

Epiphany of the Lord

“They saw the child... and they knelt down and paid his homage.”

Matthew 2.1-12

Reflection

Christmas Day was twelve days ago; have we moved on? Have the distractions of the season had their way with us? Has the tree been taken down, and the stockings and ornaments put away? Has the ordinary returned?

Before we wrap up Christmas, we are meant to sit with today’s Gospel, savouring its words, amazed as we go deeper – appreciating what God has done for us, for you, for me. With the birth of our Lord and Saviour, all the world was changed – not just two thousand years ago, but for all time, and for today. Or has it? We who are Jesus’ witnesses in our homes, communities, and workplaces must persevere in opening our minds and hearts, seeking the joy experienced by the Magi as the star led them to the Holy Family.

If we aren’t amazed by what has transpired, maybe we showed up Christmas morning but missed the Good News. As a husband, father, and grandfather, at times I have been glad that the hype, busy-ness and expense are over, but also sad that so little has changed. Like many, I have missed the real celebration of Christmas. If this is true for you, go back to today’s Gospel and reread it. Relish the news it brings; pay sincere homage; and put Jesus at the centre of your year ahead.

Harry McAvoy; Newmarket, ON

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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

*Moved? Please keep us up to date.
 Not registered? Please sign up.*

– PARISH NEWS –

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 2025

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 2025.

You may also write **C + M + B** (Christus Mansoni Benedicat) 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, **Leo Gorski**, son of Julia and Michal, will be initiated into the Catholic faith and welcomed into our parish community. We pray for God’s blessing for Leo and congratulate his parents and Godparents.

Happy Birthday Fr. Bogdan & Fr. Jan!

Wishing you a truly wonderful birthday, God’s grace and the intercession of your Patroness, the Immaculate Mary. May you continue to grow in faith and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Let us keep Fr. Bogdan and Fr. Jan in our prayers and take a moment to wish them a happy birthday.

Coffee and Donuts Schedule

January 5 – Friends of the Missions
 January 12 – Holy Rosary Family

– PARISH NEWS –

2024 Parish Statistics

In the year 2024 we welcomed **84** new members into our parish community through the sacrament of baptism, **88** children received their First Holy Communion, **71** were confirmed, **27** marriages were blessed, and **96** members passed from this to eternal life. On average, **4,000** individuals attend Sunday Masses each weekend.

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.

Kolbe Seniors Club

Members of the Kolbe Seniors Club are invited for Mass on **Tuesday, January 7** at 10 a.m., followed by a meeting at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre.

Evening of Praise

Adoremus Prayer Group is hosting an evening of praise on **Friday, January 10**, after the evening Mass. Join us for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection, and prayer.

Evening of Adoration

On **Sunday, January 12**, immediately after the evening Mass, Kolbe Pro-Life Group invites one and all to take part in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in reparation to Lord Jesus for sins against life and its dignity.

Pope’s Rosary Intention – January –

Let us pray that immigrants, refugees and all those affected by war may have access to education necessary to build the Kingdom of God.

Rose #52 leads the rosary this week.

Parish Office Hours

Monday	closed
Tuesday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 12 noon
Sunday	closed

– PARISH 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 Warsaw, 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.

Marriage Preparation Course

Marriage Preparation Course for couples who were never married will take place on seven Mondays, from **February 3 to March 24**, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Meetings are in-person and attendance is mandatory at all sessions. Fee: \$100 per couple. To register, go to www.kolbe.ca and click on *Liturgy and Sacraments* and then *Marriage*. Next course will be offered in October 2025.

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.

– CONCERTS –

Great Polish Carol Singing

The John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre is hosting the Great Polish Carol Singing this **Sunday, January 5 at 2:30 p.m.** Entrance is free, but donations are welcome.

Christ is Born – Christmas Concert Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church
 Novi Singers Toronto and Toronto Sinfonietta Chamber Ensemble, under the musical direction of Maciej Jaskiewicz, present a concert entitled “Christ is Born.” Performers include: Harnasie, Mali Harnasie, Adoremus-Agnes Dei, Fr. Bogdan Osiecki, Malgorzata Maye, Pawel Szczepanek. Suggested donation: \$20.

Radosc-Joy Christmas Concert



Sunday, January 26 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.

– PARISH NEWS –

Parish Registration Change of Address

Ours is an ethnic parish. Our parishioners are those who are of Polish descent and are formally registered at this church. Please note that we are not able to issue any references or letters of eligibility to non-parishioners. Registration forms and change of address forms can be found in the parish hallway. Filled out forms may be placed in the collection basket on Sunday.

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.

Baptism

Parents who are registered members of St. Maximilian Kolbe Church and would like to baptize their child must contact the parish office at least six weeks before the anticipated date of baptism. Preparation course is mandatory for all parents and Godparents. Baptisms take place during Mass:

- on Saturday at 5 p.m. in English
 - on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in Polish
- Godparents must meet all requirements outlined in Canon 874, paragraph 1:
- be at least 16 years old
 - be fully initiated into the Catholic Church
 - be in good standing with the Church (not married outside of the Church and not cohabitating)

Matrimony

Couples wishing to be married at St. Maximilian Kolbe Roman Catholic Church must contact the parish office at least one year prior to the anticipated date of the wedding in order to open a wedding file and obtain a list of required documents. In addition, marriage preparation course is mandatory for all couples. Please keep in mind that our priests can only officiate at marriage ceremonies of registered members of our parish who reside within the geographical boundaries of the Archdiocese of Toronto. Otherwise, permission of the local ordinary is required. For more information, couples may e-mail the parish office at kolbemagda@gmail.com.

– MASS INTENTIONS –

MONDAY January 6

- 8⁰⁰ ○ For God’s blessing and Mary’s protection for Fr. Bogdan Osiecki on his birthday
- 19⁰⁰ ○ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God’s continued blessing for the Wetoszka family
- ✠ Michal, Emilia, Wieslawa Serwin; deceased from Serwin, Mroz families;
- Halina Gawlik – son and family

TUESDAY January 7

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Deceased from the Sudol and Lisowski families
- 10⁰⁰ ○ For members of the Kolbe Seniors Club
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Jose and Teresa Cabral

WEDNESDAY January 8

- 8⁰⁰ ○ For God’s blessing and Mary’s protection for Fr. Jan Kobzan on his birthday
- ✠ Romuald, Wanda, Kazimierz Kulesza – daughter and family
- 19⁰⁰ ○ Collective Mass Intentions

THURSDAY January 9

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Jozef – son
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Genowefa and Jan Michna; Anna and Augustyn Nycz – daughter and family
- For God’s blessing and success in school for Adrian Kolakowski on his 20th birthday – father and grandmother

FRIDAY January 10

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Tadeusz Kaczmarek (1st anniv.) – wife, daughter-in-law, sons
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Marianna, Stanislaw, Joanna Kowalczyk
- ✠ Zofia Paliwoda (4th anniv.) – children and families

SATURDAY January 11

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Miroslaw Labieniec (26th anniv.) – wife and daughters
- 17⁰⁰ ○ For peace in Ukraine and around the world
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Adam Wiecko (9th anniv.) – family

SUNDAY January 12

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Apolonia and Zygmunt Trzeciakowski – daughter and family
- 9³⁰ ○ For God’s blessing and gifts of the Holy Spirit for son Mateusz
- 11⁰⁰ ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors
- 13⁰⁰ ✠ Parents Andrzej and Wladyslawa; brother Jozef
- 14³⁰ ✠ Edward Romasz – wife
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Malgorzata Adamek (4th anniv.); Maria and Augustyn Kiska

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