

## Epiphany

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6, and in Canada and the U.S.A. on the Sunday between January 2 and 8. Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphanein*, a showing, appearance or revelation.

The Greek-speaking church of the East found it natural to use the word to describe the appearance of the true God in flesh. Consequently, some churches in that part of the world celebrated a festival on January 6 recalling Jesus' baptism in the Jordan and his Cana miracle; others celebrated a festival commemorating his birth, and eventually, a combination of both.

By the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Eastern and Western churches took over each other's Nativity feasts. Since then, Christmas and the Epiphany have been celebrated in both churches. This duplication led to the evolution of a separate theme for each.

The Eastern Church continued to emphasize the theme of Jesus' epiphanies with the gospel stories of Jesus' baptism and his miracle in Cana. In the Western Church, the Epiphany evolved into a celebration of the gospel story of the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), Jesus' manifestation to the gentiles.

The gospel story of the Magi is not meant to be read as an historical event. Rather, it is a reflection on an important aspect of the mystery of Incarnation: the Messiah has come to all people and not just to the Jews, a theme highlighted by Matthew's gospel.

Gold, frankincense and myrrh, the three gifts mentioned in the gospel, were traditional symbols of homage in the East and traditionally have come to symbolize the destiny of Jesus: gold for his royalty, frankincense for his divinity, myrrh for his suffering and death.

Christian legends in the 9<sup>th</sup> century describes the wise men as representing the three major races and gave them names: Melchior, an old white man with a long white beard, bearing the gift of gold; Caspar, young and of darker hue, carrying incense; and Balthazar, a black man, offering myrrh.

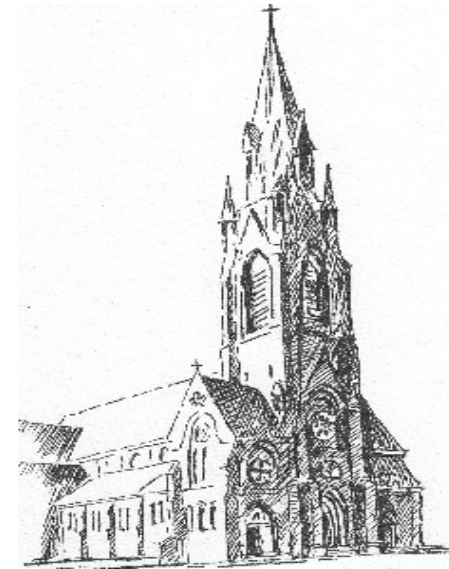
The Christmas season officially ends the Sunday after Epiphany with the commemoration of Christ's baptism.



# St. Mary's Church

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)

Rev. Fr. Andre de Lima (Associate Pastor)



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### OFFICE HOURS

Mon.– Fri. 8:30—12:00 and 1:00—4:00

### Sunday Masses

8:30 am Portuguese

10:00 am Portuguese

11:30 am English

1:00 pm English

### Weekday Masses

Monday—Friday 9:00 am Portuguese

6:00 pm English

Saturday 5:00 pm English

### Parish Council

### Parish Finance Council

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of Every Month at 5:00 p.m.

### English Choir

Susan Taylor 416-277-6291

### Portuguese Choir

Ana da Silva 905-891-5444

### Santo Cristo

Joey Teves 647-887-2804

### Santo Cristo Band (Hall)

Paul Valerio (President) 416-703-2231  
647-998-5916

### Santo Cristo Association

Please contact the parish 416-703-2326

### Espirito Santo

Jose & Margarida Silva 905-873-1908

### Saint Vincent De Paul

416-247-8868

### Volunteer Co-ordinator

Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

### Baptism—Sundays

Baptisms will be booked by appointment only

### Marriages

Please contact the priest 12 months in advance

### Confessions

Every day before Mass, except on Sunday

### Schools

St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205

Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462

### First Communion and Confirmation Meetings

On Wednesday, January 24th, we will have a meeting for parents of the children that will be receiving their First Communion.

On Wednesday, January 31st, we will have a meeting for parents or sponsors to the young adults that will be receiving their Confirmation.

**All parents or sponsors should attend these meetings.**



## Epiphany January 7, 2024

**Psalm—Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

God revealed himself to the Jews through the Scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Since the Magi were Gentiles, Matthew shows them receiving a revelation through astrology.

The story highlights the paradox of how the Jews who have the Scriptures, reject Jesus, while Gentiles come and, with the help of the Scriptures, find and adore him. For Matthew the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of the Good News of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection. There is little to be gained by speculating where the Magi came from and what exactly the star was.

The star was only the means by which a great mystery was revealed—the revelation of Christ as the Saviour of the Gentiles too.

The Second Reading expresses the theological meaning of the feast; God invites Jew and Gentile to share on an equal footing the benefits of the salvation brought by Christ. The feast shows that election by God is not a privilege for some but a hope for all.

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

### The First Noel

The First Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay;  
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.**

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

### We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I.  
Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising all men raising,  
Worship Him, God on high.

### Joy To the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### **Saturday, January 6**

**5:00 pm.** Odete Fernandes, Manuel Medeiros, parents, in-laws, souls in purgatory—Francisco & Rosalina Brum

#### **Sunday, January 7**

**8:30 am.** Nelissa da Mota

**10:00 am.** Community—Henrique Sebastião—José Luis & Maria Teresa Branco—Alfredo e Conceicao Cabral—José, Henriqueta & John Rebelo—José Carlos Silva & Manuel Pereira — Maria da Conceição Baptista—Victor Correia

**11:30 am.** Delcina Goncalves da Cruz—Virginia Arruda—Victoria Aggabao

**1:00 pm.** Maria Coração Salao—Manuel Inacio, Maria Amaral, children & grandson—Alfredo Castro & Edgar Marin—Santiago Abad

#### **Monday, January 8**

**9:00 am.** Agostinho & Maria Lucinda Mota

**6:00 pm.** Luis Augusto Ribeiro Raposo

#### **Tuesday, January 9**

**9:00 am.** Esméria do Couto

**6:00 pm.**

#### **Wednesday, January 10**

**9:00 am.** Souls in purgatory

**6:00 pm.** Nelson de Melo

#### **Thursday, January 11**

**9:00 am.** José Manuel Oliveira Correia, intention of Lucia Correia

**6:00 pm.** Ildeberto Camara

#### **Friday, January 12**

**9:00 am.**

**6:00 pm.** António Fernandes & family

#### **Saturday, January 13**

**5:00 pm.** Souls in purgatory