

Epiphany of the Lord

If Jesus truly is who he claims to be, the eternal Son of God and Savior 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.

In their thirst for knowledge of God, the wise men from the East willingly left everything, their home and country, in pursuit of that quest. In their diligent search they were led to the source of true knowledge - to Jesus Christ, the Light and Wisdom of God. When they found the newborn King they humbly worshiped him and gave him gifts fitting for a king.

The Lord of the universe who revealed the star of Bethlehem to the Gentiles of the East so they could come and worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and King of Kings (Revelations 19:16), gives each one of us the same light of revelation to recognize and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. 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 understand, accept, and believe the truth which God has revealed to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In faith, the human will and intellect cooperate with grace. "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 Savior, 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 Savior 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?

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday Jan 7th

+Howard Jobin

Requested by Maureen MacDonald

Wednesday, Jan 8th

+Aiden Carr

Thursday, January 9th

+Paul Proctor

Friday, January 10th

Pro Populo

Saturday, January 11th

+ Rick Ainey

Requested by Don Smith

REST IN PEACE

In your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of:
Aiden Carr, Paul Proctor, John De Villiers, Jack Ryan

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light burns this week in loving memory of
Aiden Carr

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ellwood Donnelly, Philip Teixeira, John W., Paul Holliday,
Gerry Genuino, Baby Isaiah Liam, Baby Owen, Patrick
O'Neill, Jacob McLean, Elaine Atwood, Mary McLean



Please remember the St. Vincent De Paul poor box as you exit the church.



Help support your parish so that we are able to keep our doors open to support you when you need us. Contact the office if you wish to begin using envelopes or for more information on our Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). Alternatively, scan the QR code and link will take you to our "Donate" button on our website where you can donate through your credit card; select "St. John's Parish, Toronto" in the drop-down menu.

IN THE NEWS

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Churches – We have identified holy places of worship in each of the major regions of the archdiocese to serve as pilgrimage destinations during the Jubilee Year. The locations are as follows:

Archdiocese	St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica,
Shrines	Martyrs' Shrine, Midland
Central Region	St Paul's Basilica St Mary's, Toronto St Edward the Confessor
Western Region	Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Etobicoke St. Mary's, Brampton
Eastern Region	St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough St Gregory the Great, Oshawa
Northern Region	St Padre Pio, Kleinburg St Mary's, Barrie

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Prayer Service 2025 Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, 4 p.m. North City Church 377 Woodbridge Ave., Woodbridge. Join Bishop John A. Boissonneau and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for His Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches and celebrates the 1,700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.

Vocations:

If you feel God is offering you the grace of a Church vocation, call, Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.968.0997. Email vocations@archtoronto.org

CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY: Catholic in Recovery is a non-profit organization seeking to serve those suffering from addictions and unhealthy attachments. We meet every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. St. Roch's Parish 2889 Islington Ave., North York. Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Church. If interested in learning more, call 289-541-8188

"If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever!" – Pope Francis

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

Confirmation Registration

Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation is now open and online on the website (stjohnsto.archtoronto.org) – please fill out the form and submit it by January 5, 2025.

2024 PARISH OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The 2024 Parish Offertory envelopes are ready and waiting for you to pick up in the vestibule. Please note some of the previously assigned envelope numbers have changed, especially those who had envelopes 401 and up. If you can't find a box with your name on it, contact the office. Don't forget to put your name and address on the first few envelopes.

Call to Ministry

A few ministries are looking for volunteers to serve in the Parish community. If you are interested, please let Fr. Joshua know or contact the Parish Office.

1. **Parish Counters**
Volunteers are needed to help count the weekly collection and the donations given to the parish community through various means. The team mainly meets on Sundays after the Masses, to count the collection and deposit it in the bank.
2. **Hospitality Ministry**
This ministry seeks to serve, welcome, and greet all peoples who walk through our doors here at St. John's. They exist to welcome and assist all of our neighbours to be able participate in our faith community. We are looking for people to assist at our Saturday evening and Sunday morning liturgies.
3. **Liturgical Ministry**
 - **Lectors** – the call for readers to assist both at the weekday and weekend liturgies. Whether you are a young person or a person of experience, please consider serving at the Lector.
 - **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist** – the special call to be able to distribute communion to the faithful during Mass, but also to help bring the Eucharist to the sick if able.
 - **Altar Servers** – the important call to serve at the Altar of the Lord, to help the presider and the deacon pray with the faithful, but also help uplift our liturgy with your witness.