

# ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

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## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor

Deacon Daniel McPhee

Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant

Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor

Aloysius Chan, Organist



## Epiphany of the Lord

# Mass for Intentions Week

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.

Loretta McCann

Requested by John Conley

Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.

Chang Joon Yu

Requested by Angela Oh

Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.

George Poblete

Requested by Vicki Garnett

Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.

Salvatore and Rosaria Buffa

Requested by the Family



**PARISH  
SUPPORT**

Thank you to all parishioners who support the offertory and building fund through monthly pre-authorized giving or with weekly contribution envelopes. Thank you as well for your generosity during the Christmas liturgies.

**Your donations are responsible for keeping your church going 365 days a year.**

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Our gathering of children during the 11:00am Mass will be back as of **Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you to Fernanda and her team of helpers for heading up this ministry.

## **Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service 2024**

**Sunday, January 21, 2024, 4 p.m. ET**

**Venue:** St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral (455 Ferrier St., Markham, Ont. L3R 5Z2)

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

Join Archbishop Francis Leo and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.



**"New Year - New Attitude"**

As we grow in our awareness of the serious impacts of global environmental crises, it is important to resist feelings of hopelessness which serve to demobilize. The New Year presents an opportunity to commit to respecting our planet and proactively finding ways to protect it.

In committing to resolutions for 2024, consider making an intentional commitment to learning about the urgency of the climate crisis. Commit to reading *LAUDATE DEUM, Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father (2023)*.  
[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html#](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html#):

May "we ourselves become the instruments used by God to bring out the potential which he himself inscribed in things" (Pope Francis, LS 124)

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**CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION**  
The Spirit Is Alive

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will soon be underway! Kindergarten registration will begin on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Should you have any questions on eligibility for registration, please contact your local Catholic school or visit [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) for detailed information.

You may also contact the TCDSB with any questions:

BY Email: [admissions.registration@tcdsb.org](mailto:admissions.registration@tcdsb.org)

BY Phone: 416-222-8282 ext. 5320

**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](http://www.archtoronto.org).

**Isa 60:1-6**

**Ps 72**

**Eph 3:2-3, 5-6**

**Matt 2:1-12**

**CHRIST OUR LIGHT**



A well-circulated Hasidic tale tells the story of a rabbi quizzing his students. He asked, “How can we determine the hour of dawn, when the night ends and the day begins?”

One of the students suggested, “Day begins when, from a distance, you can distinguish between a dog and a sheep.”

“No,” answered the rabbi. Another student asked, “Is it when you can distinguish between a fig tree and a grapevine?”

Again, the answer was, “No.” “Please tells us the answer then,” said the students.

“It is,” said the rabbi, “when you can look into the face of other human beings and you have enough light in you to recognize them as your brothers and sisters. Up until then, it is night and darkness is still with us.”

Today we celebrate Epiphany, the joyous realization that our God has manifested the light of forgiveness and redemption in our world. While we remember with gladness the One whose birth made light live and move among us, we also have to admit that the darkness of which the rabbi spoke continues to overshadow many of us and our communities. To put it another way, the mystery Paul was privileged to reveal — that all peoples of the earth are coheirs, members of the same body and copartners in the promise of Jesus through the Gospel — has not yet been fully realized among

us. As long as there are divisions, as long as there is bias, prejudice and ethnic hatred, we continue to find ourselves in a darkness that longs for the dawn. Therefore, as we celebrate this feast of Epiphany, we are to recognize and realize its challenge: to be living reflections of the light of Christ for all people.

In the first reading, Isaiah envisions a cavalcade of nations streaming toward Jerusalem, with a shared desire to find the Lord of light and goodness and glory and offer their praise. In today’s Gospel, Matthew expresses the faith of the early church, who believed that Jesus is the Lord of light and glory in whom all the nations of the earth, represented by the magi, will find salvation. While it is easy and quite comfortable to talk about visions of world unity, the challenge of Epiphany is to make it so, beginning with ourselves. Let’s begin by looking within: Do we think we have no bias because we treat our Filipino nanny well? Is there any genuine social interaction in our neighborhood? Apartment complex? Do we still tell and laugh at ethnic jokes? How long has it been since people of a different colour ate at our table, visited our home or swam in our pool? To what extent is our neighborhood segregated? To what extent are our attitudes segregated?

The feast of Epiphany provides us with a lovely tableau of streaming nations, of stars and kings bearing valuable gifts with which to honour Jesus, child of Mary, Son of God. But that tableau can only come to life if each of us reaches out to another and values the other as a beloved child of God and a brother or sister. We need not travel to faraway places to realize the grace of Epiphany. We need only look to our right and our left, to the neighbour next door or across the street, to our coworker or our boss, the relative we’d rather avoid or the friend we can’t forgive. Every person whom God puts on our path is both a gift and an opportunity — a gift, because he or she carry within them the precious light of God’s love; an opportunity because they enable us to make the challenge of Epiphany real and practical.

As we pray together today, let our hearts be true. As we are sent forth from celebrating Epiphany, let us remain mindful that we are to carry forth with us the light of Christ and allow that light to illumine all we are, all we say and all we do until God gathers us together again. **Glory To God In The Highest!**

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