

ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

1 MacNaughton Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 3H3

Phone: 416-485-1792 Fax: 416-485-4920

Email: stanselmsto@archtoronto.org Website: stanselmsto.archtoronto.org

PARISH STAFF

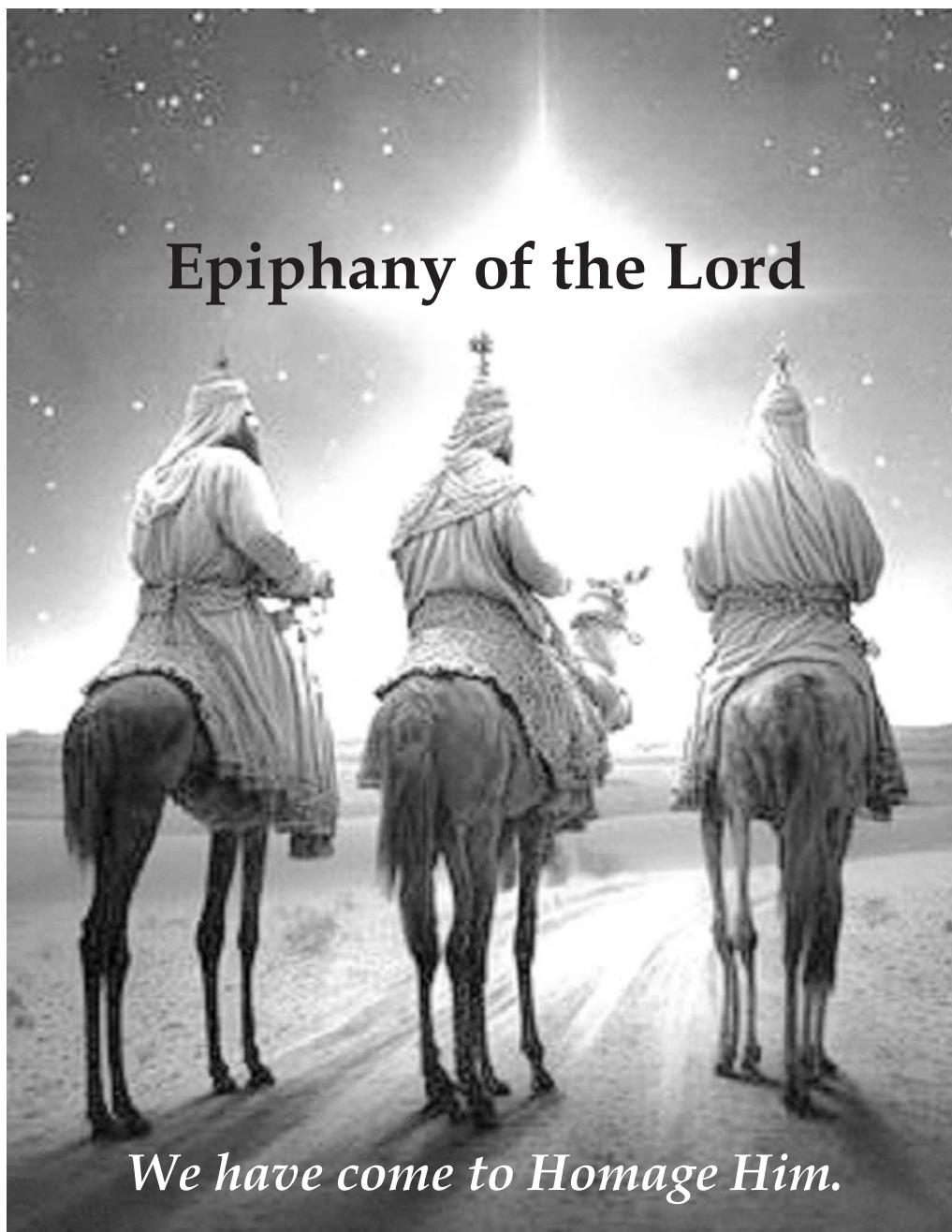
Fr. Thomas Moore, Pastor

Deacon Daniel McPhee

Barrig Hayward, Administrative Assistant

Goody Cabral, Music Director & Cantor

Aloysius Chan, Organist



**Mass for
Intentions**

Tuesday, January 6th, 8:15 a.m.

Wednesday, January 7th, 8:15 a.m.

Teodorico Abesamis
Requested by the Family

Thursday, January 8th, 8:15 a.m.

David Pieri
Requested by Vicki Garnett

Friday, January 9th, 8:15 a.m.

Lorraine Cottle
Requested by the Family

GOOD SHEPHERD CASSEROLES – GROUP “A”

Group A casseroles for the Good Shepherd Refuge “Provide a Meal” program will be collected on **Saturday, January 17th from 4-5pm** in the church parking lot. Please call the parish office or email Yvonne.gray@bell.net if you need to drop off your casserole during the week.

Our parish casserole ministry is important year-round, but even more so during the cold winter months when the city's most vulnerable seek shelter and a warm meal. Each casserole prepared by parishioners feeds TEN hungry individuals who would otherwise have nothing to sustain themselves. Please consider joining this ministry – it is open to everyone, including high school students seeking volunteer hours. The recipe is provided and is a simple one with just six common ingredients. Pans and lids are also provided and your commitment would be just one casserole every other month. In doing so, you would be feeding 60 people throughout the course of a year!

