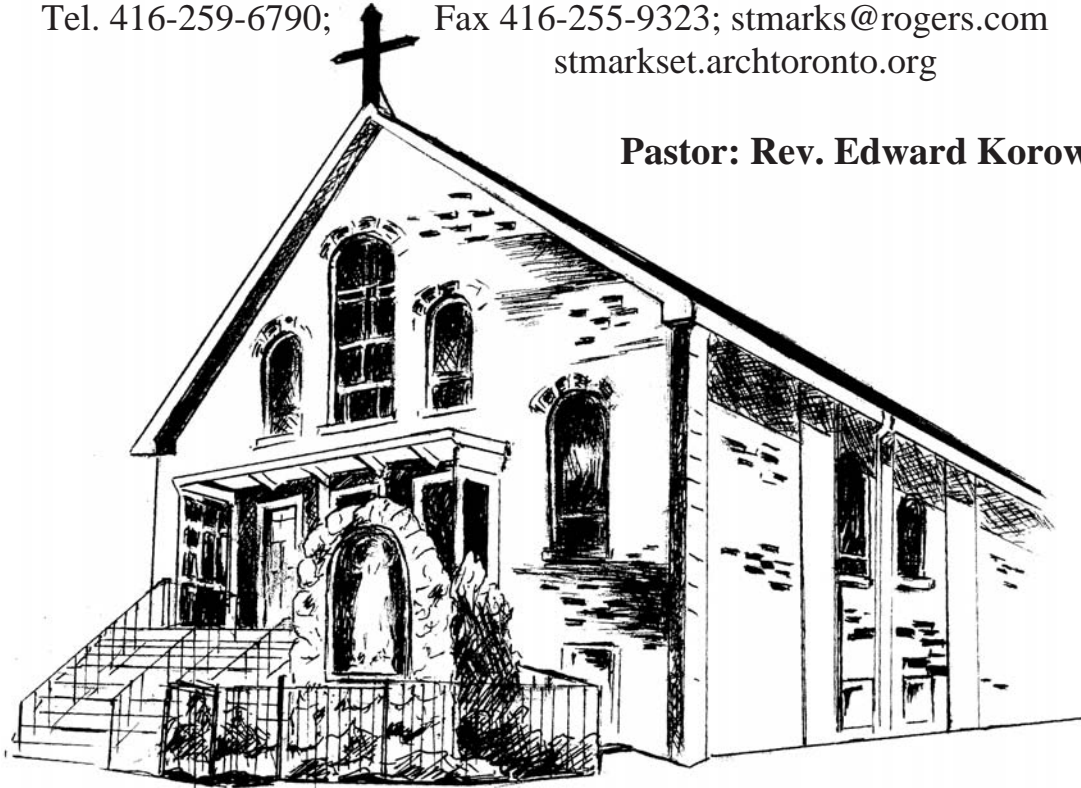


St. Mark's Catholic Church

277 Park Lawn Road, Toronto, ON M8Y 3J7

Tel. 416-259-6790; Fax 416-255-9323; stmarks@rogers.com
stmarkset.archtoronto.org



Pastor: Rev. Edward Koroway

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:00 p.m. (English)
Sunday 8:30 a.m. (English)
10:00 a.m. (Polish)
11:30 a.m. (English)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 9:00 a.m. (English)
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. (English)
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. (English)
Thursday 9:00 a.m. (English)
Friday 9:00 a.m. (English)

CONFESSIONS

First Friday 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.
Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by appointment.

BAPTISMS: by appointment

MARRIAGE: please contact the priest one year in advance.
A marriage preparation course is required.

DEVOTIONS:

First Friday Exposition: 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., followed by
Benediction and Mass in Polish at 7:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION:

Every family in the Parish should be properly registered.
New parishioners are welcome, and invited to register and
collect a box of Church support envelopes

SCHOOLS

St. Mark
45 Cloverhill Road
Toronto, ON M8Y 1T4
416-393-5332

Bishop Allen Academy
721 Royal York Road
Toronto, ON M8Y 2T3
416-393-5549

Sainte-Marguerite-d'Youville
755 Royal York Road
Toronto, ON M8Y 2T3
416-393-5418

