

# 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



*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.*

Mass  for  
Intentions Week

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

Eileen Tomidy

Requested by Theresa Ryan

Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.

Eileen Tomidy

Requested by Margaret and Art McManus

Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.

Gelindo and Rosetta Dalla Corte

Requested by the Family

Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 a.m.

Salvatore and Rosaria Buffa

Requested by the Family

**CASSEROLES**

Group A casseroles for the Good Shepherd Provide-A-Meal program will be collected next Saturday, **January 18<sup>th</sup>** from 4-5pm in the church parking lot. Please call the parish office or email [yvonne.gray@bell.net](mailto:yvonne.gray@bell.net) for other drop off arrangements.

The parish casserole program is an essential part of the good work done at GSM – they experience a sharp rise in those seeking a hot meal as the temperatures drop. Please consider joining our “casserole chefs” in the parish by contacting Yvonne or the parish office.

Thank you to our casserole chefs for your continued commitment to feeding the hungry!

**Friars Student Writing Contest 2025**

**(Nov. 11, 2024 to Jan. 13, 2025)**

Theme: “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26)

High school students aged 13 to 19 from the Catholic School Boards in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event, which honours the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity taking place from January 18 to 25.

Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2025 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions. Students are encouraged to explore the resources at <https://bit.ly/3zOVHly> to gain insight into the meaning and purpose of the theme.

Entries are to be submitted at <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

Email [ecumenical@archtoronto.org](mailto:ecumenical@archtoronto.org) or call 416-934-3400 ext. 527 with any questions, or for more information



**NEW YEAR – NEW ATTITUDE**

As we grow in our awareness of the serious impacts of global environmental crises, it is important to resist feelings of hopelessness – which serve only to demobilize. Instead, be mindful that the NEW YEAR presents a range of NEW OPPORTUNITIES for strengthening our resolve to respect and care for our shared planet.

Watch for upcoming events, related to care of our shared planet, posted on the ECO-WALL in the Millwood lobby. Proactively discern ways through which you can better contribute to protecting our common home. Make an intentional commitment to LEARNING about the urgency of the climate crisis and what can be done to resolve it. As a matter of faith, commit to reading *LAUDATE DEUM* (2023) *Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father*. [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/2023\\_1004-laudate-deum.html#](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/2023_1004-laudate-deum.html#):

“MAY WE OURSELVES BECOME THE INSTRUMENTS OF GOD TO BRING OUT THE POTENTIAL WHICH HE HIMSELF INSCRIBED IN THINGS” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, 124)

*Isa 60:1-6*

*Eph 3:2-3, 5-6*

*Ps 72*

*Matt 2:1-12*

**WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST**



As we gather together today around God’s living word and the living bread of Eucharist, we will hear Isaiah share his vision of a cavalcade of nations streaming toward Jerusalem. We will take note as he describes gift-bearing riders astride camels, proclaiming God’s praises. We will listen attentively as the author of Ephesians reveals the “mystery” that gentiles and Jews — that is, all the peoples of the earth — are “fellow heirs, members of the same body and sharers in the promise in

Christ Jesus through the Gospel". Then, as we hear the uniquely Matthean Gospel of the magi proclaimed, we might think that the Isaian vision has already been realized and that the Ephesians author's mystery has been fully revealed. But reality tells us otherwise. The process of being gathered unto God is nowhere near completion. In fact, in some ways, it appears to have reached an impasse; for as we look about, we see separation and alienation. We see rejection and prejudice and stubborn unwillingness to be gathered together. We make war, not peace. We build walls instead of bridges. Instead of reaching out, we keep our distance. We do not converse; we accuse, we deride, we gossip, we curse. We are not united but divided, and thus we bear counter-witness to the God in whom we are all one. For those reasons, it is good for us to enter yet again into the spirit of today's feast and renew our efforts at coming together in the Lord. William Bausch has suggested that one way of entering into the feast of the Lord's Epiphany is to recognize that the story of the magi is the story of each of us. "Their timeless tale," insists Bausch, "follows the time-honoured, indelible, irreplaceable storyline of everybody" (*Once upon a Gospel*, Twenty-Third Publications, New London, Conn.: 2008). Like the magi, every human person is born with a call that we must answer, a vision to follow and a goal to be achieved. In order to respond to that call, each of us must be willing to journey forth from home and family and make our way into an unknown future. Inevitably, that journey will entail risk. There will be obstacles along the way, detours and even dead ends that will mean we have to start over.

There will also be other people, each pursuing their journey, some of whom will prove to be helpful while others may deter or delay our progress, either openly or through deceit. Notice the role that Herod played in today's Gospel narrative. He was threatened by the child in whom the prophecies of a savior would be fulfilled. So, while plotting murder in his heart, he feigned a sincerity of spirit before the magi. On our journeys, we too will encounter Herods. Their deceptions may fool us; their manipulations may even cause us to lose our way. Bausch suggests that our "Herods" may come in the form of "rationalistic hucksters" who preach that there is

nothing beyond this life ... that there is no journey ... that all is illusion." We also hear Herod's voice in countless commercials that promise to ease our pain or enhance our good looks or tempt us to tune out, lie back and ignore the needs of others. Along with the Herods, however, there will be helpers who support our journey. Just as the magi were guided by the shining light of a star and by the overtures of God in a dream, so will our paths be lit and our journeys made easier by the gifts God sends our way. As we respond to God's call, as we try to realize our visions and accomplish our goals, we will not be travelling alone. Others with similar calls and visions and goals will be following an itinerary like ours. Like the magi, let us be willing to bring gifts along with us to offer God. Our gift could be our willingness to accept the mystery that we are all one in Christ; the surrender of the mistrust, ignorance and prejudice that cause us to reject those we do not understand. Let us embrace one another and make our way home together to God.



...to everyone who contributed to our Christmas and New Year's liturgies. From our wonderful choir members to our dedicated readers, greeters and altar servers, thank you for your time and talent, especially at the busiest time of the year. We could not do it without all of you. Thank you as well from Fr. Tom and the parish staff for the generosity shown to us over Christmas. We are most grateful for your kindness and thoughtfulness!

## **ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**

The Vincentians in our parish would like to take this opportunity to thank parishioners for their generous support of the Angel Tree and Family to Family initiatives once again this year. Gifts were distributed before Christmas, spreading Christmas cheer to those in need.

Are you interested in finding out about this outreach program? St. Vincent de Paul is always grateful for new members and the time commitment can be minimal. For more information, please contact the parish office or Yvonne at [yvonne.gray@bell.net](mailto:yvonne.gray@bell.net)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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