Thank you to our casserole chefs for your dedication and commitment to feeding the hungry.



...to everyone who contributed to our Christmas and New Year's liturgies. From our talented choir to our dedicated readers, greeters and altar servers, thank you for your time and talent, especially at the busiest time of the year. It would not be possible 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!



Committing to a Sustainable Future

The NEW YEAR presents a perfect opportunity to revise and refresh our commitment to sustainability. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the magnitude and the urgency of the climate crisis – but we are not helpless and our smallest actions are not insignificant. In fact, our smallest actions will add up collectively to making a significant change. As we enter 2026, take a moment to discern what small adjustments you might make to better care for our Common Home. “You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them.”

(Saint Therese de Lisieux,
<https://www.littleflower.org/st-therese/>

Isa 60:1-6

Psalm 72

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matt 2:1-12

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Isaiah 60:2

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



The prophet Isaiah begins our first reading today with a whole series of words that give us hope and joy and great reassurance. He tells us, for example, “Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.” We are further told by the prophet that we “should be radiant” at what we see and that our hearts “shall thrill and rejoice.”

And so we come to the Gospel reading from Matthew fully prepared to celebrate with joy at the birth of a marvelous child. But instead we find that the mood has shifted. Joy has been transformed into an atmosphere of danger. Fear has replaced hope. The brightness of the star shining in the sky has been dimmed by the ominous presence of the Roman Empire, in the person of King Herod. It's hard for us to understand today just how powerful

and dominant a force the Roman Empire was in the lives of the ordinary people in first-century Palestine. The stories of Jesus' birth were extremely radical when they were written some 40 years after his death. They were revolutionary in the sense they were a threat to the whole belief system of the empire — so much so, in fact, that Matthew later tells us of Herod's plan to "seek out the child to destroy him." The Romans believed that there was only one true God: Caesar. Every single day, Jews had to hear about the glory and majesty of the emperor of Rome, Caesar Augustus. Every single day they had to hear about how Caesar was the Divine One, the Lord of the Universe, the Savior of the World, the Prince of Peace. Every single day they were reminded of all of this with the coins that were used for commerce, the inscriptions and statues found everywhere, the temples dedicated to him. To counteract these teachings and to challenge the Romans publicly, Matthew wrote today's Gospel about the birth of Jesus and in effect, boldly proclaimed that Caesar is not God. Jesus is. Caesar is not the Prince of Peace. Jesus is. Caesar is not the Savior of the World. Jesus is.

What today's Gospel account does is set the tone for everything that will follow in Jesus' life. It tells us he alone is the wisdom of God that is so compelling it attracts the wise men of the gentiles and that he alone is the true Lord of the Universe and the true Savior of the World. Not Caesar. Jesus is the Star that can illuminate our lives like no one else. But this Gospel also tells us that Jesus and his followers will suffer greatly. They will suffer because they pose a threat to the empire by embracing an alternative consciousness, a different way of seeing and living out what is truly important in life. Matthew's Gospel does this by showing us that what the world hopes for — what will truly satisfy us way down deep — is not found in the power and might and riches of Caesar and his armies and his palaces. Instead, it will be found in a star, a star that will lead all wise people to the understanding of what lasts, of what is worth treasuring. This star directs us to a stable in that little town of Bethlehem where lies a baby about whom we love to sing every year at this time: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

Did you know:

The "epiphany" of Jesus, his revelation to the world, was accompanied by the offering of three gifts, each of which symbolized a different aspect of the divine/human savior.

Frankincense is offered to Jesus, the Son of God, the eternal Word of the Father who is worshiped with the Father and the Spirit.

Gold is offered to Jesus the King of the human race, the summit of creation.

Myrrh is offered to the divine/human savior of the world who suffered and died for the salvation of all.

Jesus is revealed in our own day also. He is revealed as the Word of God speaking to us in the marvelous workings of nature, in the achievements of the human spirit, and in the dialogue between Church and world. He is revealed to us as King in every victory over ignorance, alienation and powerlessness. He is revealed to us as Suffering Messiah in the heart and face of every poor person, every stranger, every wanderer living in a back alley or under a bridge, every person victimized by others. "His glory has shone among us." We have only to recognize him and to do what the magi did in his presence: "and they knelt down and paid him homage."

Jesus perfected revelation by fulfilling and manifesting himself: through his words and deeds, his signs and wonders, but especially through his death and glorious resurrection from the dead and final sending of the Spirit of truth. *taken from Vatican II, [Constitution on Divine Revelation](#), 1965: 4*

To Love and Serve: Lectionary Based Meditations by Gerald Darring

For God's blessing in this New Year, that God may fill the coming days with health of body, mind and spirit, renew the gifts of the Spirit within us and inspire us with new ways to share our gifts and resources with others...We pray...Glory to God in the Highest...

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Prayer Service 2026

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Runnymede United Church, 432 Runnymede Rd, Toronto, ON M6S 2Y8

Theme: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4) 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 the Church. This event is jointly organized by the Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations and the GTA Council of Christian Churches.

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