

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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PASTORAL TEAM:

Rev. Fr. Thomas Lim, *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch, *Chaplain to the Faithful participating in the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass*

Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Scollo, *In Residence*

Julia Di Paolo - *Secretary*

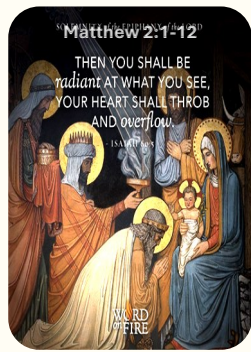


The Epiphany of the Lord

The wise men followed the star, and found Christ who is Light from Light. May you too find the Lord when your pilgrimage is ended.

Amen.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 5TH, 2025



“We saw His Star at Its rising and have come to do Him homage.”

The contrast is overwhelming: Herod, the King of the Jews, the nation prepared since all ages to welcome the coming of God to set all things right, fails to recognise the coming of the Lord. He is so blind as even to make every attempt to liquidate this herald of the completion of history and of Jewish hopes. By contrast the trio of wise men from the East, the traditional home of natural wisdom, show their conviction of the turning-point of history by journeying over desert and mountain to welcome and pay homage to the Lord. The evangelist is clear that this is the fulfilment of Isaiah’s prophecy of the coming of peoples from the East to pay homage to the Lord. Especially in eastern Christianity is the festival of the Epiphany rather than the birthday of Jesus seen as the manifestation of Christ to the world. This is the meaning of the Greek word ‘Epiphany’: it was first used of the manifest coming of the Roman emperor on a state visit, for he was regarded as a deity to whom worship and adoration were due.



L’evento dell’incarnazione del Verbo è la rivelazione perfetta e insuperabile del mistero di Dio. È nella “storia del Verbo” (san Bernardo) che l’uomo può vedere la gloria di Dio e così la vita eterna è già donata all’uomo, mentre ancora vive nel tempo.

Il disegno misterioso di Dio sull’umanità ora è pienamente svelato: a chi accoglie il Verbo fatto carne viene donato il potere di diventare figlio di Dio. L’uomo è chiamato a divenire partecipe della stessa filiazione divina del Verbo: ad essere nel Verbo Incarnato figlio del Padre. E il Padre genera nel Verbo Incarnato anche ogni uomo e in lui vede e ama ogni persona umana. È la suprema rivelazione della dignità di ogni persona umana, della singolare preziosità di ogni uomo.



Vocations Reflection ~“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 .



Eucharistic Adoration

Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm (Church)*

Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)*

*In Chapel, when there is a funeral.

Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!



Mass Intentions for the week



SATURDAY JANUARY 4TH – SABATO

5:00 P.M. + Tom Farrell & + Ron St. Pierre

SUNDAY JANUARY 5TH – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

Susanna e Gianni Onisto

Celio Onisto - Giuseppe Onisto

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia

Vito Sciuto e famiglia

11:30 A.M. +Pat & Valentino Mancuso

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. +Holy Souls in Purgatory

MONDAY JANUARY 6TH – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. - Zoie Noranho

12:00 P.M. - Jialin Huang

TUESDAY JANUARY 7TH – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. - Philomena O’Brien

12:00 P.M. - The Jose Family

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8TH – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. - Philomena O’Brien

- Geri Yin & Family

+ Loretto Dipasupil

12:00 P.M. + Holy Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY JANUARY 9TH – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Michael de Souza

8:30 A.M. - Marie-Dorell Lobo

FRIDAY JANUARY 10TH – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

7:00 P.M. + Paul & Pauline Lam

SATURDAY JANUARY 11TH – SABATO

8:30 A.M. - Special Intention

10:00 A.M. - Kau Lam Leung



OFFERTORY LAST WEEK

Regular: \$6,729.95

Bell Tower Envelopes: \$3,032.00



Stewardship Reflection ~ 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.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 5TH, 2025



Dear Friends in Christ, as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, permit me to offer you the homily that Pope Benedict XVI gave at St. Peter's Basilica on 6 January 2010.

Pope Benedict said: *"Dear Brothers and Sisters, Today, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the great light that radiates from the Cave of Bethlehem inundates all of mankind through the Magi from the East... those who arrived in Bethlehem were not the powerful and the kings of the earth, but the Magi, unknown men, perhaps regarded with suspicion, and in any case, not deemed worthy of special attention. The inhabitants of Jerusalem learned of the event but did not think it worth bothering about. Not even in Bethlehem did anyone seem to take any notice of the birth of this Baby, called King of the Jews by the Magi, nor about these men who had come from the East to visit him...."*

... Those figures who came from the East were not the last but the first of a great procession of those who, throughout the epochs of history, are able to recognize the message of the Star, who know how to walk on the paths indicated by Sacred Scripture. Thus they also know how to find the One who seems weak and fragile but instead has the power to grant the greatest and most profound joy to the heart of man. In him, indeed, is made manifest the stupendous reality that God knows us and is close to us, that his greatness and power are not expressed according to the world's logic, but to the logic of a helpless baby whose strength is only that of the love which he entrusts to us. In the journey of history, there are always people who are enlightened by the light of the Star, who find the way and reach him. They all live, each in his or her own way, the experience of the Magi.

