

Epiphany of the Lord



Reflection

Today's Gospel tells of the wise men journeying to meet the infant king. We are told they were following a star and when they found Jesus, they rejoiced and responded with worship and gifts. We can do the same in our lives.

We must notice the star – the call from God that beckons us – and respond as they did. These wise men no doubt had busy and demanding lives, but they dropped everything and followed a star to something, to someone, beyond their imagining. At the beginning, they could not have known what the journey would hold for them, only that they should follow wholeheartedly. They must have made space in their hearts, to respond so fully. In the season of Advent, we were called to make space for Jesus to come. Not that Jesus was not already present, but to brush away the clutter and make space again for what – for who – is most important.

Once Jesus has arrived in the space we have made in our hearts, how do we respond to his arrival? To this new awareness? Are we overwhelmed with joy as the wise men were? Can we too respond by sharing our time, our attentive presence, and our gifts? What is God calling us to do and to share? Can we respond as the wise men did, with hope and without reservation?

Kelly Bourke; Regina, SK

©Living with Christ/Novalis/Bayard Presse Canada. Used with permission.

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

Coffee and Donuts

January 7 – Ladies Guild and K of C
January 14 – Jubilee Children's Choir

– THIS WEEKEND –

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — *Pius Parsch*

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

K + M + B 2024

Today we bless incense and chalk. After returning home from the church, we use the chalk to mark the door of our home with the initials of the names of the Wise Men and the year 2024.

You may also write C + M + B (Christus Mansoni Benedictat) which means "May Christ bless this house."

The letters on the door are a visible sign that a Christian family lives in the house.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Through the sacrament of baptism, the following children will be initiated into the Catholic faith and welcomed into our parish community. We congratulate their parents and Godparents.

Adrian Sebastian Opoka,
son of Katarzyna and Sebastian

Ava Jolanta Harasimowicz,
daughter of Diane and Philip

Novi Singers – Christmas Concert

This Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Novi Singers Toronto and Toronto Sinfonietta, under the musical direction of Maciej Jaskiewicz, are hosting a concert entitled "Christ is Born," featuring Joseph Zeidler's Shepard's Mass and classic Christmas carols, performed by Karolina Podolak, Novi Singers, and a Children's Choir. Suggested donation to cover the cost of the production is \$20.

– COMING UP –

Happy Birthday Fr. Jan

This Monday, Fr. Jan will celebrate his birthday. We wish him God's blessing and the protection of his holy patroness, Mary Immaculate. Let us keep Fr. Jan in our prayers and take a moment to wish him a happy birthday.

Oblate Retreat

From **January 8th to January 12th** all Oblates will be away at their annual retreat. Please pray for God's blessing and guidance for our priests during this time of retreat and renewal. There will be no morning Mass on those days.

Meetings

Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, January 9 at 7 p.m.

Mass followed by a meeting in the John Paul II Cultural Centre. *Oplatek* on Saturday, January 13.

Secular Franciscans

Saturday, January 13, 12 – 2 p.m. in Fr. Eugene Room

Evening of Adoration and Praise

Adoremus Prayer Group and Kolbe ProLife are hosting an evening of adoration and praise on **Friday, January 12** after the evening Mass. All are welcome.

Coins for Life

Next **Sunday, January 21**, Kolbe ProLife will be collecting "Coins for Life" bottles at all entrances to the church. No change is too small. Thank you for supporting mothers who turned away from abortion and for helping promote a culture of life.

Marriage Preparation Course

Marriage Preparation Course for couples who were never married will take place on seven consecutive Mondays, from **February 5 to March 18**, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Meetings are in-person and attendance is mandatory at as sessions. To register, go to www.kolbe.ca and click on *Liturgy and Sacraments* and then *Marriage*. Next course will be offered in October 2024.

Marriage Preparation Course for couples where one or both partners were previously married is facilitated by Catholic Family Services. Contact www.cfstoronto.com to register.

– OTHER NEWS –

QuoVadis Children's Foundation

This weekend, after each mass, QuoVadis Children's Foundation will be collecting new pajamas, winter boots, and school supplies for underprivileged children ages 6-18 from the orphanage *Nasz Dom* in Miejsce Piastowe, Poland. Small monetary donations will be greatly appreciated as they will enable the shipping of parcels overseas. May God Bless you for your kindness and support.

