

Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphania: A revelation, a proclamation, a broadcast. Such is the meaning of the feast of the Epiphany, usually understood as the revelation of the Incarnation to the world beyond the Chosen People, a revelation to the Gentiles. It is a story full of the exotic: heavenly portents, mysterious wise men, precious gifts, dreams and visions, all leading the world to the astonishing mystery of God-made-flesh. The curious thing in this story is that these strange visitors from the East do not seem in the least dismayed by the discovery that this supposed king of the Jews is born in poverty. Undeterred by the humble circumstances, they pay him homage and offer their gifts. This is an encounter replete with symbolism and meaning. What stands out is the fact that these wise men discovered the birth of the king by interpreting the signs they had observed. Not limited by presuppositions, false expectations or jealousy, they could see the truth and accepted it, where others could not. Let us pray with grateful hearts for the wisdom to see Christ revealed in the world around us, even when that revelation challenges our preconceptions and invites us to find him where we least expect him.

Fr. Len Altilia, SJ, Winnipeg, MB

First reading: Isaiah 60.1-6
Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Second Reading: Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12

Rose # 37 will lead the rosary this week.

COFFEE AND DONUTS will be served today by the Rosary Family for the parish needs.

Next meeting for Youth will be held on Sunday, January 10th and will be led by Bp John Boissonneau who will give a lecture entitled "God's Mercy".

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH GOING TO WYD 2016

INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY MORTGAGE REFERRAL PROGRAM
We are pleased to introduce a Mortgage Referral Program through My Home Mortgage Lending Solutions. All mortgage referrals which come through St. Maximilian Kolbe church and result in a live deal, the Youth Group will receive a cash reward which will support those participating in WYD 2016. Offering professional services and best interest rates: purchase of a home, refinancing, secured Line of Credit, consolidating expenses, access to all financial institutions Info: Ewa Palferro 905 510-1673 ewa@myhomemls.ca or Emilio Palferro 647 883-5909 emilio@myhomemls.ca

Baptisms

The following children will receive the Sacrament of Baptism:

Emily Pietraszek daughter of Agnieszka & Sebastian

Bianca Olivia Myska daughter of Anna & Patryk

Damian Julian Krzak son of Natalia & Daniel

We welcome those children and congratulate their parents and godparents.

We would like to wish all of our parishioners all the best in the New Year, abundance of God's graces and blessings. Let the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bless you all!

WHAT IS NEW IN OUR PARISH?

There are **14,966** families officially registered with our parish. We kindly ask to contact the parish office of an address or phone number change so you can continue to be formally registered member of our parish.

In the year **2015** we welcomed **230** new members into our parish community through Baptism, **211** children received their First Holy Communion, **112** were confirmed, **67** marriages were blessed and **104** members passed from this life to eternal life.

Our community is quite extensive, therefore let us take care of one another, raise our children and youth with kindness and concern for others, let us respect each other and above all, let us grow and develop spiritually within our families and our community.

THANK YOU

We have received a lot of thank you letters for the packages that our parish sent to help the poor children in Poland.

One of the letters reads as follows [translation]: "Father, from the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank you on behalf of all the children for the money and beautiful packages. May good God repay you for those gestures of good heart and for the effort you constantly undertake to spread His glory. The children are praying daily for their donors.

Father, I would like to with you and everyone from St. Maximilian Kolbe parish a very Merry Christmas. May the spirit of Christmas be present in your hearts every single day of your lives. May the new born Jesus bring joy, peace and love to you every day.

In prayer,
S. Lidia Stepien
Stara Wies, Poland"

A NINE MONTH NOVENA – has begun and its aim is to prepare all the faithful to celebrate the **1050th** anniversary of Poland's Baptism, which will take place in 2016. Novena began on the first Sunday of July and will follow the theme of the Great Novena of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, which prepared Poland for the Millennium in 1966. The novena will be held in our parish every first Sunday of the month during morning liturgy. It will end on Easter Sunday 2016 by renewing baptismal vows.



