

# *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.*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,...* This Feast of the Epiphany is a very ancient Feast whose origins date back to the Christian East and which highlights the mystery of the manifestation of Jesus Christ to all peoples, represented by the Magi who came to worship the King of the Jews just born in Bethlehem, as St Matthew's Gospel recounts (cf. 2:1-12). This "new light" that was lit on Christmas night (cf. *Preface of Christmas I*) is beginning to shine on the world today, as the image of the star suggests, a heavenly portent that attracted the attention of the Magi and guided them on their journey to Judea.

The entire season of Christmas and Epiphany is marked by the theme of light. In the northern hemisphere this is also linked to the fact that after the winter solstice the days begin to lengthen in comparison with the nights. However, Christ's word applies for all peoples, over and above their geographical location: "I Am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn 8:12). Jesus is the sun that appeared on humanity's horizon to illumine the personal existence of every one of us and to guide us all together toward the destination of our pilgrimage, toward the land of freedom and peace in which we shall live forever in full communion with God and with each other. Christ entrusted the proclamation of this mystery of salvation to His Church.

St Paul writes: "It has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (Eph 3:5-6). The invitation that the Prophet Isaiah addressed to the Holy City Jerusalem may be applied to the Church: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you" (Is 60:1-2).

And so it is, as the Prophet tells us: the world, with all its resources is unable to give humanity the light to guide it on its journey. We find this in our day too: the western civilization seems to have lost its bearings and is navigating by sight. Nevertheless the Church, thanks to the Word of God, sees through the fog. She has no technical solutions but keeps her gaze fixed on the destination and offers the light of the Gospel to all people of good will, whatever their nation and culture. ... Let us give thanks for the gift of faith and support the worldwide mission of the Church by bearing generous witness, in word and deed, to Jesus Our Saviour. (*Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 6 Jan. 2012*)

**FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT** begins at 3:00 p.m. with the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. **Eucharistic Holy Hour** will begin at 6:00 p.m. with Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Holy Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. In order for the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed at least two adorers should be present in the Church at all times.

### 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.*

### 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. Marco, Fr. Jim, and Deacon Joseph**

**THE SANCTUARY LAMPS THIS WEEK BURN:**  
In Thanksgiving to Our Lord Jesus Christ

**2013-2014 SUNDAY MISSALS** are available from the parish office. Cost: \$5.00. The Missals will also be on sale next weekend at the Church entrance.

**TWO HEARTS ROSARY PRAYER GROUP** invites everyone to pray the 4 mysteries of the Rosary on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Church.

### THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

**Tuesday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, St. Andre Bessette, Religious.** Known to millions simply as Brother Andre, Alfred Bessette was born in Quebec in 1845 and orphaned by the age of 12. In 1870, he joined the congregation of the Holy Cross and in 30 years gained a reputation throughout the city as the "Miracle Man of Montreal." During his life, Brother Andre devoted his efforts to building the Oratory, which was to become the world's greatest sanctuary dedicated to St. Joseph.

**ST. BENEDICT PRAYER BOOK** Published by Downside Abbey in England, this prayer book contains an abridged version of morning (Lauds) and evening prayer (Vespers) as well as night prayer (Compline). This is an excellent prayer book for those who would like to deepen their prayer life and begin to pray in a serious manner. Hardbound. \$21. Endorsed and recommended by Fr. Marco. To order, please call the parish office.

**2014 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES** are ready to be picked up in the Church hall. Envelopes are organized numerically. 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. **Please do not use your old envelopes as they may have been reassigned.** Please use 2014 envelopes in 2014. **Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.**

**ATTENTION ALL CWL MEMBERS AND LADIES OF THE PARISH!** the first CWL General Meeting is on Tuesday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. Come and join us in Prayer and Action and be a part of this vibrant Ministry in our Parish community.

**THINKING ABOUT SEPARATION OR DIVORCE?** Is your marriage or that of your relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage or do you feel helpless? **Retrouvaille, a Catholic based programme,** is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information about or to register for the live-in weekend and Post sessions, call 416-281-6007 or visit the web site at [www.torontoretrouvaille.com](http://www.torontoretrouvaille.com)

On this day illumined by the Gospel hope which springs from the humble stable of Bethlehem, I invoke the Christmas gift of joy and peace upon all: upon children and the elderly, upon young people and families, the poor and the marginalized. May Jesus, who was born for us, console all those afflicted by illness and suffering; may He sustain those who devote themselves to serving our brothers and sisters who are most in need. Happy Christmas!" **- Pope Francis**

