



# ST. MARY IMMACULATE PARISH EST. 1857

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**Epiphany of the Lord** 



Beloved Brothers & Sisters!

Happy New Year to All! As we begin the New Year, may we entrust all our cares into the hands our dear Mother Mary, the Holy Mother of God, that she may take care of all our needs.

Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord!

I would like to thank all those who remembered us during the holiday season with thoughtful cards, well wishes, gifts and homemade goodies.

Also, thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Church for Christmas with beautiful poinsettias, Christmas trees and Nativity scene.

Praying for you and your families.

Fr. Pawel

# THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Mon. Dec 27	Feast	St. John, Apostle, Evangelist
Tues. Dec 28	Feast	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Wed. Dec 29		Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr
Thurs. Dec 30		Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity
Fri. Dec 31		Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity St. Sylvester I, Pope
Sat. Jan 1	Solemnity	The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
	First Saturday of the month	We honour the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## **READINGS THIS WEEK**

26 Luke 2.41-52

27 1 John 1.1-4: John 20.2-8

28 1 John 1.5 - 2.2: Matthew 2.13-18

**29** 1 John 2.3-11: Luke 2.22-35 **30** 1 John 2.12-17: Luke 2.36-40

**31** 1 John 2.18-21: John 1.1-18

1 Numbers 6.22-27: Galatians 4.4-7: Luke 2.16-21

# **SCHEDULE OF LIVE-STREAM MASSES**

(Live-stream Masses are available on YouTube channel, <u>SMI Parish</u>)

Sunday Masses 9:30 am in Italian 11:00 am in English

# **2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES**

The 2022 offertory envelope boxes are available for pick up and are located in 3 areas of the Church, Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel and at the back of the Church. Envelopes are organized by the first letter of the surname. If you need the envelopes to be delivered to your home, please contact the parish office.

## **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish office hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Open by appointment only on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Closed daily 12:00 pm–1:00 pm for lunch. Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment.

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DURING HOLIDAYS

Monday, January 3 Tuesday, January 4

## FR. PAWEL'S BOOK CLUB 2022

All Parishioners and friends are encouraged to read the four selected books and to join Father Pawel Zborowski, Pastor of St. Mary Immaculate Church, for each book review in the parish hall from 6:30 - 7:30 pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 "The Little Manual for Spiritual Growth" by Fr. John Portavella.

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022** "Walk Humbly with Your God" by Fr. Andrew Apostoli.

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 "Unleashing the Power of Intercessory Prayer" by Joseph Hollcraft.

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 "What to say and How to say it" by Brandon Vogt. Recommended by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins.

Books will be available for purchase end of December.

# The Story and You,



Sacred Conversations

#### **Epiphany of the Lord**

Wouldn't you love to know more about those mysterious Magi, who left everything to follow a Star from the day of its rising? They fascinate me. There are innumerable legends about them, including their names Balthazar (of Arabia), Melchior (of Persia), and Caspar (of India). One of the more charming legends is that in the ancient silk road city of Taxila (in present-day Punjab, Pakistan), one of the Magi passed through the city on the way to Bethlehem.

Later Christian writings identified them as kings, certainly because the Old Testament scriptures bear many prophecies of royalty. Today's first reading from Isaiah 60:1-6 refers to "kings coming to the brightness of your dawn," and the Responsorial Psalm sings of "all kings falling down before him" (72:11). It made perfect sense to imagine that these very wise men must have been the royalty the Old Testament writers were awaiting. Maybe they were. Here's what fascinates me. These Gentiles saw a bright star rising, and they left everything to follow it. When it hovered over Jerusalem they stopped and announced themselves as ones who had come to give homage to the newborn King of the Jews. Isn't that astounding? They were willing to leave their pre-Christian worldviews in search of a Jewish King. Why?

I think it's because that's how God touches all of us. God recruits all of nature to tell the glory of God. The winter chill, the spring rains, the abundant summer fruits, the stunning autumns, all speak to a God who is with us. I think the Magi were just

fascinated, as we are, by the heavens touching down to earth, and saying, "Here. Here. Come and worship."

What was your greatest "Epiphany" of the nearness of God this vear?

Kathy McGovern ©2021 www.thestoryandyou.com

#### **CALLING ALL CATHOLIC ADVISORS**

Are you a financial or insurance advisor, or a lawyer? If yes, then we want to hear from you! The Archdiocese of Toronto has spent a number of years creating a network of advisors, who understand our faith and who can assist us with our estate and financial affairs. Come and be a part of our network where you have the opportunity to integrate your spiritual and professional lives. For further information, contact the Development Office at: 416-934-3400 ext. 561/519 or development@archtoronto.org.

