

St. Mark's Church Announcements

November 17, 2021

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Weekend Mass Registration – Large Numbers Not Attending

We have been noticing an unfortunate trend in our weekend Mass attendance. It appears that a large number of people are not showing up for Mass after registering. Last weekend between all three Masses, 43 people (12.8%) did not attend. We ask that if you are uncertain whether or not you will be able to make it to the Church, please hold off on registering until Friday morning. Otherwise, if you register and do not attend, you are taking a spot someone else could have used. If you do register and need to cancel, please do so before Friday at noon by either calling the church office at 905-640-6954 or click on the link on your Eventbrite ticket. If on Friday you find the registration is full, we recommend you try to come as a walk-in. With Advent fast approaching, we would like to ensure that as many parishioners as possible can be present in person.

Ushers Needed

We soon hope to be able to increase the overall seating capacity at each weekend Mass. In order to do so, it is critical that we have enough Ushers in place before this happens and before the Advent and Christmas season. If you're interested in helping, please email stmarkspastoral@bellnet.ca with your contact information or call 905-640-6954 ext. 103.

Christmas Pageant

St. Mark's will be holding our **16th Annual Christmas Pageant and Concert on Sunday, December 5th at 3 pm.**

The Christmas Story "Jesus – The Light in Our Darkness"

What do you need to do to participate in this amazing Gift for Jesus and to share with your family and friends? The Pageant will involve the participation of children and their families in performing the Christmas Nativity Story both in-person and by video recording. There will also be carol singing by some members of the choir of St. Mark's. If you are interested in participating, please email eugenievlандry@rogers.com or call 647-828-3884 for details. Subject title of email: Jesus – The Light in Our Darkness

The Pageant will be livestreamed via St. Mark's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/StMarkYouTube>.

Poinsettia and Christmas Card Sales

The Knights of Columbus are holding a poinsettia and Christmas card fundraiser to benefit the Rose of Sharon.

Christmas poinsettias from a local greenhouse and hard to find religious **Christmas cards can be purchased online at www.kofc10874.ca or in-person. Christmas Cards can be picked up after one of the Sunday Masses from November 13th to December 12th.**

Poinsettias can be picked up on Saturday, December 11th or after one of the Masses on that weekend.

Prices are as follows: 8" poinsettia - \$20.00 + \$0.58 fee or 10" poinsettia - \$30.00 + \$0.87 fee

Tree of Life Donations for the Rose of Sharon

St. Mark's Squire Circle 5486 Spiritual Advent Project

The parishioners of St. Mark's Church are invited to participate in the lighting of the Tree of Life on behalf of those in need through the Rose of Sharon. The tree will be located in the entrance foyer of the Church from **November 27 to December 19** and it will be manned by a Squire and a Counsellor from St. Mark's Knights of Columbus.

There will be a suggested list of various items to consider with regards to food cards, baby & toddler clothing, essential toiletries for babies, toddlers, and mothers.

Your support of this Advent endeavour is very much appreciated by the Squires and the Knights of Columbus, but above all by the people it will serve during this time when we welcome Our Lord in our neighbor. The Squires' motto is, "Leave no Neighbour Behind"

Envelope Boxes for 2022 Year

Envelope Boxes for 2022 are ready for pickup in the foyer. Please do not begin using these envelopes until January.

2022 Sunday Missals

The 2022 Sunday Missals are on sale in the Church foyer. Cost: \$5

New St. Mark's Website

St. Mark's website has a new URL. Please use the following address in your web browser to access our new site:

<https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/>. Our old website is no longer active.

Sign Up For Formed

Over 4,000 Catholic titles now available on almost any device!

Advent is the perfect time to dive into the beauty of the Faith: at home, on the go, or from any internet connected device. Discover thousands of Catholic books audio talks, movies, documentaries, and studies...there is something for every member of the family to help them to grow closer to Christ and His Church.

Join Formed for FREE by registering at: <https://stmarksst.archtoronto.org/en/parish-life/formed/>.

Biography of Sr. Minh – Creator of Our Lady of Corona

Sr. Minh is the creator of the newly arrived icon of Jesus and Mary; she has a fascinating journey with God. A few years ago, Fr. Michael was on retreat in New York State and saw her expertise and great gift of iconography and sought her to commission this magnificent icon for St. Mark's. The icon is called "Our Lady of Corona."

Sr. Minh emigrated to the USA from Vietnam in 1985 as a teenager and her family worked hard to enable Minh to graduate from the State University of New York in Geneseo (south of Rochester). Minh was planning to attend graduate school for architecture but travelled to Italy where she discovered her God-given talent as a painter of sacred art. She then experienced God's love with such passion that eventually she converted from Buddhism to Catholicism and then commenced a very dynamic spiritual journey.

Read more about Sr. Minh and her significant creative expertise at this website: www.ourladyofnewhelfta.com

When at this site, go to “Blog” and then click on “Back to Iconography” for some more details. Also, when at this site, click on “Story” to hear and see more about how Sr. Minh shares her ‘gifts’ with others. St. Mark’s gives thanks to Sr. Minh and the families who sponsored this icon. Let us keep Sr. Minh in our prayers.

Catholic World Report Article

By Autumn Jones for CNA

Denver Newsroom, Nov 4, 2021 / 17:00 pm (CNA). On Thursday, Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles discussed the rise of new secular ideologies and movements for social change in the United States during a virtual address to the Congress of Catholics and Public Life in Madrid.

He asserted that it is “important for the Church to understand and engage these new movements—not on social or political terms, but as dangerous substitutes for true religion.”

To read the rest of the article, go to: <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/11/04/archbishop-gomez-addresses-rise-of-wokeness-social-movements-in-us/>