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do. **-Bl. John XXIII**

## **Il Signore ha manifestato in tutto il mondo la sua salvezza**

*Dai «Discorsi» di san Leone Magno, papa (Disc. 3 per l'Epifania, 1-3. 5; Pl 54, 240-244)*  
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. Un tempo era stata promessa ad Abramo una innumerevole discendenza che sarebbe stata generata non secondo la carne, ma nella fecondità della fede: essa era stata paragonata alla moltitudine delle stelle perché il padre di tutte le genti si attendesse non una stirpe terrena, ma celeste. Entri, entri dunque nella famiglia dei patriarchi la grande massa delle genti, e i figli della promessa ricevano la benedizione come stirpe di Abramo, mentre a questa rinunziano i figli del suo sangue. 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). L'aveva annunciato Isaia: Il popolo dei Gentili, che sedeva nelle tenebre, vide una grande luce e su quanti abitavano nella terra tenebrosa una luce rifulse (cfr. Is 9, 1). Di essi ancora Isaia dice al Signore: «Popoli che non ti conoscono ti invocheranno, e popoli che ti ignorano accorreranno a te» (cfr. Is 55, 5).

«Abramo vide questo giorno e gioì» (cfr. Gv 8, 56). Gioì quando conobbe che i figli della sua fede sarebbero stati benedetti nella sua discendenza, cioè nel Cristo, e quando intravide che per la sua fede sarebbe diventato padre di tutti i popoli. Diede gloria a Dio, pienamente convinto che quanto il Signore aveva promesso lo avrebbe attuato (Rm 4, 20-21). Questo giorno cantava nei salmi David dicendo: «Tutti i popoli che hai creato verranno e si prostreranno davanti a te, o Signore, per dare gloria al tuo nome» (Sal 85, 9); e ancora: «Il Signore ha manifestato la sua salvezza, agli occhi dei popoli ha rivelato la sua giustizia» (Sal 97, 2). 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.

**MASS INTENTIONS****Jan. 5 - 11**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	+Giuseppe Renda +Bruno Carnevale +Paul Joseph Ricciardi +Michael Nunno +Anna e Angelo Di Gravina +Antonio e Annunziata Ventrella +Emma Pisano
<b>MON.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	+Michaelangelo Montano +Davis Ahlowalia
<b>TUE.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	+Jillianne Gabriel
<b>WED.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	In honour of St. Joseph
<b>THURS</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	Intentions of the SMI Rosary Prayer Group
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	+Holy Souls in Purgatory In Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Members of the Paxton & Naughton Families In Thanksgiving – Maria Gomes +Angelo & Antonietta Carino Intentions of the Bunda Kim Family
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary +Intentions of Grace & Joseph Intentions of Giuseppe & Graziella Mazzobel

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK:** Ursula Addesi, Doris Anderson, Eugene Bomba, Matteo Burbano, Patrick Burke, Rory Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, Victoria Carli, Bruno Cassara, Andrea Cavallin, Joe Cinno, Alan & Carol Cook, Manuela Clement, Caterina De Grano, Thomas De Souza, Harry Dekharmenjan, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Margaret Gardiner, Jessica Gonzales, Godfrey Gosein, Carmela Harrison, Gertiudes Henriques, Andy Heutehaus, Theresa Hogan, Lawrence Howe, Elena Iacobelli, Rogelia Infante, Maria Iudiciani, Terry Jennings, Jolanta Karabowicz, Margaret Kelly, Derek Lai, Olivera Lambeta, Mary Malandrino, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Veronica Martin, Marguerite McRae, Paul Melotte, Rachelle (Joy Ann) Mendoza, George Morgan, Anthony Morse, Susan, Nino Naccarato, Lydia, Michelle Antoinette Nedvedskaya, Helen & Catherine, Myola Nunes, Rosemary Palmieri, Lisa, Domenico Pileggi, Kaliopi & Eugenia Pandelopoulou, Esther Reyes, Todd Santaguida, Werner & Lucienne Schachatsiek, Claire Schickedanz, Vincenzo Sorbara, Pat Sullivan, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Nora Waldherr, Abigail Walz, Sandra Weinholdt, Kayla Whelan.

**HANDMADE ROSARIES (Brigittine or Dominican)** are available for purchase from the Parish Office.

Let go of your plans. The first hour of your morning belongs to God. Tackle the day's work that He charges you with, and He will give you the power to accomplish it." **-St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**

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