They had brought gold, incense and myrrh. These are certainly not gifts that correspond to basic, daily needs. At that moment, the Holy Family was far more in need of something different from incense or myrrh, and not even the gold could have been of immediate use to them. But these gifts have a profound significance: they are an act of justice. In fact, according to the mentality prevailing then in the Orient, they represent the recognition of a person as God and King, that is, an act of submission. They were meant to say that from that moment, the donors belonged to the sovereign and they recognize his authority. The consequence is immediate. The Magi could no longer follow the road they came on, they could no longer return to Herod, they could no longer be allied with that powerful and cruel sovereign. They had always been led along the path of the Child, making them ignore the great and the powerful of the world, and taking them to him who awaits us among the poor, the road of love which alone can transform the world.... Therefore, not only did the Magi set out on their journey, but their deed started something new they traced a new road, and a new light has come down on earth which has never faded...."

... Many have seen the star, but only a few have understood its message. Scripture scholars in the time of Jesus knew the word of God perfectly well. They were able to say without hesitation what could be found in Scripture about the place where the Messiah would be born, but as St Augustine said: "They were like milestones along the road though they could give information to travelers along the way, they remained inert and immobile" (Sermo 199. In Epiphania Domini, 1, 2).

Therefore, we can ask ourselves: what is the reason why some men see and find, while others do not? What opens the eyes and the heart? What is lacking in those who remain indifferent, in those who point out the road but do not move? We can answer: too much self-assurance, the claim to knowing reality, the presumption of having formulated a definitive judgment on everything closes them and makes their hearts insensitive to the newness of God. They are certain of the idea that they have formed of the world and no longer let themselves be involved in the intimacy of an adventure with a God who wants to meet them. They place their confidence in themselves rather than in him, and they do not think it possible that God could be so great as to make himself small so as to come really close to us.

Lastly, what they lack is authentic humility, which is able to submit to what is greater, but also authentic courage, which leads to belief in what is truly great even if it is manifested in a helpless Baby. They lack the evangelical capacity to be children at heart, to feel wonder, and to emerge from themselves in order to follow the path indicated by the star, the path of God. God has the power to open our eyes and to save us. Let us therefore ask him to give us a heart that is wise and innocent, that allows us to see the Star of his mercy, to proceed along his way, in order to find him and be flooded with the great light and true joy that he brought to this world. Amen."

Pax Christi, *Jr. Thomas*



SACRED JOURNEY
RESTORING THE HOUSE OF GOD

THANK YOU!!!

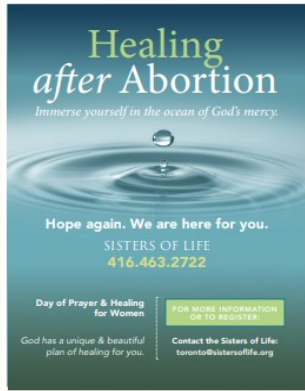
FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$159,126.00

To donate SCAN the QR CODE or

<https://tinyurl.com/SLMDonationForm>



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 5TH, 2025



Healing after Abortion: The Sisters of Life

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is always hope. The pain and sorrow of abortion does not need to endure for a lifetime. We offer accompaniment and retreats to women seeking healing after abortion. A “Day of Prayer and Healing” offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to respond to His invitation to begin the journey of healing the wound of abortion. Upcoming dates are: February 8 and April 5, 2025

For more details, locations, and confidential registration, or to talk to a Sister, please call the Sisters of Life at (416) 463-2722 or reach us by email at toronto@sistersoflife.org



2025 JUBILEE YEAR ITALY PILGRIMAGE

With our Pastor
Father Thomas Lim
September 27 to
October 10, 2025

[Click for Details](#)

Dear Padre,

I'm into horoscopes. A friend told me that astrology is nonsense and against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

Stargazing is as old as the human race. We know with certainty that ancient Chaldea was known for its stargazers. Many of the constellations' names originated during that time. Some scholars believe that the three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn Savior were themselves Chaldean stargazers.

Astrologers believe that the zodiac signs under which we were born largely control our human destiny. The Christian objection to astrology is that it insults almighty God, who alone knows the future. God alone, in cooperation with the free will of humans, controls the future. To suppose that stars, planets, animals, or inanimate objects can, independent of God, direct or influence our lives opposes the first commandment: "I am the LORD your God.... You shall not have other gods beside me" (Exodus 20:2-3).

The Old Testament clearly spells out that it is vain to imagine "either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven" as "the governors of the world" (Wisdom 13:2).

Don't give credit to or blame the stars for what you do and who you are. See past them to the God who made them, and who made us, and who cares for all creation. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service 2025 Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, 4 p.m.

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

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.



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>



FATHER YOU CALLED

SAINT LAWRENCE
TO SERVE YOU BY LOVE
AND CROWNED HIS LIFE
WITH GLORIOUS
MARTYRDOM.

HELP US TO BE LIKE HIM
IN LOVING YOU
AND DOING YOUR WORK.

AMEN

PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.



"Make sickness itself a Prayer"

~ St. Francis de Sales ~

How great is your name, O Lord! It is the strength of my soul. — St. Faustina