## **PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING**

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving plan (PAG) to help you support the parish's work through your regular offertory gift. To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-Authorized Giving allows you to donate to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account or credit card. These funds are then deposited directly into the parish's account.

There are various benefits of participating in pre-authorized giving, both for you and for your parish.

#### Advantages for You:

- The convenience of having your offering automatically contributed to the parish.
- Knowing you continue to support the parish even when you are away.
- Continual support of ministries and programs funded through the parish.

#### Advantages for the Parish:

- · Regular, dependable contributions to the parish.
- · Reduction of cash on hand.
- · Reduction of paperwork.

For information on how to enrol, please contact your parish office or email development@archtoronto.org.

#### FRIARS' STUDENT WRITING CONTEST 2022

It is time once again for the Friars' Student Writing Award. Students aged 13-19 are invited to submit a 450-500-word essay for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated from January 18 to 25, 2022.

This year, the theme and the resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 have been prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches based in Beirut, Lebanon. The theme of the contest is: "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" (Mt. 2:2).

The deadline for the writing contest is **Monday**, **February 14**, **2022 at 2 p.m**.

Please see the poster for more contest details: https://bit.ly/FriarsStudentWritingContest2022

# RICHMOND HILL BIA SELFIE PHOTO CONTEST

We want to 'light-up' downtown Richmond Hill with YOUR faces! When you visit the Village you will see the sparkle lighting up St. Mary Immaculate Church, Ransom Park, The Richmond Hill Centre of the Performing Arts window and various places along Yonge Street between Major Mackenzie Dr. E and Crosby Ave/Benson Ave.

--> Take a selfie in front of the lights and post it online on Instagram or Facebook.

#### Contest Rules:

- 1. Post your selfie using the hashtag '#lightuprichmondhillBIA' and tagging @RichmondHillBIA on Facebook or Instagram.
- 2. Subscribe to BIA newsletter <a href="https://richmondhillbia.com/">https://richmondhillbia.com/</a>. Go to where it says "subscribe" and enter your name and email.
- 3. Like BIA Light Up post
- 4. Share BIA Light Up post with your friends
- \* The contest will run until **January 23rd, 2022**. At that time the winner will be chosen and notified by email. NOTE: Pics must be taken between Major Mackenzie Dr E and Crosby Ave/Benson Ave in the Village of Richmond Hill.
- \* PRIZES \*
- 5 \$100 Gift Certificates available to participating Richmond Hill BIA businesses. The winner will select which business they wish to receive the gift certificate to.

We look forward to seeing all your selfies! Let's light up the Village of Richmond Hill this holiday season!

#### SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

Available to offer for loved ones for a one week period. Sanctuary lamps are the red votive candles lit beside the tabernacle. To request an intention for the sanctuary lamps, please call the Parish office at 905-884-1784 during office hours.

# PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & THEIR CAREGIVERS

If you would like to mention a loved one who is sick or a caregiver caring for a sick loved one that are in need of prayers, please call the parish office at 905-884-1784 or email at stmaryimmaculateri@archtoronto.org.

Tanya Di Persio, Marco Cianfarani, Catarina Clyke, Clara Pacitti, Sandi Weinholdt, Danilo Cremonese, Stephen Ahlowalia, Nicola Papasodaro

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 27 – JANUARY 02		
Mon. Dec 27	8:00 am	+Thomas Alexander on his birthday
Tues. Dec 28	8:00 am	+Adelaide Apaya
Wed. Dec 29	8:00 am	+Virginia Lozano
Thurs. Dec 30	8:00 am	+Gabrielle Magnotta +Filomena Santopolo
Fri. Dec 31	8:00 am	Spec. Int. for Mildred Camat on her Birthday
	7:00 pm	Private Intentions
Sat. Jan 1	8:00 am	+Holy Souls of Purgatory
	9:30 am	Private Intentions
	11:00 am	Spec. Int. for Margareth Gonzaga on her 50 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Sun. Jan 2	8:00 am	+Holy Souls of Purgatory
	9:30 am	+Filomena Santopolo +Nicolino Evangelista
	11:00 am	+Rosanna Marchese
	12:30 pm	People of St. Mary Immaculate
	4:30 pm	+Pasqualina Staffieri

Wishing you a Blessed & Healthy New Year!



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