Epiphany of the Lord

The term "epiphany" means to 'show' or 'to make known' or even 'to reveal.' In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings' Day, or the night before, is the time for opening Christmas presents. In some eastern churches, Epiphany or the Theophany commemorates Jesus' baptism, with the visit of the Magi linked to Christmas. In some churches the day is celebrated as Christmas, with Epiphany occurring on January 19th. As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few. The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian brotherhood and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God's children.

TRADITIONAL DOOR INSCRIPTION CEREMONY OF THE SOLEMNITY OF EPIPHANY

Gold and frankincense was blessed on the Feast of the Epiphany in the 15th/16th centuries. Blessing of chalk was first introduced in the 18th century. This beautiful tradition is carried out in many countries, as well as Poland. The Blessed Chalk is used to inscribe the first letters of the names of the Magi and the current year (K+M+B 2016) on the front door of Catholic homes.

Following Mass, a small piece of chalk may be taken home and the following is said with family and friends gathered at the front door:
K+M+B 2016

Leader: And the Word was made Flesh. ☆

All: And dwelt among us.

Leader: May Christ dwell in our midst. ☆

All: Amen.

Christmas carols may be sung to conclude the ceremony.

From the Pulpit

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH – Jan. 3rd
Exchange of the Mysteries of the Living Rosary for the English groups will take place following the Mass at 9:30am. On Sunday, January 3rd 2016, right after the exchange of mysteries, the English groups will have their "Oplatek" in the parish hall at 10:30am.

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH January 7th – Prayer for vocations at 6:30pm.

CATHOLIC FAMILY RADIO – invites you to a Christmas Dinner-Dance on Saturday, Jan. 9th 2016 at 6:30pm at the John Paul II Cultural Centre (4300 Cawthra Rd, Mississauga ON). We'll have a chance to share the traditional Christmas wafer (Oplatek), sing some carols, eat a hearty Christmas meal, and dance to the music of the band NON-STOP. Tickets \$45.00 Info: 416 588-0555 or www.radiorodzina.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING - on Tuesday, January 12th following Holy Mass at 7:00pm and the exchange of the Mysteries of the Living Rosary. After Mass, a meeting will be held in the Knights of Columbus room at the John Paul II Cultural Centre.

GOLEC uORKIESTRA CHRISTMAS CONCERT featuring the best carols on Friday, January 15th 2016 at 8:00pm at Living Arts Centre in Mississauga. Tickets available in Polish parishes.

PRAYER EVENING IN THE SPIRIT OF TAIZE led by Adoremus Prayer Group – Saturday, January 16th 2016 from 8:00pm - 9:00pm in the church (following the evening Mass). **ADOREMUS** is a new prayer group at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. We adore the Lord through the Blessed Sacrament. If you want God to start changing your heart join us!

OBLATE RETREAT - From January 18th – 22nd The Oblates will be away on their annual Retreat. We sincerely ask the faithful for their prayers on behalf of our Oblates so that God may Bless them during this time of retreat and renewal May they be renewed in Spirit so they may renew us the people of God.

There will be no morning or evening Masses for the entire week due to the absence of priest in our parish except for Monday, January 18th. On that day, at 7:00pm, there will be a solemn Mass for the official opening of Oblate Jubilee Year.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE - The next course will be held from Feb. 1st - March 7th 2016. Classes will be held on Monday from 8:00pm to 10:00pm, for a total of 6 classes. Sign up – parish office.

OFFERATORY ENVELOPES FOR CURRENT & NEW USERS FOR 2016 – are displayed in the parish hall in alphabetically order according to the family name.

JUBILEE OF MERCY



A special decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary signed by Cardinal Marus Piacenza in response to the request of Fr. Janusz Błażej, OMI, designated the door to the Chapel of Divine Mercy as the Holy Door meaning that everyone who comes to adore in the chapel will have the opportunity to receive an indulgence by passing through the Holy Door and fulfilling the requirements.



OMI JUBILEE –CELEBRATIONS

On the occasion of 200th Anniversary of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the Assumption Province cordially invites you to the following events:

• January 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm – Solemn Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church in Mississauga for the official opening of Jubilee Year. The Presider and homilist will be Thomas Cardinal Collins. We invite all priests, religious, parish communities, organizations, and all people of good will to join us for this event.

