hopes and desires for his eventual visit to Canada,” added Bishop Poisson.

Additional details about Pope Francis’ pilgrimage to Canada, as well as the Rome delegation will be announced by the CCCB as details are confirmed.

### **About the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCBC) is the national assembly of the Bishops of Canada. It was founded in 1943 and officially recognized by the Holy See in 1948.