

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

2210 Lawrence Ave E. Scarborough , Ontario, M1P 2P9

Tel No. 416-759-9359 / Fax No. 416-759-6725

Email: stlawrencemartyr@archtoronto.org

Website: stlawrencemartyr.archtoronto.org

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*

*We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.*

Matthew 2:2



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 4TH, 2026

REGNUM CHRISTI DAILY MEDITATIONS

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Opening Prayer: Lord, bring me spiritually into your presence as an infant so that I, along with the Magi, can give you the gift of my full attention during this time of prayer.

Encountering Christ:

1. **Jesus Is for Everyone:** The three kings came from distant pagan countries to worship Our Lord. The Catechism teaches that their 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.” We can rejoice most especially on this feast day that we belong to the “full number of nations” called to bow before our infant King.
2. **Gold and Frankincense:** The Magi bore unusual gifts for the baby King: gold to acknowledge Jesus’s royalty; and frankincense, which is used in worship, to honor his divinity. Saint Gregory the Great warns, “There are some heretics who believe Him to be God, but do not at all believe that He reigns everywhere; these offer unto Him frankincense, but refuse Him gold. There are some others who think that He is King, but deny that He is God; these offer Him gold, but refuse Him frankincense” (Saint Gregory the Great’s Tenth Homily on the Gospels). As we join the Magi in their adoration of Jesus, let’s beg the Holy Spirit to fill us with awe, reverence, and fear of the Lord, so that we can worship him in truth as our King and our God.
3. **Mysterious Myrrh:** The more somber of the three gifts the Kings brought to Jesus was myrrh, used to embalm or anoint dead bodies. Imagine how Mary’s heart must have broken as she accepted with humble submission this prophesy of her Son’s Passion and Death. Our Blessed Mother invites us to imitate her by making our own little sacrifices (our myrrh) when the opportunity arises during our day. “I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship” (Rom 12:1).

Conversing with Christ: Lord, thank you for choosing me to be your friend and disciple. I am truly honored to be invited in to these moments with the Magi. May my entire life be a gift to you, received by and purified by my motherly intercessor, Mary.

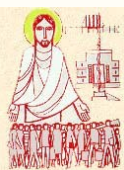
Resolution: Lord, today by your grace, on this celebratory feast of Epiphany, I offer you gold—my recommitment to obey all of your royal commandments; frankincense—the aroma of my heartfelt prayers; and myrrh—every suffering large or small united to you in your sorrowful Passion.

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 4TH, 2026

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

MT 2: 1 - 12



The Magi reveal that our search for truth leads to worship. Our response to the Father's offer of salvation must be that of the Magi: "To offer gold is to proclaim Christ's Kingship, to offer incense is to adore his Godhead, and to offer myrrh is to acknowledge his mortality" (Saint Odilo of Cluny). Creation responds as well: "When the king of heaven was born, the heavens knew that he was God because they immediately sent forth a star; the sea knew him because it allowed him to walk upon it; the earth knew him because it trembled when he died; the sun knew him because it hid the rays of its light" (Saint Gregory the Great). Coming to know the Son of God changes our lives: "Copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel," we are led home by another way.¹

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.²

¹Magnificat - January 2026 Edition | ² <https://www.lachiesa.it/calendario/20251109.html>

She Pondered These Things in Her Heart (see Lk 2:51)

A Mother's Close Attention

Helen Alvaré

Throughout my life, I wondered at the meaning of the Gospel phrases: Mary "pondered" or "kept" things in her heart. These appear when Mary hears the shepherds' message at Jesus' birth, and later when she reflects on the adolescent Jesus' display of exceptional wisdom in the Temple. As my kids grew, so did my understanding. At first, being action oriented (my kids say my "love language" is to "work harder"), I thought these passages portrayed Mary as mostly passive. I didn't like it. But time and experience elevated my understanding in two ways.

I saw that "pondering" and "keeping things in your heart" marries intelligence with love. Mothers pay extraordinarily close attention to even the slightest things their children say and do, and learn from them. I could sense, for example, when a son's dislike of his school had turned to despair. A particular phrase combined with a sigh was all it took. Time to switch schools. another time a son—out walking with his girlfriend—called me from the market to ask if I needed anything. It was a fifteen-second chat, but I shed a tear of happiness. He had grown to think of others.

I also learned that these phrases imply trust in God, and in his action in our children's lives. These are not instantly intelligible. We can only penetrate further if we let these moments enter our heart and mind, and let them sit, until understanding comes.

