

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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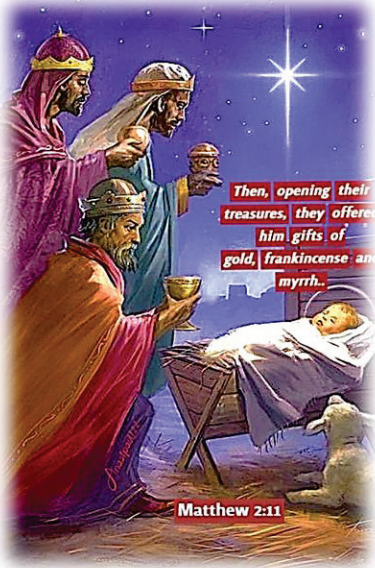


Epiphany of the Lord

Becoming a Star

The Visit of the Wise Men Matthew 2.1-12

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. This feast day invites us to reflect on the revelation of Christ to humanity. One principle episode that the Epiphany celebrates is the visit of the Magi. The Magi represents the Gentiles and all nations coming to know and worship Christ.



St. Leo the Great said that this revelation “*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.*”

As stewards, we should strive to be like that great star that led the Magi to encounter Christ. The star, as spectacular as it was, did not draw the Magi to itself but instead pointed towards Christ. So too, when we perform acts of stewardship and charity we should not take the glory or expect people to sing our praises. We should rather strive to remain humble and direct any praise to Christ who always sustains us in our good works. Moreover, the star stood out from the rest of the stars in the sky. As stewards, the joy of the Gospel should be our identifying characteristic. Therefore, let us strive to imitate that great star and joyfully point others to an encounter with Christ our Saviour.

Summary

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord where we reflect on the revelation of Christ to humanity. As stewards, we should strive to be like that great star that did not draw the Magi to itself but instead pointed towards Christ. We should try our best to remain humble and direct any praise to Christ who always sustains us in our good works.

~ Stewardship Bulletin Reflection – Archdiocese of Toronto ~

PARISH REGISTRATION FORMS

New Parishioners are welcome!

Registration forms are available in the literature rack in the foyer of the church or contact the parish office or visit our parish website for a downloadable at the following link:

<https://immaculateheartofmarysc.archtoronto.org/en/parish-life/downloadable-forms/>



Mass Intentions

Monday	Jan. 8	10:00 am	† Frank McNulty, requested by Alice & Brian Warford
Tuesday	Jan. 9	12:05 pm	
Wednesday	Jan. 10	12:05 pm	
Thursday	Jan. 11	12:05 pm	
Friday	Jan. 12	12:05 pm	† Farid Daniel, requested by Carol Morra
Saturday	Jan. 13	9:00 am	
		5:00 pm	† Belen & Ramon Bedana, requested by Leo & Virgie Luzano
Sunday	Jan. 14	9:00 am	† Caroline Colaris, requested by Albert Colaris & family
		11:00 am	† Hubert Pereira, requested by Pereira family



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO Serra's 'Vocation Seeds'

The Son of God was first manifested to the world through the visit of the magi. Today, God's Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His Church. If you think that God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

Email: vocations@archtoronto.org

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Will be available for pick up after all Masses or at the parish office.

Tips:

- ◆ Ensure that the box of offertory has your correct name and address.
- ◆ Prior to using the 2024 envelopes, please **DISCARD** all 2023 and previous years envelopes.
- ◆ Fill out all information on the first FOUR envelopes that you use. **Please print clearly.**



LIVESTREAM MASSES UPDATE

Effective January 2, 2024, Masses will no longer be livestreamed during the week except on Sundays at the 11:00 am Mass.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE MOST REV. FRANCIS LEO

“Seeking The Kingdom of God Above
and Beyond All Other Things”



Archbishop Francis Leo has released a Pastoral Letter to the Church of God in the Archdiocese of Toronto, entitled, “*Seeking The Kingdom of God Above and Beyond All Other Things*”. This significant reflection from our spiritual shepherd is intended to offer a

theological, spiritual, and pastoral meditation as we embark upon a New Year and our collective efforts to build and strengthen the Kingdom of God throughout our archdiocese.

The Pastoral Letter can be accessed by visiting the archdiocesan website at: www.archtoronto.org.

10 SIMPLE SPIRITUAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

by Fr. Edward Looney

Losing weight, eating healthier, exercising more regularly, getting more sleep, or quitting a bad habit probably top your New Year’s resolution list. Have you thought about making a spiritual resolution for the new year? It’s great to focus on physical health, but what about your spiritual health? What might a spiritual resolution look like? Allow me to share a few examples:

1. Begin your day with the Morning Offering

What is the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning? Hit the snooze button? Roll over? Complain that you need more sleep? St. Josemaría Escrivá wrote about the heroic minute, meaning that once the alarm rings, get up, and say a prayer. There is a traditional prayer you could learn called the Morning Offering. It’s a beautiful prayer which helps us give to God everything we will do during the day.

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

2. Daily or weekly rosary

Many Catholics learned the rosary as a child. Some pray it every day. Others occasionally. And the rest, rarely. The rosary is a great way for us to reflect on the life of Jesus and Mary, and to pray with the scriptures. Not only that, at Fatima, Mary asked us to pray the rosary daily for peace in the world. Maybe 2024 is the year to take the rosary

more seriously. If you are a new to the rosary, begin with a decade each day, and move your way up. Pray it once a week. Or strive to pray it daily. Give the rosary a chance.

3. Meatless Fridays

Canon law 1250 says: “The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.” We typically think meatless Fridays pertains only to Lent, but it is encouraged year-round. Some conferences of Catholic bishops have re-instituted the practice for every Friday. Consider being a bit more conscious about your Friday meals, and perhaps plan to abstain from meat.

4. Weekly Stations

Not able to abstain from meat on Fridays? Canon law also suggests some other suitable form of penance in place of abstinence. For me, if I don’t do meatless Fridays, I choose to pray the Stations of the Cross as my “suitable form of penance.” It allows me to recall Christ’s passion and death, and most importantly the reason why we abstain from meat on Fridays. The Stations aren’t just meant for Lent, you can pray them anytime of the year.

5. Pray through a devotional book

There are many devotional books, filled with meditations that will help us deepen our relationship with God. There are two I’ll be tackling in the early days of 2019: *Called: Becoming an Everyday Disciple in a Post-Christian World — A Five-Week Guide* by Kevin Cotter (Ave Maria Press, 2018) and *52 Weeks with Saint Faustina: A Year of Grace and Mercy* by Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle (Marian Press, 2019). If you are looking for a Marian meditation book, I recommend my 31 daily devotional, *A Heart Like Mary’s: 31 Daily Meditations to Help You Live and Love as She Does* (Ave Maria Press, 2017).

to be continued

Friars Student Writing Contest 2024 (November 08, 2023, to January 15, 2024)

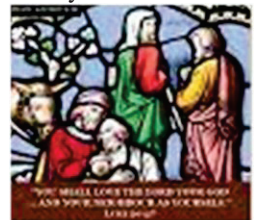
Theme: “You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself.” (Luke 10:27).

High school students (ages 13-19 years) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event that commemorates the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18-25.

Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2024 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions. Students are to consult the resources at <https://rb.gy/wajo9> to understand the meaning and purpose of the theme and address the focus question found on the poster @ <https://bit.ly/3G0I4zT> and submit their entries at,

<https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

Contact: ecumenical@archtoronto.org or call 416-934-3400 (Ext. 527) for more information or questions.





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