

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

2473 Thorn Lodge Dr., Mississauga, ON L5K 1K8

Tel: 905-822-8132 Fax: 905-822-6620

www.stfrancisofassisimi.archtoronto.org

office@st-francisofassisi.ca

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Damian Ali, Pastor

Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te

Melinda Mayo, Parish Secretary Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 5, 2020

"They fell down and worshiped Jesus"

If Jesus truly is who he claims to be, the eternal Son of God and Saviour of the world, then why is he not recognized by everyone who hears his word and sees his works? John the Evangelist states that when Jesus came into the world the world knew him not and his own people received him not (John 1:10-11). Jesus was born in obscurity. Only the lowly shepherds recognized him at his birth. Some wise men also found their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King of Israel. These men were not Israelites, but foreigners. They likely had read and discussed the Messianic prophecies and were anxious to see when this Messianic King would appear. God led them by means of an extraordinary star across the desert to the little town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

John Chrysostom (347-407), in his homily on this passage from Matthew 2, explains the significance of the star of Bethlehem:

"Note how fitting was the order of events: the wise men saw the star, were received by the Jews and their king; they heard prophecy to explain what had appeared; the angel instructed them; and then they journeyed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem by the guidance of the star. From all this we learn that this was not an ordinary star, for no other star has this capacity to guide, not merely to move but to beckon, to "go before them," drawing and guiding them along their way. The star remained after bringing them to the place, in order that the child might also be seen. For there is nothing conspicuous about the place. The inn was ordinary. The mother was not celebrated or notable. The star was needed to manifest and illumine the lowly place, until they had reached their destination at the manger." [The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 7:3]

The Lord of the universe who revealed the star of Bethlehem to the Gentiles of the East so they could come and worship Jesus, gives each one of us the same light of revelation to recognize and accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. It is through the help of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and opens the eyes of the mind that we are able to believe the truth which God has revealed to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. "Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace" (Thomas Aquinas).

To know and to encounter Jesus Christ is to know God personally. In the encounter of the wise men with Jesus we see the plan of God to give his only Son as King and Saviour, not just for the Jewish people but for all the nations as well. The Lord Jesus came that both Jew and Gentile might find true and lasting peace with God. Let us pray today that Jew and Gentile alike will find the Lord and Saviour on their journey of life. Do you bring the light of Jesus Christ to those you meet through the witness of your life and testimony?

*Thank
You*

Our Parish Christmas and New Year celebrations were truly wonderful and I thank all parishioners and their families and friends who came to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, with us.

I am especially grateful to all our parish volunteers who helped make our celebrations beautiful acts of worship to God. The decorating group worked tirelessly to beautify the church, the ushers helped with parking and other duties, the Eucharistic ministers and lectors served our various Masses and the altar servers assisted at the altar.

Thank you also to Fr. Roger for his assistance throughout the year. And last but certainly not least, thank you to our two wonderful deacons, Deacon Don and Deacon Richard.

I am overwhelmed by the love and generosity of the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi. Your kind words, gifts and greetings at my Farewell reception will not be forgotten. Thank you so much!

May the Christ Child bring you peace and abundant blessings in the New Year.

Fr. Bernard

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, JANUARY 6 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7 – 8:00 A.M.

+ Ethan Reid

+ Peter English

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9 – 8:00 A.M.

In reparation for offenses committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 – 5:00 P.M.

S.I. Maureen Chua

+ Ernesto Marchiori

SUNDAY, JAN. 12 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:30 A.M. + Lena Blatman

10:00 A.M. + Jaqueline LeBlanc

12:00 P.M. S.I. Parish Community

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2020-21 school year will take place January 6-17, 2020. Parents/guardians have the option to register online or in-person at their designated Catholic school. The online registration will begin on November 26 at www.dpcdsb.org. For those unable to register at the school during school hours, a registration evening has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2020 (Snow Date: January 16, 2020). For more information, your local Catholic school, visit the Board website at www.dpcdsb.org, or call the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board at 905-890-1221.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

If you would rather make your regular offerings through Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG), kindly complete a PAG Form, which are available at the back of the Church with the envelopes, and return to the Office. Please note you still need a box of envelopes for the other Special Collections.

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

As part of Marriage Sunday 2020 celebrations, Cardinal Thomas Collins will preside at a special Mass. The Celebration of Marriage Mass will be at St. Isaac Jogues Church, Pickering on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 3 p.m. Couples celebrating their milestone 25th, 40th, 50th and 60+ wedding anniversary will be honoured at this special Mass.

THANK YOU!

The Parish Social Committee extends heartfelt thanks to all those who attended Fr. Bernard's Farewell Reception (Sunday, December 29), all those who contributed generously to his parting gift and all of the volunteers whose hard work made the event an enjoyable success.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS IN NEED



The Knights of Columbus will be accepting non-perishable food items after Masses on January 18/19 and January 25/26. Our collected food will be delivered, sorted and stocked by the Knights at Eden Food for Change, our neighbourhood food bank serving those in need in our very own Erin Mills community. Thank you for your support.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES 2020

We thank you for your contributions to the Church in 2019 and advise you that income tax receipts will be issued in February 2020. In order to receive an income tax receipt for contributions to the Church, we strongly suggest you take a box of Offertory Envelopes each year. Offertory Envelopes for 2020 are located at the back of the Church. Brochures outlining our Pre-Authorized Giving Plan and Parish Registration forms are also available at the back of the Church.

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES OF THE WORLD

Please join us on February 1 as we host the Vatican approved Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit. The exhibit, which was designed and created by Venerable Carlo Acutis, features panels that each tell the story of a Eucharistic miracle and allow you to "virtually visit" the places where the miracles took place. St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish 4260 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga. For more information call 905-848-2420.

AN EVENING AT THE SEMINARY

Have you ever thought about becoming a priest? Spending an evening at the seminary offers discerners a glimpse into the place where priestly formation begins. The evening includes Holy Mass in the beautiful seminary chapel, dinner, a talk by Director of Vocations Fr. Chris Lemieux and a tour of the seminary. January 27 at 4:45 at St. Augustine Seminary. For more info email vocations@archtoronto.org or call 416-968-0997.

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