USEFUL INTERNET WEBSITES

archtoronto.org (Toronto archdiocese)
vatican.va (the Holy See)
cccb.ca (Canadian Catholic Bishops)
acbo.on.ca (Ontario Catholic Bishops)
uscgb.org (U.S. Catholic Bishops)
lifesitenews.com (pro-life news)
ccrl.ca (Catholic Civil Rights League)

tcdsb.org (Toronto Catholic School Board)
vocationstoronto.ca (Vocations Office)
catholic-cemeteries.com (Catholic Cemeteries)
katolik.pl (Polish Catholic website)
catholicnewsagency.com (Catholic news)
catholicherald.co.uk (Catholic news)
catholicregister.org (The Catholic Register)

Please consider remembering St. Mark's Parish in your will. Thank you!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



- Dec.17: 5:00 p.m. Thanksgiving
Dec.18: 8:30 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Mark's
10:00 a.m. Za Stanisława i Bronisławę Taras
11:30 a.m. Joseph DeBiasi
Dec.19: 9:00 a.m. Łucja Madej (birthday anniversary)
Dec.20: 9:00 a.m. Assunta Orgera
Dec.21: **No Mass** (due to Masses at Bishop Allen)
Dec.22: 9:00 a.m. Cathy O'Brian
Dec.23: 9:00 a.m. Anne MacCallum
Dec.24: 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (English)
10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (Polish)
Dec.25: 8:30 a.m. Christmas Dawn Mass
10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass (Polish)
11:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

BUILDING FUND COLLECTION: Our monthly Building Fund collection will take place *this* weekend. Special blue envelopes are available at the back of the Church for this purpose. The funds raised will go towards the many renovation projects that need to be addressed in our parish, as well as reducing our debt for the elevator and new roof for the Church and rectory (which now stands at \$48,000). *Thank you!*

NEW LIVING WITH CHRIST SUNDAY MISSALS are for sale in the vestibule of the Church for **\$6.00** each. Simply place the money in the offering box on which the Missals are displayed.

LECTORS: We are looking for more lectors, especially at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass and the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Polish Mass. If you are a baptized and confirmed Catholic, eighteen years or older, and would be interested, please contact Fr. Koroway.

CATHOLIC ART CALENDARS for **2023** are available at the back of the Church. Our thanks to the **RIDLEY FUNERAL HOME** (3080 Lake Shore Blvd.) for so generously providing these beautiful calendars.

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING: Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our parish bulletin. The advertising will begin in February 2023 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905-624-4422 for more information. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

- 5:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Mass (English)
10:00 p.m. Mass during the Night (Polish)

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

- 8:30 a.m.** Christmas Dawn Mass (English)
10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass (Polish)
11:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass (English)

Monday, December 26 (Feast of St. Stephen)

- 10:00 a.m.** Polish Mass

Saturday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

- 5:00 p.m.** Mass (English) with solemn singing of the *Te Deum* to end the Year 2022

Sunday, January 1, 2023 (New Year's Day—

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

- 8:30 a.m.** Mass (English)
10:00 a.m. Mass (Polish)
11:30 a.m. Mass (English)

CONFESSIONS

- Saturday, Dec. 17: 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 19: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 21: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

[No confessions on Saturday, Christmas Eve.]

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: There is a second collection at Christmas. Envelope users will find a pink Christmas collection envelope in their box. Additional Christmas envelopes are available for others at the back of the Church. (Please note, that in order to have your donation included in the 2022 charitable income tax receipts, your offering must be received by Wednesday, December 28.) Thank you!

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2023: These have been placed on tables at the back of the Church, *in numerical order*. You should have the same number you had in 2022. Please always write the amount of your donation on the envelope. Blank envelopes for 2023 for those who have not been using them this year are now available. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this convenient means of supporting our parish. It provides a record of your attendance should you require

a pastoral reference. Envelope users receive a receipt for their charitable donations, which reduces their income tax payable. For total annual donations over \$200, there is a *combined federal and provincial* tax credit of approximately 40 per cent.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS WAFERS (from Poland) (OPLATKI) are available on the table in front of Our Lady's Chapel for \$3 per envelope.

POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATEK): *Oplatek* originated in Poland as far back as the 10th century, and spread widely by the 17th century. This Christmas wafer is an Eastern European Catholic Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish, Lithuanian, and Slovak families during Wigilia (Christmas Eve Vigil). The unleavened wafers are baked from pure wheat flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape and very thin. They are identical in composition to the Host used during a Mass. Wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem.

Family members and friends break off a small piece of the *oplatek* wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing. Breaking off and exchanging part of *oplatek* with someone is symbol of forgiveness between two people and is meant to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God, and family. A sample blessing can take the form of, "I wish you much health, happiness and the Lord's bountiful blessings as well as the fulfillment of all your plans and everything you wish for yourself." The tradition traces its origins to the times of early Christianity and is seen as a non-sacramental foreshadowing of the liturgical partaking of the consecrated Eucharistic Host.

