

St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church

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Parish Staff

Rev. Piotr Machnacki, SAC, Pastor

Rev. Jacek Kryn, SAC, Associate Pastor

Rev. Mr. Randy Matters, Deacon

Peter Posocco, Music Director



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



Monday, January 2

8:00 a.m.

6:30 p.m. + Waclaw Wojtkowski

Tuesday, January 3

9:00a.m.

6:30p.m. Za Parafian i Krucjate

Wednesday, January 4

8:00 a.m.+ Susan Gilmore

Holy Hour and Benediction after Mass

6:30p.m. Za czlonkow Zywego Rozanca

Thursday, January 5

8:00 a.m.

6:30 p.m.+ Genowefa Ludwik Osika

First Friday, January 6

8:00 a.m.

5:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Hour of Adoration

5:35 p.m.- 6:15 p.m. Confessions

6:30 p.m. Rozalia i Mikolaj Nowakowski

First Saturday, January 7 (Polish/English Mass)

9:00a.m. (L) Jonathan Waldron

4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Confession

5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. **Mass for Parish Volunteers**

Sunday, January 8

8:00 a.m. Pastoral Intention

9:15 a.m. + Adolf Klakulak i Julia Ragono

11:00 a.m. For all Parishioners

12:30 p.m. + Waclaw Wojtkowski

Divine Mercy Hour of Adoration - Every Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. there is an hour of Adoration devoted to the Divine Mercy. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed in Polish and English. Please join us in an hour of devout prayer.

Mass Requests

Please come to the office to arrange Mass dates for your intentions. Please do not leave money in the Narthex. Thank you.

Missals and Hymnals

Please do not remove Missals and/or hymnals from the Church. Parishioners need to use them. If you wish, you may purchase your own copy from the parish store.

OUR PARISH NEWS

Mass for Parish Volunteers

This parish runs because of the generosity of our volunteers. We invite all volunteers to a special Mass on Saturday, Jan 7, 2017 @ 7 p.m. If you can join us, after Mass for refreshments in the Parish Centre, please sign the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you.

Parish Store Purchases

Our parish store stocks Catholic items. Browse Catholic books, rosaries, scapulars, jewelery and varied gift items. The Sunday Missal is available for sale @ \$5 per copy. We also stock the brown hymnal. Store open after Sunday Masses or by appointment

Volunteer Cleaners

If you signed up to be a cleaner volunteer, you have been assigned to a team. Once a month, you are asked to please come and assist your team. If you cannot come, please exchange with a member from another team. We need to have a full force of cleaners for the job to be done. If you do not have a schedule, there are copies in the Narthex. Each team should elect a team leader so that all tasks will be evenly distributed and completed. Thank so much for your help in maintaining our beautiful church.

Snow Removal

Winter is here. Can you assist with the snow removal of the parish sidewalks? They will need to be cleared of snow and salted every weekday morning before Mass begins. If you are available and wish to assist, please contact Father Peter, the pastor.

Maintenance Committee

Are you a handy person? A tradesperson? Do you enjoy doing repairs and renovations? Join the parish Maintenance Committee. Call our parishioner, **Les Mis 905-333-6496**

THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE THE GIFT OF SWING

THE BURLINGTON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ARE PRESENTING A TRIBUTE TO DEAN MARTIN & ELLA FITZGERALD WITH THE TORONTO ALL-STAR BIG BAND!

When: Sunday, January 29, 2017, 2:00 p.m. MATINEE
Where: The Burlington Performing Arts Centre
Enjoy a terrific afternoon of Swing with your friends. You can reserve your "GIFT OF SWING" by calling the box office at 905-681-6000. The ticket price is only \$45.00.

Mass in Latin

Beginning in January 2017, the Saturday morning 9 a.m. Mass will be celebrated in Latin.

In our Diocese

Embracing the Wisdom of Monks & Mystics A Senior Adult Workshop Series 6 Wednesday afternoons, starting Jan. 11, 2017 1:30- 3:30pm Chancery Office - Hamilton This 6 part workshop/study session will explore the lives of twelve great monks & mystics from the Christian tradition in new & creative ways. This course will be facilitated by Sister Mary Heather MacKinnon SSND. The cost will be \$35 and includes the text, *Illuminating the Way*, by Christine ValtersPaintner. Please register by Dec. 22 2016. For further information please contact Monica at mverin@hamiltondiocese.com or 905-52807988 ext. 2238 Or check the website, www.hamiltondiocese.com for info.

Epiphany

The Epiphany commemorates the mysterious visit of the *magi* to the Baby Jesus.

What does the word "Epiphany" mean?

"Epiphany" means "manifestation."

An epiphany is a time when something is shown, displayed, or manifested to an audience.

What is the feast of the Epiphany about?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour 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 neighbouring 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 Saviour 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") [CCC 528].

Who were the *Magi*?

Magi are understood to be members of the Persian priestly caste. For the *Magi* in Matthew 2, even if they were not exactly members of the Persian priesthood, they were nevertheless custodians of religious and philosophical knowledge that had developed in that area and continued to be cultivated there.

What was the star? It is hard to know. Some question whether the star was a natural phenomenon at all, pointing out that it seems to lead the *magi* to Jerusalem, disappear, and then reappear and hover over the house in Bethlehem.

Custom of marking door with chalk

On the feast of Epiphany, some families mark over the door with chalk. The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 17. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three *magi*: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2017 is the year.

Blessing for the Chalk

V. Our help is the name of the Lord.

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

R. From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 17 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer: Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

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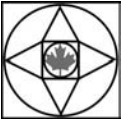


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