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Epiphany of the Lord



Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 07

- 9:00 a.m. Antonio & Lolita Pinote (I) Thanksgiving
10:30 a.m. +Romeo Ragudo
12:15 p.m. People of the Parish

Monday, January 08

No Mass

Tuesday, January 09

- 8:00 a.m. +Romeo Ragudo

Wednesday, January 10

- 7:00 p.m. Gary Rodrigues (I) Thanksgiving

Thursday, January 11

- 8:00 a.m. + Veronica Ball

Friday, January 12

- 7:00 pm Rolly & Veronica Anicoche (I)

Saturday, January 13

- 9:00 a.m. +Lou Casullo
4:30 p.m. +Michelle & Antonietta Flammia

The Epiphany of the Lord - January 07, 2024

The Son of God was first manifested to the world through the visit of the magi. Today, God's Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His Church. If you think that God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call Rev. Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997; email vocations@archtoronto.org or call Rev. Alan Glass at 416-757-2806 or at olfatimasc@archtoronto.org for more information.



Next Week Readings

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Heeding the Call of Christ

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3.3-10,19

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6.13c-15a,17-20

Gospel: John 1.35-42

The First Disciple of Jesus

Latin Songs: can be found on Catholic Book of Worship (Pages 299 A, D, E, F, & G).

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GLASS:

This is the will of God: your sanctification.

Church membership in no way means adherence to a set of values at variance with those of the general society; rather, it means a stronger and more explicitly religious affirmation of the same values. — Peter Berger (1961)

This observation, unfortunately, is just as true today as it was in the early 1960's. Berger was looking specifically at the mainline Protestant denominations which had greatly grown in numbers and influence during the post-war 'baby boom.' But he made a nod to the Catholic Church which, he said, 'has remained in a state of tension with the overall culture, and thus provides an important witness that is not simply a reflection of secular values.'

At the present time there is growing pressure within the Church to ease that 'state of tension' by conforming the 'pastoral practice' of the Church to the values of the wider community, even when those values are directly contrary to the Gospel. We see this in 'Synodal Way' of the German bishops, in the Synod of Synodality and, most egregiously, in the recent Vatican approval of 'blessings' for 'same-sex couples.' For the faithful Catholic, this is exasperating.

The words of St. Teresa of Avila come to mind: "I don't know what to say about this world, for where there is a question of self-interest there is no holiness."

Yet 'holiness', more than anything else, is the business of the Church. One of the key themes of the Second Vatican Council was the universal call to holiness: "All the Christian faithful, of whatever state or rank, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity." As St. Paul writes to the Thessalonians:

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God.

Pope John Paul II was never afraid of being in a 'state of tension' with secular values. Indeed, he called for a 'new evangelization' to 're-propose wholeheartedly to everyone the high standard of ordinary Christian living.' He said:

The 'new evangelization' does not consist of a new Gospel. Neither does it involve removing from the Gospel whatever seems difficult for the modern mentality to accept. Culture is not the measure of the Gospel, but it is Jesus Christ who is the measure of every culture and every human action. The new evangelization has as its point of departure the certitude that in Christ there are 'unsearchable riches' which no culture nor era can exhaust, and which we must bring to people in order to enrich them. These riches are, first of all, Christ himself, his person, because he himself is our salvation.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The *Children's Liturgy* meetings & *First Holy Communion* classes will resume next *Sunday, January 14* during the **10:30 am Mass** in the church hall. All children – from 6 to 10 years old – are welcome to attend and participate. *Communicant will have their First Confession Scheduled on Thursday, January 18 at 6:00 pm in the church. Parents should continue teaching their children the basic prayers in preparation for the First Confession.*



CONFIRMATION 2023-2024

Applicants in the Confirmation class have an their 1st class next Saturday, January 13 at 1:00 pm in our church hall. On Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 pm all candidates are to participate for the Sacrament of Confession in the church. Attendance is mandatory for all meetings and the Sunday Eucharist. See the notes and schedule given to you. Thank you.



School Mass for January 2024

Our Lady of Fatima School
Wed., Jan. 17, 2024 @ 9:00 am.
St. Joachim School
Thurs., Jan. 11, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.



Registration Open for New Cycle of Formation Courses

In partnership with the [University of Dayton](#) in Ohio, the Archdiocese of Toronto is once again offering a discounted rate for the upcoming cycle of online courses and seminars offered by the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation at the University of Dayton in Ohio. Courses and certificate programs are on a variety of topics related to our Catholic faith. The next cycle of courses and seminars run from *January 15 to February 18, 2024*. You can download a list of courses and seminars in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Course topics include but are not limited to: **Chronic Illness: Mental Illness, Grief, Trauma Support and Counselling. Introduction to Liturgy, Music in Liturgy, Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists Who is Mary of Nazareth, and Why Should We Care? And much, much more!** *Registration for this cycle closes on January 10, 2024.* For more information or if you have any questions on this opportunity to learn and grow in faith, please feel free to reach out to the Office of Formation for Discipleship at formation@archtoronto.org.

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service 2024



Sunday, January 21, 2024, 4 p.m. ET
Venue: *St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral (455 Ferrier St., Markham, Ont. L3R 5Z2)*
Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

Join Archbishop Francis Leo 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 Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches.

Collect from the Memorial of St. André

Lord our God, friend of the lowly, who gave your servant, Saint André Bessette, a great devotion to Saint Joseph and a special commitment to the poor and afflicted, help us through his intercession to follow his example of prayer and love and so come to share with him in your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Interested in P.A.G. (Pre-Authorized Giving Plan)?



Pick up a flyer with more information about what is the 'pre-authorized giving'

plan and how parishioners can participate. Is your personal data as registered in our records updated? Please inform the office (416-757-2806) about any changes in your information ... new address or new phone number or added members to your household! Update your data before we issue the tax receipts for 2023. Thank you for your co-operation!

REMINDER THAT ...

There is a second collection - on **January 20/21** for the **Renovation Fund**. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance and support. May God reward abundantly. *Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*



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