

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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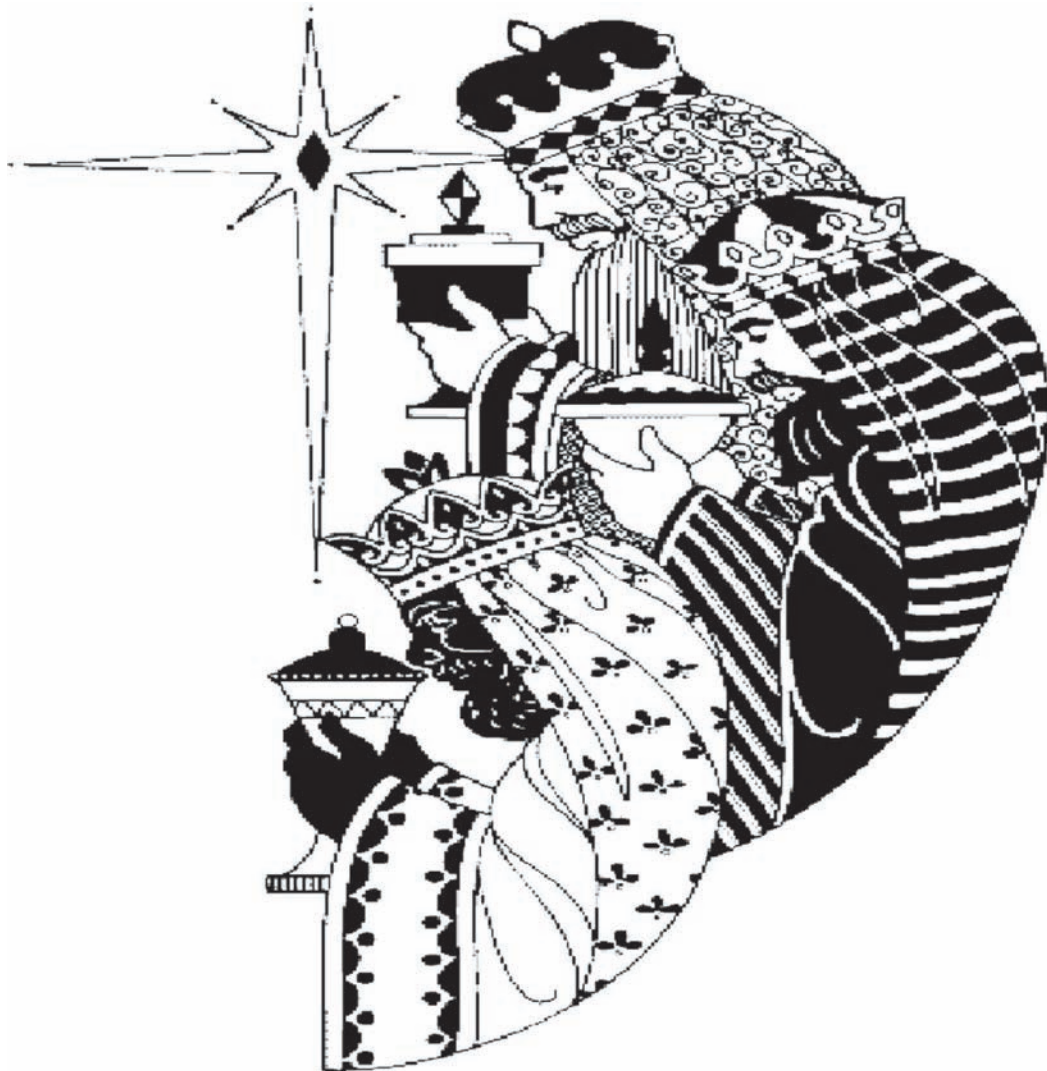
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Rev. Fr. Charles Collins, Administrator

Rev. Fr. Peter Gitendran, In Residence



*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.*

Being a Visible Witness
The Visit of the Wise Men
 Matthew 2:1-12

As we continue along in this wondrous season of Christmas, we are invited to reflect on the Epiphany of the Lord this Sunday. The word epiphany means “to make manifest” or “to make known.” So on this feast day we are celebrating how God made himself known to all the nations, which is symbolized through the visit of the foreign Magi. As stewards, we are called to help the Church in her efforts to continue to make Christ known to the ends of the earth.

The way of stewardship is essentially a call to evangelization. The greatest gift we can share with others is not money or food, but the knowledge and love of Christ. Pope Francis says that, “we cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel!” We must go out of our comfort zone to bring others to Jesus.

