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Epiphany of the Lord



We have come to Homage Him.



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 ©2025 www.thestoryandyou.com

THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Tues. Jan 7	Memorial	St. Andre Bessette, Religious
Wed. Jan 8	Memorial	St. Raymond de penyafort, Priest

READINGS THIS WEEK

- 5 Isaiah 60.1-6: Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6: Matthew 2.1-12
- 6 1 John 3.22 – 4.6: Matthew 4.12-17, 23-25
- 7 1 John 4.7-10: Mark 6.34-44
- 8 1 John 4.11-18: Mark 6.45-52
- 9 1 John 4.19 – 5.4: Luke 4.14-22a
- 10 1 John 5.5-13: Luke 5.12-16
- 11 1 John 5.14-21: John 3.22-30

2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES

The 2025 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 your surname.** Your envelope number may have changed due to reshuffling of the numbers. Please do not use previous years’ envelopes. If you are new to the Parish and would like envelopes or need assistance, please contact the parish office.

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:

20 + C + M + B + 25

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, 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 “20” at the beginning and “25” at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request that Christ bless those homes so marked that he stays with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM & CHILDREN’S LITURGY

Both programs will resume on **Sunday, January 12, 2025.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM CLASSES

for children that have registered with St. Mary Immaculate and have already received an email from the Parish office, will begin **Sunday, January 12, 2025 from 9:15 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 already received an email from the Parish office, will begin **Sunday, January 12, 2025 from 2:45 pm – 4:15 pm in the Parish hall followed with Mass at 4:30 pm.**

RCIC PROGRAM CLASSES

for children receiving multiple Sacraments that have registered with St. Mary Immaculate and have already received an email from the Parish office, will begin **Monday, January 13, 2025 from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm in the Parish hall.**

COR MEN’S GROUP

Calling all men of the Parish!

St. Mary Immaculate and the Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce the formation of the **COR Men’s Group**. Open to ALL men of the parish, including family and friends. What is COR? COR is the Latin word for ‘Heart’ and the root of the word ‘courage’. The focus of the program is to help men reconnect with God through prayer and fellowship. Getting us in touch with God’s design for men to be better sons, fathers, husbands and true servants of God. The group will meet on the **1st Saturday of every month from 7:00 am to 8:15 a.m. in the church hall.** Light refreshment will be served followed by a short video and discussion regarding Catholic masculinity in today’s society. Lastly, we will close with group prayer. The group presentations will be led by our very own Deacon Joseph D’Amico. The first meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 1st at 7 a.m.** Come join us to discover what it means to be a man in God’s eyes. Seek greatness in virtue and character marked with goodness, truth, strength and courage to fight for Christ. Please let us know if you are interested in

JANUARY 5, 2025

participating in the COR program by sending an email with your name and contact details to COR.kofc5957@gmail.com.

YEAR OF JUBILEE – PILGRIMAGE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Archdiocese of Toronto’s Office of Catholic Youth is excited to announce that the Jubilee for Youth is filling up fast, with 60 per cent of our 100 spots already taken! The pilgrimage to Rome will take place from July 23 to August 5. Registrations are open to all young adults ages 19 to 39 until the end of February 2025, so there’s still time to secure a spot. Don’t miss out—register today at [https://form.jotform.com/242754342056253!](https://form.jotform.com/242754342056253)

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
PRAYER SERVICE 2025

Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, 4 p.m. EST

Venue: North City Church (Toronto District Christian High School, Highway 7/Kipling Ave.)
377 Woodbridge Ave., Woodbridge, L4L 2V7

Theme: “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26)

Join Bishop John A. Boissonneau (Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto) and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for His Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches and celebrates the 1,700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.

offered Monday to Friday at 7:00 pm. Contact the Parish office for more information or to schedule a Mass.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Our Parish offers marriage preparation course.

Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Spring 2025 session: March 5 – April 9

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

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, Lester Camat, Ernie Ting, Paula Chorostil, Sarain, Marisa, Maria Simoes, Monica Cozzolino

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 6 - 12: THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS FOR:
Spec. Int. for Carmela Volpe

 **MARK your CALENDAR**

St. Mary Immaculate’s Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Europe, under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Shibil, our Pastor. Date will be from **August 16 to 29, 2025**. QS Travel and Tours are arranging a Jubilee Pilgrimage to the main spiritual Centres of the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy. If interested, an itinerary with more details is available on the tables at all the entrances to the Church and on our website.

VOCATIONS

Epiphany of the Lord - January 5, 2025

“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ’s name? If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

Email: vocations@archtoronto.org
Website: www.vocationstoronto.ca

FATIMA GIFT SHOP

Visit the Fatima Gift shop. Beautiful religious items are available for any occasion.

Hours

Saturday: 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Wednesday: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

MEMORIAL MASSES

Memorial Masses are now being offered for the one month or one year anniversary of deceased loved ones. Masses will be

MASS INTENTIONS JAN 6 – JAN 12

Mon. Jan 6	8:00 am	+Davis Ahlowalia
Tues. Jan 7	8:00 am	+Gorgonia Julogan Spec. Int. for Carol Morra
Wed. Jan 8	8:00 am	Spec. Int. for Jack Chow
Thurs. Jan 9	8:00 am	+Chang Joon Yu
Fri. Jan 10	8:00 am	Private Intentions
Sat. Jan 11	8:30 am	+All Souls in Purgatory
	5:00 pm	Private Intentions
Sun. Jan 12	8:00 am	Spec. Int. for Giuseppe Mazzobel Spec. Int. for Graziella Mazzobel
	9:30 am	+All Souls in Purgatory
	11:00 am	+Sidney & +Adeline Carvalho +Benito Romeo +Filomena Galle +Victoria D’Lima Grey +Henry Karaillah
	12:30 pm	People of St. Mary Immaculate
	4:30 pm	+William Patrick Myers

Wishing you a Blessed & Healthy New Year!

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