

## EPIPHANY

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6, 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 the 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 4th century, Eastern and Western churches adopted part of 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' Epiphany 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 in 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, and myrrh for his suffering and death.

Christian legends in the 9th 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, baring the gift of gold; Gaspar, young and of darker hue, carrying incense; and Balthazar, a black man, offering myrrh.

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### Catechism for Adults

Saturday, January 18th, we will start our classes for all the adults receiving their baptism on Easter Vigil.

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### Meeting

Wednesday, January 22nd at 7:00 pm., we will have a meeting with all the parents and children that will be receiving their First Communion. Everyone must be present.

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### A Special Thank You

Thank you to all our volunteers, readers, Eucharist Ministers, S.V.P. society, our choirs, the Santo Cristo Band. Thank you all for your continuous support for the maintenance of our beautiful church.

# St. Mary's Church

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Couto (Pastor)

Rev. Fr. Benny Joseph (Associate Pastor)

Parish Council

Parish Finance Council

English Choir

Susan Taylor 416-531-0503

Portuguese Choir

Ana da Silva 905-891-5444

Santo Cristo

Artur Rocha 647-624-7113

Santo Cristo Band (Hall)

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

Santo Cristo Association

Contact the Parish 416-703-2326

Espirito Santo

João & Lilia Tavares 647-308-7556

St. Vincent de Paul

416-247-8868

Volunteer Co-Ordinator

Delia Medeiros (Please contact parish)

Baptism—Sundays

Baptisms will be booked by appointment only

Marriages

Please contact the priest *12 months* in advance

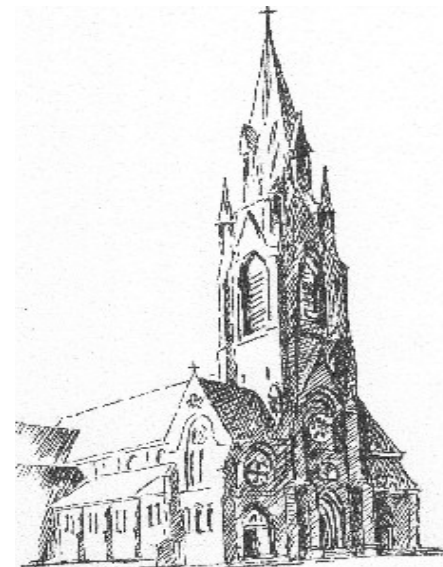
Confessions

Every day *before* Mass, except on Sunday

Schools

St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205

Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462



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Toronto, On. M6J 3P8

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Website: [stmarysbathurst.archtoronto.org](http://stmarysbathurst.archtoronto.org)

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### OFFICE HOURS

Mon.—Fri. 8:30—12:00 and 1:00—4:00

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### Sunday Masses

8:30 am Portuguese

10:00 am Portuguese

11:30 am English

1:00 pm English

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### Weekday Masses

Monday—Friday 9:00 am Portuguese

6:00 pm English

Saturday 5:00 pm English



## Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025

**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. 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.

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.

## 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 most high

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## What Child Is This

What Child is this Who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

**This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come Peasant, King to own Him  
The King of Kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

## The First Noel

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where 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.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

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## Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plain  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strain

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

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

## Mass Intentions for this Week



**Saturday, January 4**

**5:00 pm.**

**Sunday, January 5**

**8:30 am.** Olivia, João & Fernando Machado

**10:00 am.** Community—António & Maria Raposo—José, Henriqueta & John Rebelo—José Luis & Maria Teresa Branco—Maria Isabel Napoleão Franco—Olivia da Conceição e Candido dos Santos—Ermelinda Arruda

**11:30 am.**

**1:00 pm.** José Luis Martins

**Monday, January 6**

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

**6:00 pm.** Odete Fernandes & souls in purgatory

**Tuesday, January 7**

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

**6:00 pm.** Maria da Conceição Baptista

**Wednesday, January 8**

**9:00 am.**

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

**Thursday, January 9**

**9:00 am.** Esméria Couto

**6:00 pm.**

**Friday, January 10**

**9:00 am.** Manuel Arruda de Medeiros

**6:00 pm.** Maria Delfina Arruda

**Saturday, January 11**

**5:00 pm.** Mariannina Mariconda—Carmina Travassos—Michael Correia—Souls in purgatory