ORGANIST: Our organist/cantor, Joey Jang, has been with us for some twelve years. As part of his studies at Osgoode Hall Law School, he has gone to Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland on a student exchange. He will return to us for Christmas Eve. Dr. Daniel Lee will be substituting for him on Saturdays at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Jeff Glover will do the same on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Martin Gomes will be the cantor at the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

IV Niedziela Adwentu – rok A

„NIE BÓJ SIĘ”. – to pierwsze słowa Dobrej Nowiny wypowiedziane przez Anioła do każdego, komu objawiono wieść o narodzeniu się Syna Bożego. Zachariasz, Maryja, Józef, pasterze – mają się nie bać,

bo przecież rodzi się Bóg. W dniach poprzedzających Boże Narodzenie to radosne wezwanie jest skierowane i do nas.

Nie wszyscy przyjęli radosną nowinę o narodzeniu się Zbawiciela bez lęku. Pierwsze czytanie ukazuje tchórzliwego króla Achaza. Jego odpowiedź wydaje się pobożna – jakoby nie chciał on wystawiać Pana na próbę. W sercu jednak miał obmyślony plan bardzo daleki od Boga. W obliczu grożącego mu niebezpieczeństwa Achaz nie szukał ratunku u Pana, lecz zaczął zawierać rzekomo korzystne układy polityczne. Ucieczka w świat własnych możliwości i ludzkich rozwiązań jest wyrazem braku wiary w moc i miłość Boga. To zawsze wywołuje lęk.

Trudno sobie wyobrazić lęk, jaki mógł dotknąć Józefa. W krąg możliwych rozwiązań, jak chociażby oddalenie własnej małżonki, wszedł Anioł i przemówił: „Nie bój się”. Boży wysłaniec przypomniał mu przede wszystkim o tym, że jest potomkiem królewskim. Takiej osobie nie przystoi lęk. Więcej, „syn Dawida” musi ufać Bogu tak, jak to czynił jego świetlany przodek. Wtedy każda ciemność zostanie rozświetlona. Pan ponownie daje znak. Tym razem jest nim Emmanuel – Bóg z nami. Józef uwierzył i „wziął swoją Małżonkę do siebie”.

Nasze życiowe trudności mogą wywoływać lęki i niepokoje. Wówczas wszystko wydaje się spowite ciemnością, w której nie widać światła wyjścia. Pamiętajmy jednak o tym, że jest „Bóg z nami”. Zwłaszcza w takich chwilach. (ks. *Mariusz Szmajdziński*)

Dzisiaj odbędzie się druga zbiórka na fundusz remontowy kościoła. Specjalne niebieskie koperty w tym celu umieszczane są na stołach przy wejściu do kościoła. Zebrane środki zostaną przeznaczone na wiele projektów remontowych, którymi trzeba się zająć w naszej parafii, a także zmniejszenie zadłużenia (obecnie \$48,000) z nowej windy i nowego dachu dla kościoła i plebanii. ***Dziękuję za Twoje wsparcie!***

OPLATKI: Oplatki wigilijne (z Polski) są do nabycia przy ołtarzu Matki Boskiej. Prosimy o ofiarę \$3 za jedną kopertkę.

LEKTORZY. Potrzebujemy więcej lektorów. Jeśli chciałbyś być lektorem podczas Mszy św., skontaktuj się z ks. Edwarda.

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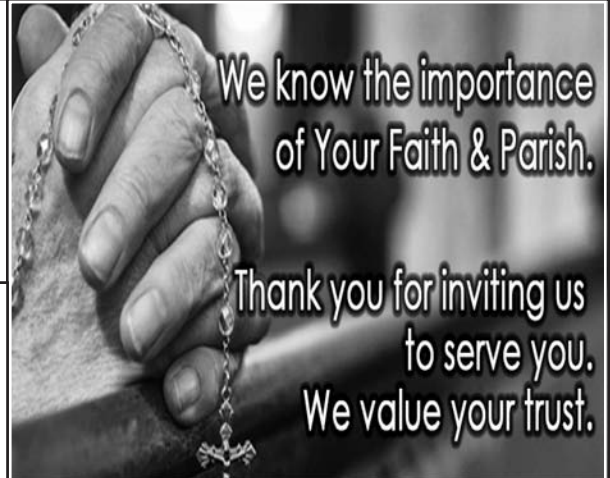
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