

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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***Father, You revealed Your Son to the
nations by the guidance of a star.
Lead us to Your Glory in Heaven
by the Light of Faith.***

THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' INFANCY

Jesus' *circumcision*, on the eighth day after His birth, is the sign of His incorporation into Abraham's descendants, into the people of the covenant. It is the sign of His submission to the Law and His deputation to Israel's worship, in which He will participate throughout His life. This sign prefigures that "circumcision of Christ" which is Baptism.

The *Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with His baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship Him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel").

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #527-528.

OFFER OUR GIFTS TO THE DIVINE CHILD WITH THE MAGI (Pope John Paul II)

I want to draw your attention briefly to the attitude of the Magi. When, through the guidance given by the mysterious star, they found Mary with the Child Jesus, "they prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they... presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Modern man, too... meets with God when he opens up to Him with the interior gift of his human "ego," to accept and exchange the immense gifts which He presented to him first: the gift of existence, the gift of the Redemption, the gift of faith. And that Child, who accepted the gift of the Wise Men, is still always He before whom people and entire peoples "open their coffers," that is, their treasures.

The gifts of the human spirit take on a particular value in the act of this opening to the incarnate God; they become the treasures of the various cultures, the spiritual wealth of the peoples, and of the nations, the common patrimony of all mankind. The centre of this exchange is Christ: the same who accepted the gifts of the Magi.

He Himself, the same who is the invisible and incarnate Gift, causes opening up of souls to that exchange of gifts. Not only individuals live by them, but peoples, nations, the whole of mankind.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As we celebrate the Holy Season of Christmas, we extend to each and everyone of you prayerful wishes for a fruitful commemoration of this great feast. We celebrate this Solemnity of Our Saviour's birth with gratitude and hope. May our religious observance make us more aware of God's loving presence and more attentive to the needs of the poor in our midst. Devotedly Yours in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
Fr. Bob, Fr. Steven, Fr. Silvio, Fr. Andrea, Fr. Jim, Fr. Marco and Deacon Wayne.

2011 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES As announced last week, envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Church hall. Envelopes are organized alphabetically. For the parishioners who put their donations in previous year's envelopes, plain envelope and/or use loose cheques week after week, please help us record your donation in our accounting system by getting a box of envelopes which will be your envelope number to use. If your box is not there, or if you are new to the parish and wish to use envelopes, please call the Parish Office. **Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.**

ADULT FAITH STUDY PROGRAMME will restart on Thursday, January 6th from 1-2:30 p.m. and from 7-8:30 p.m. The topic for the day will be the Creed by Fr. Benedict Groeschel.

PLEASE NOTE that anyone wishing to have their donations included for the year 2010 must have been given by Sun., Dec. 26th. We are unable to pre-date any donations. Thank you for your support.

"THE LOVE OF CHRIST IMPELS US" to radically respond to His call to follow Him whole-heartedly. Jesus is inviting you to spend some time with Him so that you may discover His call. There will be an opportunity for young men of 18 years or older to spend a weekend for time of prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples through the Catholic priesthood on Feb. 4-6 at St. Augustine's Seminary. For information, please call 416-968-0997.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR begins on Wed., January 12 from 7-9 p.m. for 8 weeks. For info or to register, please call Pina at 905-832-1812.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential info or to register for the Jan. 28-30 weekend, please call 416-281-6007 or visit www.torontoretrouvaille.com

The Lord has made His salvation known to the whole world (Pope St. Leo the Great)

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days He would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judaea only, but in the whole world, so that His name may be great in all Israel.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, who has made us worthy, in the words of the Apostle, to share the position of the saints in light, who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son. As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know You, will invoke You, and the peoples, who knew You not, will take refuge in You.

This is the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised. This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: All the nations that You have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in Your presence, Lord, and glorify Your name. Again, the Lord has made known His salvation; in the sight of the nations He has revealed His justice. This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

2 gennaio 2010 - Epifania del Signore

“La Provvidenza misericordiosa, avendo deciso di soccorrere negli ultimi tempi il mondo che andava in rovina, stabilì che la salvezza di tutti i popoli si compisse nel Cristo. ... Tutti i popoli, rappresentati dai tre magi, adorino il Creatore dell'universo, e Dio sia conosciuto non nella Giudea soltanto, ma in tutta la terra, perché ovunque «in Israele sia grande il suo nome» (cfr. Sal 75, 2). Figli carissimi, ammaestrati da questi misteri della grazia divina, celebriamo nella gioia dello spirito il giorno della nostra nascita e l'inizio della chiamata alla fede di tutte le genti. Ringraziamo Dio misericordioso che, come afferma l'Apostolo, «ci ha messo in grado di partecipare alla sorte dei santi nella luce. E' lui che ci ha liberati dal potere delle tenebre e ci ha trasferiti nel regno del suo Figlio diletto» (Col 1, 12-13). ... Tutto questo, lo sappiamo, si è realizzato quando i tre magi, chiamati dai loro lontani paesi, furono condotti da una stella a conoscere e adorare il Re del cielo e della terra. Questa stella ci esorta particolarmente a imitare il servizio che essa prestò, nel senso che dobbiamo seguire, con tutte le nostre forze, la grazia che invita tutti al Cristo. In questo impegno, miei cari, dovete tutti aiutarvi l'un l'altro. Risplendete così come figli della luce nel regno di Dio, dove conducono la retta fede e le buone opere. Per il nostro Signore Gesù Cristo che con Dio Padre e con lo Spirito Santo vive e regna per tutti i secoli dei secoli. Amen. (S. Leone Magno).”