• January 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm – Jubilee Banquet at Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton. This event will be filled with powerful testimonies of young people, families, representatives of various parishes and organizations, as well as with performance of well-known vocalist Jacek Wojcicki from Poland. Delicious dinner and wine will be served.

Tickets are \$50 and are available in the parish office or at (416) 767-4760. Come and celebrate with us the 200 years of our ministry!

OMI JUBILEE TESTIMONIES

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate we invite you to submit a short testimony of how the ministry of the Missionary Oblates influenced your life. Length no more than 500 words, **deadline February 17th 2016**. Testimonies may be submitted by e-mail to secretary@omiap.org. (Documents saved as docx, doc or pdf files) or by mail to 200 Years of OMI, 71 Indian Trail, Toronto, On. M6R 2A1.

If you wish to participate in a prize draw, complete contact info: address, telephone & e-mail (optional) must be included in top right hand corner of submission. Draw will be May 21, 2016.

Selected testimonies will be featured in Jubilee Book and on Oblate website.

Pilgrimages

PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE - May 16th - 28th 2016 led by Fr. Janusz Błażej, OMI – Pilgrimage includes: Aix-en-Provence, ND de Lumiere, Lourdes, La Salette, Avignon, Cassis, Carcasson & Lyon. Cost: \$3358 + airport taxes Info: Polimex Travel 905 238-6683 (ask for Mira) More detailed info www.kolbe.ca

Catechism Classes

We would like to remind that this week we will begin classes for those children who want to receive First Communion. or Confirmation.

FIRST COMMUNION

Classes (Tuesday's groups Polish and English) start on Tuesday, January 5th, 2016 at 6:30pm.

We will meet in the parish hall.

Classes (Saturday's groups Polish and English) start on Saturday, January 9th, 2016 at 1:00pm.

We will meet in the church.

CONFIRMATION

Classes for Grade 7 start on Wednesday, January 6th, 2016 at 6:30pm.

We will meet in the parish hall.

Classes for Grade 8 start on Thursday, January 7th, 2016 at 6:30pm.

We will meet in the parish hall.

For any question please contact Fr. Wojtek or Sr. Karolina 905 848 2420 or communionkolbe@gmail.com

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, January 4th

8:00 ☩ grandparents & Godparents & all deceased from family – Ewa & family

19:00 Special intention for God's blessings and for health for Janina & Andrzej Szafarski on their 25th wedding anniversary - children
Special intention for God's blessings for daughters Andzelika & Beata & Oliwia - parents

TUESDAY, January 5th

8:00 ☩ Mieczyslaw Grabowski (6th anniv.) – Ilnicki family

10:00 In intention of Senior Kolbe Club members
19:00 ☩ Czeslaw Zebrowski (anniv.) – son & family

WEDNESDAY, January 6th

8:00 ☩ Zofia & Jerzy Dziuba – son & family
Special intention for God's blessings for family

19:00 Group Intention
THURSDAY, January 7th St. Andre Bessette

8:00 ☩ Jan Kosnik (11th anniv.) - family

19:00 ☩ Helena & Jozef & Czeslaw & Zbigniew Szymczuk & Stefania Mazur – Rebizak family
☩ all deceased from Budziak & Czyzowicz & Bazylewicz families - family

FRIDAY, January 8th

8:00 ☩ Czeslaw & Jan Wasowski & Zdzislaw Sarnacki

19:00 ☩ Paulina & Jan & Tomasz Leppek & all deceased from Zajega family – Jacenty & family
☩ Lesli Bartok (8th anniv.) - Krystyna

SATURDAY, January 9th

8:00 Special intention for God's blessings for children & family - mother

17:00 ☩ Czeslaw Swiderski – Helen & Ricky

19:00 Special intention for God's blessings for mother Irena on her 75th birthday

SUNDAY, January 10th

Baptism of the Lord

8:00 ☩ Janina Dobosz – husband & family

9:30 ☩ Mitchell Kmiecik (8th anniv.) – wife & family

11:00 FOR PARISHIONERS AND BENEFACTORS

13:00 ☩ all deceased from Podczerwinski & Antolak families - family

14:30 ☩ Marian Trychta (1st anniv.) – mother & brother & his wife & family

19:00 Special intention for God's blessings for sister Dorota & mother Marta