# **St. Anselm's Parish**

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PARISH STAFF

Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor Deacon Daniel McPhee

Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor Aloysius Chan, Organist



LEAD YOU THROUGH THE NEW YEAR



**Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.** For the Special Intentions of Angelina Ambatali & Family

Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m. Frank Loconte Requested by the Family

**Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.** Chang Joon Yu Requested by Brian & Angela Oh & Family

# Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.

Salvatore & Rosaria Buffa Requested by the Family

#### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY January 18-25

The Annual Week of Prayer Service for the Greater Toronto Area will be held at

#### Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

920 Progress Avenue, Scarborough on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend in person or watch the livestream on Facebook:

facebook.com/TorontoArmenianChurch

Join His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. The homilist is Rev. Archpriest Fr. Zareh Zargarian (Vicar of the Armenian Diocese of Canada and Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church, Toronto.)

This event is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office for Promoting Christian Unity & Religious Relations with Judaism, and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.

#### WE'RE HERE TO HELP

The parish office remains closed to the public at this time. Voicemail and email are being checked on a regular basis, as is the mailbox just outside the office door. Appointments are available upon request. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

We are grateful for your ongoing support of your parish as we continue to operate under capacity limits at this time. **Our offertory and building funds are crucial to daily operations.** You can request a box of donation envelopes, enrol in our parish preauthorized giving (PAG) program or make a secure one-time or recurring donation online by visiting <u>ADoT</u> <u>Parish - Toronto East Donation Form - Archdiocese of</u> <u>Toronto (archtoronto.org)</u> and choosing "St. Anselm" from the drop-down menu of parishes. Cheques may be mailed or dropped off in the parish office mailbox at any time. Thank you for your support!

## SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Pope Francis has launched the Synod on Synodality: a two-year global process of listening to the faithful that will help the Church reflect on how we can do God's will in the world today. The comments of the faithful will ultimately be discussed at a meeting of the bishops in the Vatican in 2023. To learn more about the Synod on Synodality and to share your thoughts, please visit: www.archtoronto.org/synodality.

#### **OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ's name? If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

## vocations@archtoronto.org

http://www.vocations.ca/WWW.Vocationstoronto. ca

#### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FAMILY-TO-FAMILY

The St. Anselm chapter of St. Vincent de Paul would like to offer their sincere thanks to parishioners who supported the Family-to-Family program this year. Thanks to your generosity, nearly 50 families were helped through grocery gift cards. Thank you!

# **CASSEROLES GROUP "A"**

Group "A" casseroles for the Good Shepherd will be collected on **Saturday, January 15**<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm in the church parking lot.

# EPIPHANY OF THE LORDIsa 60:1-6Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6Psalm 72Matt 2:1-12

Making the Vision a Reality.



it is one thing to have a vision; it's another thing to share that vision and to excite others with the possibility that the vision might be realized. And it is quite another thing to accept and appreciate the

In today's first vision once it becomes real. reading, the prophet Isaiah is sharing a marvelous vision. Like a light piercing through a long darkness, he has glimpsed the end of the suffering and shame of his exiled contemporaries: forgiven and freed by God's providence, they are returning home. But they are not alone. They are being accompanied by an international cavalcade. Gift-bearing representatives have joined their parade and the celebration of their happy homecoming. There is no sign of prejudice here. No one has been barred from participation. All seem to be welcome. No one hears any racial or ethnic slurs; only the praises of God can be heard, in many languages. This same vision is given new life in today's Gospel, where the Matthean evangelist shares his conviction that the coming of Jesus in flesh and blood, in time and space, has precipitated the fulfillment of the ancient prophet's vision. In the figures of the giftbearing magi from the east are represented all those non-Jews for whom the Christ has also come. These are the cavalcade of nations who. like the Jews, have been invited to live in the light of God's peace and salvation. But Isaiah's vision and Matthew's hope for universal unity in Christ have not yet been fully realized. It has been obvious throughout salvation history that the realization of this vision of unity poses a great challenge. Tribalism threatened the unification of the clans of Israel and Judah. Territorial disputes and contradictory loyalties to their leaders made for great conflict. These difficulties were not ended by appearance of Jesus the distinctions separations. and discrimination continued to thwart the vision. In today's second reading, the author of Ephesians references that vision and calls it a mystery being revealed by the

Spirit: that all peoples are one in Christ Jesus. Whether it is described as a vision or a mystery, it remains especially clear that fulfillment continues to elude us. We as a community of believers have yet to come to grips with this vision we celebrate today. When confronted by the animosity that continues to prevent the unity of all peoples, it is so easy, so tempting, to point a finger of blame at others. It is also tempting to do nothing to improve the situation when the problems that separate us seem so insurmountable, so deeply rooted, with such a long and tortured history. But this feast of Epiphany and its vision are not asking us to singlehandedly solve the conflicts and disunity in our world. This vision begs us to look within ourselves and to those with whom we come into contact on a regular basis. Can all of our relationships be held up to the light of the vision of Epiphany? If so, the vision lives. If not, then the vision pushes us to move beyond pride and ego and, rather than blame the other, to make the first step toward unity. These first steps are not easy for us. Epiphany's vision invites us to love the person we see, to find them lovable even with their weaknesses, faults and imperfections. Easy? Of course not! Yet we have the Master's own example to lead us. Think of Jesus' love for Peter, who denied him mightily. Jesus didn't say, "Peter, you must first change and become a better man before I can love you again." No, he said just the opposite: "Peter, you are Peter and I love you." Christ did not sever their friendship and renew it again after Peter had repented; rather, he maintained the friendship and in that way enabled Peter to become his better self. This is how Jesus loves, and it is Jesus' perspective and way of loving that believers are called to make their own. Then will the vision of Isaiah and the mystery of the magi be realized - one Peter, one person at a time. Start today - this hour, this day, this week. Glory to God in the Highest!

May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.

May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