(Helen Alvaré is a law professor at Antonin Scalia Law School, and writes and assists the Church on matters concerning the family and religious freedom.)

Magnificat - January 2026 Edition



Come and spend some quiet time in prayer

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

MON - THUR 9AM - 12PM (CHURCH)*
EVERY FRIDAY 9AM - 7PM (CHURCH)*
**IN CHAPEL, WHEN THERE IS A FUNERAL.*



Mass Intentions for the week



SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD - SABATO

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

SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH - DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. + Laval Ho

10:00 A.M.

Susanna, Gianni Celio e Giuseppe Onisto
 Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia
 Vito Sciuto e famiglia
 Vito e Mike Cuoppolo

11:30 A.M. + Anton Lautenbach

1:00 P.M. Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. For All Our Parishioners

MONDAY JANUARY 5TH - LUNEDÌ

8:30 A.M. + Marie De Souza

12:00 P.M. + Maria De Jesus Faria

TUESDAY JANUARY 6TH - MARTEDÌ

8:30 A.M. Zoie Noranho

12:00 P.M. + Joseph Pytel

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7TH - MERCOLEDÌ

8:30 A.M. Peter & Vivian Riseborough
 + Sheila Cairns

12:00 P.M. + Marie De Souza

THURSDAY JANUARY 8TH - GIOVEDÌ

7:00 A.M. + Jose & Poblete Families
 & Generations

8:30 A.M. Gordon Bolcic

FRIDAY JANUARY 9TH - VENERDÌ

8:30 A.M. Marie Dorell Lobo

7:00 P.M. Holy Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY JANUARY 10TH - SABATO

8:30 A.M. The Young Adults of
 St. Lawrence Martyr

10:00 A.M. + Sydney, Irene, Anne
 & Marie De Souza

OFFERTORY LAST WEEK

Regular: \$ 6,486.55

Christmas: \$ 14,930.00



Second Collection:

Building Fund Collection

**Please start using your 2026 Envelopes*

Thank you

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 4TH, 2026

FAITH FORMATION SERIES

IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

JAN 8, 2026 FR. MATT MCCARTHY	THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE GOSPELS
JAN 22, 2026 FR. THOMAS LIM	MARY, THE SAINTS, AND THE CALL TO HOLINESS
FEB 5, 2026 FR. THOMAS LIM	A REFLECTION ON MARRIAGE IN THE LIGHT OF JESUS' LOVE FOR HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH
SAVE THESE DATES THURSDAYS @ 7:00PM	Feb 5 & 19 Mar 12 & 26 Apr 16 & 30



PILGRIMAGE TO ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & IRELAND

With Fr. Thomas Lim

May 31 - June 14, 2026: 15 days

Tour Coordinator: Theresia Sisca

Tel. 416-731-8252 [Learn more here](#)

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 ~



2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES PICK-UP!

Parishioners please pick up your 2026 Offertory Envelopes at the Entrance of the Church.

Is important that you discard all previous 2025 envelopes.

If you don't have offertory envelopes and would like a box, please complete the [registration form](#) found on the parish website or at the back of the Church and return in the Sunday Collection.

Calling St. Lawrence Young Adults

Are you 19 - 39 years?



The St. Lawrence Martyr
Young Adult Ministry launches on
Saturday January 10th 2026.



This ministry is designed to support young adults in our parish through fellowship, faith formation and service. Our gathering will take place in **parish hall from 6:30— 8:00 PM** no registration required.

Young adults will be at the entrance of the church after all Sunday Masses for more information.

For questions contact: stlm.yagroup@gmail.com

FOR SINGLE MEN 18+ WHO ARE INTERESTED IN DISCERNING

FEB 27- MARCH 1, 2026

MEN'S WEEKEND DISCERNMENT RETREAT AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY

COME & SEE

AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$100 NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS



On February 27 - March 1, 2026, we are offering a weekend Discernment Retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary for single men aged 18+ who feel the Lord may be calling them to discern the priesthood.

The retreat will start on **Friday evening at 6:30pm** and end on **Sunday afternoon at 2:00pm**. Meals & Accommodations will be provided.

*A suggested donation of \$100 is appreciated
For Credit Card please click the Donate Button below - Specify Come & See
For Cash or Cheque please make out to the Office of Vocations and bring in person*
No one will be turned away due to financial reasons

Vocation 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, deacon, brother or sister contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

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