One way we can evangelize others is by simply living as visible Catholic disciples in our world. In today’s secular culture, any act of religiosity is seen as a radical witness of our faith. For example, whenever we are eating in public, we can begin with the sign of the cross and our grace before meals. Moreover, St. John Paul II said that we should not be “ashamed to recite the Rosary alone, while you walk along the streets to school, to the university or to work, or as you commute by public transport.” Let us strive to be a sign of our faith to the world.

Summary

The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord celebrates how God made himself known to all the nations, which is symbolized through the visit of the foreign Magi. As stewards, we are called to help the Church in her efforts to make Christ known to the ends of the earth and we can do this by simply being a visible witness of our faith. Let us strive to make small actions that display our love for Christ such as saying grace before meals in public, praying the rosary on the bus or saying “God bless you” when someone sneezes or we say goodbye.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Pope Francis has launched the Synod on Synodality: a two-year global process of listening to the faithful that will help the Church reflect on how we can do God’s will in the world today. The comments of the faithful will ultimately be discussed at a meeting of the bishops in the Vatican in 2023. To learn more about the Synod on Synodality and to share your thoughts, please visit: www.archtoronto.org/synodality.



Thursday, December 23rd, 2021 to
Thursday, January 6th, 2022
 Merry Christmas & many Blessings
 in the New Year! *Clergy & Staff*



This week
The Sanctuary Lamp
is dedicated
 For the repose of the soul of
FLORIMOND SAVERIMUTHU
requested by
The Legion of Mary
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish



Mass Intentions

| | | | |
|-------|--------|----------|---|
| Mon. | Jan. 3 | 12:05 pm | For the good health & intentions of Jane & Claude Rocha, <i>requested by William Rocha</i> |
| Tue. | Jan. 4 | 12:05 pm | In thanksgiving, <i>requested by Linda Quial</i> |
| Wed. | Jan. 5 | 12:05 pm | † Kathleen & Victor Hogg and other deceased members of the family, <i>requested by Maria & David Hogg</i> |
| Thur. | Jan. 6 | 12:05 pm | † John Comper, <i>requested by Antoinetta Morra</i> |
| Fri. | Jan. 7 | 5:00 pm | † Michele Morra, <i>requested by Antionetta Morra</i> |
| Sat. | Jan. 8 | 9:00 am | In thanksgiving, <i>requested by the Galase family</i> |
| | | 5:00 pm | For the People of the Parish |
| Sun. | Jan. 9 | 9:00 am | † Florimond Saverimuthu, <i>requested by Alice & Brian Warford</i> |
| | | 11:00 am | † Pereira & Rebello families, <i>requested by the Pereira family</i> |

2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Your envelopes are now ready for pickup. Please ensure that the box has your correct name & number. Extra boxes are available if you wish to use envelopes – kindly ask one of the volunteers.



Thank you for supporting your parish!

Updating Your Parish Records

Have you moved, changed your telephone # or email address and currently, not receiving our parish emails? If so, please contact the parish office or fill out a Parish Registration Form to keep your records up-to-date as year-end is fast approaching.

Thank you!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/CONFESSION & CONFIRMATION



Registration will begin on December 12th and will close on January 23rd. Forms are now available at the church entrance



and also through the Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

Classes will begin in February. Due to Covid-19, class sizes will be limited and there will be more than one class each weekend. More information will be made available once we know how many have been registered.

For more information, please contact:

awarford@archtoronto.org.

Thank you for your patience!

SERRA'S 'VOCATION SEEDS'

"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

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES OF TORONTO'S ONLINE COUNSELLING SESSIONS

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is now offering online quick access single sessions. Single-session counselling is a quick and effective way for individuals, couples or families to address a mental health or relationship concern. To arrange for a session, please contact: info@cfstoronto.com or 416-921-1163 or 416-222-0048. Leave us a message with your name, email and phone number, and a staff person will contact you. Clients who are interested in pursuing other or additional services in the agency have the option to access our ongoing counselling, wellness or group programs. Counselling fees are charged according to a client's income level. No one is denied service because of their inability to pay fees.

Reflection

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

"Epiphany" means manifestation. And, the "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it's also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were "wise men" who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was



coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood

the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the "star" that God is using to call you. It's closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself? When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

PRAYER: Lord, I love You and adore You. I lay my life before You and surrender all. You are my Divine King and Savior. My life is Yours. (Pray three times and then prostrate yourself before the Lord) Jesus, I trust in You.

~ taken from 'Catholic Daily reflection' ~



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