Signore, Padre mio, davvero io ho visto la tua stella, ho aperto i miei occhi alla tua presenza d'amore e di salvezza e ho ricevuto la luce della vita. Ho contemplato la notte trasformata in chiarore, il dolore in danza, la solitudine in comunione: tutto questo, sì, è avvenuto davanti a Te, nella tua Parola. Tu mi hai condotto per il deserto, mi hai fatto arrivare alla tua casa e hai aperto la porta, perché io entrassi. Lì ho visto Te, il Figlio tuo Gesù, Salvatore della mia vita; lì ho pregato e adorato, ho pianto e ho ritrovato il sorriso, ho fatto silenzio e ho imparato a parlare. A casa tua, o Padre misericordioso, ho ritrovato la vita! E adesso sto ritornando, ho ripreso il mio cammino, ma la via non è più quella di prima; la tua Parola mi ha lasciato un cuore nuovo, capace di aprirsi, per amare, per ascoltare, per accogliere dentro di sé e farsi casa a tanti fratelli e sorelle che tu mi metterai accanto. Non me ne accorgevo, Signore, ma tu mi hai fatto ritornare bambino, mi hai fatto nascere insieme a Gesù. Grazie, Padre, Padre mio!

AVVISI

1. Vi si invita a prendere le buste per le offerte del nuovo anno.
2. Si organizza la festa della famiglia per l'8 gennaio. Chi volesse, potrebbe portare panettone o spumante da condividere. Per iscriversi, chiamate Antonietta Miniaci (905-737-3210) o Rosa Marsella (905-731-9175).

MASS INTENTIONS**Jan. 2-8**

- SUN. 9:30 a.m.** +Gabriele Magnotta
+Angelo Pacitto
+Antonio & Joe Molinaro
+Luigi & Maria Troiano
+Giovanna Risi
+Holy Souls in Purgatory
Intentions of our Holy Father
- MON. 8:00 a.m.** +Spec. Int. & Thanksgiving
for the Saul Family
- TUE. 8:00 a.m.** +Angela Mazzotta
- WED. 8:00 a.m.** +Mr. & Mrs. Hong Chow
7:00 p.m. In honour of St. Joseph
+Danny Belli
Holy Souls in Purgatory
Intentions of our Holy Father
Intentions of the SMI priests
For an increase in vocations
- THURS. 8:00 a.m.** +Davis Ahlowalia
+Michaelangelo Montano
- FRI. 8:00 a.m.** Holy Souls in Purgatory
7:00 p.m. In reparation to the Sacred
Heart of Jesus
Spec. Int. of Albina
Comendador
+Yolanda Taricano
+Mario Pagnacco
+Secondo Moschetta
+George Bronetto
+Deceased Members of the
Naughton Family
+Herbert, Catherine & Patrick
Paxton
Holy Souls in Purgatory
- SAT. 9:00 a.m.** In reparation to the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
In Thanksgiving
Spec. Int. of Rose Donnelly
+Aldo Malfara
+Norberto Gomes & deceased
family members
+Deceased Members of the
Paxton family
+Deceased Members of the
Madden & Winton Families
Holy Souls in Purgatory
Intentions of our Holy Father

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK

Winifred Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, David Canivet, Esmey, Peter Christoff, Manuela Clement, James Davidson, Caterina & Dominic De Grano, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Godfrey Gosein, Gertiudes Henriques, Theresa Hogan, Margaret Kelly, Olivera Lambeta, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Margaret McConnell, Paul Melotte, Anthony Morse, Susan, Myola Nunes, Michael & Michelle Osborne, Domenico Pileggi, Louis Pomeroy, Todd Santaguida, Vincenzo Sorbara, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Abigail Walz, Sandra Weinholdt, Kathleen Whelan, Ted Zygmunt.

RECENTLY SEPARATED OR DIVORCED CATHOLICS

are invited to attend a 10-week program (Feb. 8-Apr. 12) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Catholic Family Svcs., 5799 Yonge St., Ste. 300 for those who are dealing with the many struggles involved in the process of separation and divorce. For info, please call Mario at 416-222-0048.

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