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Epiphany of the Lord

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Beloved Brothers & Sisters!

I hope you had a fantastic Christmas and a great beginning to the New Year.

Happy Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord!

Praying for you and your families.

Fr. Pawel

READINGS THIS WEEK

7 Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2.1-12
8 Isaiah 42.1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10.34-48; Mark 1.7-11
9 1 Samuel 1.9-20; Mark 1.21-28
10 1 Samuel 3.1-10, 19-20; Mark 1.29-39
11 1 Samuel 4.1c-11; Mark 1.40-45
12 1 Samuel 8.4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2.1-12
13 1 Samuel 9.1-4, 17-19; 10.1a; Mark 2.13-17

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Chalk blessing will take place at all the Masses in memory of the 3 Wise Men. Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, *Theophany*, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual is simple: take blessed chalk and write the following above the entrance of your home:

24 + C + M + B + 24

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "24" at the beginning and at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request that Christ bless those homes so marked that he stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

The Story and You™



Sacred Conversations

Solemnity of the Epiphany

The more the years go by, the more this story calls to me. There's something almost hauntingly familiar about it: the beautiful, blazing STAR, the wise astrologers watching the skies. When I see the Christmas cards with the three large visitors on the camels, purposely headed for Bethlehem, bearing their iconic gifts, I get a shiver. I feel like I'm on one of the camels, leaving everything behind because my future has always been with the One lying in a bed of straw, somewhere very near.

Last week I asked the question, "Who are YOU in the story?" I received several fascinating replies. One friend said she is the sand under the feet of the shepherds as they hastened to Bethlehem, supporting them, bearing silent witness to their mission. Another friend said he is the donkey, carrying Mary and the Child, always willing to be of service in any way.

My friend Alice Camille, author and scripture scholar, said that she longs to be the Magi, taking four years off to seek for Jesus, to take whatever roads lead to him, to find him and offer her whole life and heart as her gift. She longs for that, yes, but she knows that, at this point in her life, she's still the STAR, guiding others to Jesus while she longs to take a huge swathe of her life to seek him herself.

That's what's so compelling about the Epiphany. How could these wise foreigners, who had NEVER heard of Moses or of any promised Messiah, have left everything to follow that STAR for two years? They carried gifts, but the greatest gift was their lives. Yes, that's it. That's why this STORY calls to me.

In what ways does this STORY call to you?

Kathy McGovern ©2024 www.thestoryandyou.com

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Mon. Jan 8	Feast	The Baptism of the Lord
Fri. Jan 12	Memorial	St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Virgin
Sat. Jan 13	Memorial	St. Hilary, Bishop, Doctor

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES

The 2024 offertory envelope boxes are available for pick up and are located at the back of the Church. Envelopes are organized by the first letter of the surname. If you would like envelopes or need assistance, please contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Both programs will resume **January 14, 2024**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM CLASSES

for children that have registered with St. Mary Immaculate and have received an email from the Parish office, will begin **Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 9:45 am – 10:45 am in the Parish hall followed with Mass at 11:00 am.**

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

for students that have registered with St. Mary Immaculate and have received an email from the Parish office, will begin **Sunday, January 7, 2024 commencing with Mass at 4:30 pm followed with classes in the Parish hall from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm.**

RCIC PROGRAM CLASSES

for children receiving multiple Sacraments that have registered with St. Mary Immaculate and have received an email from the Parish office, will begin **Monday, January 8, 2024 from 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm in the Parish hall.**

CWL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held on **Thursday January 11 at 7 pm** starting with Holy Rosary in the Church followed by the meeting in the Parish hall. We welcome all members and ladies interested in joining the CWL.

JANUARY 7, 2024



Come Join Us for Our Next Exciting Bible Study on
Follow Me – Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John
Thursday mornings 9:15 am - 11:15 am
January 25, 2024 to March 14, 2024
Contact Parish office to register.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Our Parish is offering marriage preparation course.

Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Spring session: February 7- March 13, 2024

If you are planning to marry in the near future and would like to register, contact the Parish office.

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND UPDATE

On December 12, 2023 the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

Recipients include the **Indigenous Spirit Fund**, a branch of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, Ontario that will receive \$400,000 over four years to enrich their *On the Land* culture camp program curriculum.

Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO – FEBRUARY 11, 2024 AT 3:00 P.M.

As part of Marriage Sunday 2024 celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2024. The Mass will take place at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St.**

Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass.

All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversary in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass. Registration and other important information can be found at www.archtoronto.org/marriage. For questions, please email formation@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 ext. 523.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Taliyah Tiaga Hypolite, Alessio Lombardi
& Eli Raphael Palugod

We welcome you into the Church! We wish the Parents and Godparents of the newly baptized, God's blessing and protection of our Mother Mary!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF SOULS

+Marie D'Agostino, +Paul Lundy, +Rodolfo Fortuna,
+Winston Harold McKinlay & +Victoria Maria Mollicone

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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, Clelia Proia,

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.

JAN 8 - 14: THE SANCTUARY LAMPS BURN FOR:

In Thanksgiving for graces received

MASS INTENTIONS JAN 8 – JAN 14

Mon. Jan 8	8:00 am	+Kinny Lukman
Tues. Jan 9	8:00 am	+Venera Castronovo
Wed. Jan 10	8:00 am	Spec. Int. for Brandon Balthazaar
Thurs. Jan 11	8:00 am	Private Intentions
Fri. Jan 12	8:00 am	+All Souls of Purgatory
Sat. Jan 13	8:30 am	+Joselito Icao +Giuseppe Giusti In Thanksgiving for Graces received
	5:00 pm	+Althea Smith
Sun. Jan 14	8:00 am	+Angelina Palazzo
	9:30 am	+Carlo Evangelista
	11:00 am	+Olga Guerrero Naranjo +Nick Garito +Filomena Galle +Elsie Lin
	12:30 pm	People of St. Mary Immaculate
	4:30 pm	+Vincenzo Romano

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