Necessary Changes to Collective Mass Intentions

Due to the number of collective Mass intentions requested each Wednesday, it is necessary to introduce some changes in the near future. First and foremost, please remember that:

- Collective Masses are not perpetual Masses. They were introduced for parishioners who do not have a chance to request Mass intentions during the year.
- In the collective Holy Mass, we offer current matters such as: surgery, travel, anniversaries of important family events (birthday, wedding, death of a loved one).
- All other family matters are offered in the devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
- Reciting of intentions cannot take up half of the time of the Holy Mass.

More information to follow.

Offertory Envelopes for 2024

If you have not picked up your offertory envelopes for 2024, please look for your set in the hallway of the church. Also, please write your full name and address on the first envelope in your set and do not use envelopes from previous years.

Anointing of the Sick

- A hospital chaplain – a Roman Catholic priest – is employed full-time at local hospitals and is on-call 24 hours a day. To arrange a **hospital visit**, please ask a nurse to call the priest on duty.
- Please contact the parish office if you or your loved one require a **home visit** from a priest.

– COMMUNITY NEWS –

Radio Maria Banquet

Radio Maria Christmas Banquet will be held on **Sunday, January 14** at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. and banquet will begin at 1 p.m. The event includes a hot meal prepared by Jan Gromada, a lottery, caroling, and a Christmas concert by Kinga Mitrowska. Tickets at \$75 are available from:

- Health from Nature Store (416) 532-9805
- Something Special Store (905) 629-2347
- Joanna Szydłowska (905) 818-1040
- Joanna Strzezek (905) 845-3553

Carnival Ball

Canadian Polish Congress cordially invites you to a Carnival Ball on **Saturday, January 20 at 7 p.m.** at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre. Proceeds will help with organizing the May 3rd Parage. Delicious dinner with wine prepared by Jan Gromada, lottery, dancing, and music by Impuls. Tickets at \$75 can be purchased from Janusz (647) 559-1738, at the Centre, and in the Parish Hall after the Sunday Mass.

Radosc-Joy Christmas Concert



Sunday, January 28 at 4 p.m.
in the Parish Hall

Over 100 performers from our parish! Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door or from RJ members. Seats are numbered.

Pilgrimages

Medjugorje May 3 – 13, 2024
For more information please contact:
Marzena (647) 284-1631
Malgorzata (416) 859-8469

Rosary intention for January

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.



ROSE 57 will lead the rosary this week.

– MASS INTENTIONS –

MONDAY, January 8, 2024

–

FRIDAY, January 13, 2024

No 8 a.m. Mass.
Only 7 p.m. Mass, in Polish.

SATURDAY January 13, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Jozefa Kobzan
- 17⁰⁰ ✠ Marek Mierzwa (3rd anniv.) – family
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Adam Wiecko (anniv.) – family

SUNDAY January 14, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Parents Apolonia and Zygmunt Trzeciakowski – daughter and family
- 9³⁰ ○ For God's blessing for Wanda and Waldemar Szymczak on their 50th wedding anniversary
- 11⁰⁰ ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors
- 13⁰⁰ ✠ Kazimierz, Leokadia, Stanislaw, Edward, Czeslawa, Anna from the Krysztopik family – daughters and sisters
- 14³⁰ ○ For God's blessing and Mary's protection for son Adam
- 19⁰⁰ ○ For God's blessing for Dorota, Konrad, Natalia, Markus Czerzak

Please inform the parish office of any errors in the spelling of the above names.

2023 Parish Statistics

In the year **2023** we welcomed **109** new members into our parish community through the sacrament of baptism, **104** children received their First Holy Communion, **90** were confirmed, **41** marriages were blessed, and **140** members passed from this to eternal life.

Our community is quite large. Please remember to 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.

If your address or phone number has changed, please fill out a Change of Address Form (found in the hallway of the church) and place it in the collection basket on Sunday.

*Jesus called Matthew: "Follow me."
Following meant imitating
the pattern of his life
and not just walking after him.*

~ St. Bede ~