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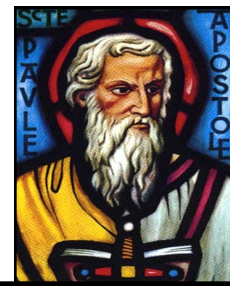
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# St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish

3224 Dundas Street West,  
 Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3  
 Tel 416-767-7054

Email: [stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaultheapostleto@archtoronto.org)

## THE EPIPHANY

### Gospel Summary

The Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking the whereabouts of the newborn king of the Jews. Herod was troubled by this news of the birth, as was all of Jerusalem. He sent the Magi to Bethlehem to search for the child, asking that they bring the child to him so that he could do the child homage. The Magi set out and followed the star to the place where the child was. They did the child homage and offered him their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they left for their country by a different route.

### Reflection for Parents

This Gospel narrative is full of adventure, danger, mystery, and yes—gifts! During this Christmas season, enjoy dramatizing this Gospel as a family. Then think about how far you would travel, how far you would go to pay homage to Jesus. Would you go as far as your parish to receive the Sacraments or to spend some time in quiet prayer? Would you go as far as the soup kitchen to serve a meal to the hungry? Would you go as far as to tell someone to stop bullying a classmate or a coworker? Would you go as far as to give up a morning cup of coffee or a favorite treat in order to give to someone in need the gift of food or clothing or the necessities of life? How far would you go? What would you give as your gifts to the King?

### Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

The star led the Magi to the place where Jesus was. With your family, cut out several yellow construction paper stars. On each star write either a way you can find Jesus—such as “read God’s Word”—or the name of a person who has helped you find Jesus, such as “Grandma Joan.” Create a mobile of your stars using coat hangers and yarn or string. Hang your stars in a place where all family members will see them.

### Discussion Starters

1. I can be like a star and show Jesus to others by . . .
2. The greatest gift I can give Jesus is . . .
3. The greatest gift our family can give Jesus is . . .

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## Visit Our Website!

You can register for Sacraments, become a member of our parish community, get information on upcoming events, and much more. Visit our website at [stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org](http://stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org) or simply scan the QR code below.



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 6

4:30pm  
 • +Carmen Gauci

### Sunday, January 7

*The Epiphany of our Lord*  
 9:00am

• Missa Pro Populo

### 10:30am

- +Emanuel Mercieca
- +Joseph Farrugia
- +Vic & Josephine Attard & Family

### 12:00 noon

• +Frank Cini

### Monday, January 8

*The Baptism of our Lord*

• Cutajar & Zammit Families

### Tuesday, January 9

• +Vincent Micallef

### Wednesday, January 10

• +Frances Zammit

### Thursday, January 11

- +Eugenio Sturino, Mariano & Amalia Stellato; Adelina Stellato

### Friday, January 12

• +Theresa Massa

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**Pastoral Team**  
 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell  
 Pastor  
 Deacon Raymond Frendo  
 Permanent Deacon

**MASS SCHEDULE**  
**Daily morning Mass:**  
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
 9:15am (Maltese/English)  
 Tuesday & Thursday  
 9:15am (English)

**Weekend Masses:**  
**Saturday:** 4:30pm (English)  
**Sunday:**  
 9:00am (English)  
 10:30am (Maltese/English)  
 12:00pm (English)

**Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every  
 Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Secretary**  
 Mrs. Rita Apalit

**OFFICE HOURS**  
 Monday to Friday  
 9:00am to 4:30pm  
 (Priest is always available by appointment)

**SACRAMENTS**  
**Baptism:** Please contact the priests. Baptisms are held on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30am

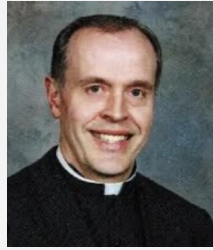
**Marriages:** Contact the priest one year in advance of the wedding. A marriage preparation course is mandatory.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
 First Friday: 8:40am to 9:10am  
 Saturdays: 4:45pm to 5:15pm  
 Anytime by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:**  
 Contact the priests. Parishioners are reminded that this is not a sacrament that should be left for the last possible minute. It is a Sacrament for the sick, not just for the dying.

January 6, 2024

## From our Pastor's Desk...



In this week's bulletin, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of today's feast. The Christmas Season, which concludes on January 8th with the baptism of Jesus, is filled with many beautiful celebrations. One of these is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, a feast that has its origins in the East, as showed by its Greek name. The word "epiphany" means manifestation, showing forth, or advent. In the Eastern Church, this day commemorated three significant moments in the life of Christ: his manifestation to the Gentiles (the wise men from Matthew 2), his baptism in the Jordan (Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2). Unlike Christmas, which emphasizes the hidden life of Jesus, Epiphany is a day when the news spreads far and wide.

Today, both the Eastern and Western Churches celebrate Christmas and Epiphany. In the East, Epiphany primarily focuses on the Baptism of the Lord and includes a solemn blessing of water. In the West, however, this solemnity centres around the visit of the Magi to the infant Christ, with the Baptism of the Lord being commemorated separately on a nearby feast.

The readings for today's solemnity focus on the Magi, but a trace of the ancient origins of Epiphany can be found in the antiphons of the Liturgy of the Hours. These antiphons highlight three significant events: the star leading the Magi to the infant Christ, the water being turned into wine at the wedding feast, and Christ's baptism by John in the river Jordan for the salvation of humanity.

The first reading from Isaiah envisions Jerusalem shining with the glory of the Lord, illuminating a dark world. All nations, and people from all over come to Jerusalem witnessed the light of God, bringing precious gifts. In the second reading from Ephesians, Paul teaches about the removal of the wall that separated the chosen people from the Gentiles through Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew does not mention the shepherds as Luke does in his account of Jesus' birth. Instead, Matthew introduces these mysterious characters from the East, referred to as magi, who possess esoteric knowledge. Notably, Matthew does not specify their number. They may be astrologers, as they have discovered Jesus through a star. Herod becomes immediately alarmed upon learning that these strangers are seeking the newborn king of the Jews. Herod cunningly instructs the magi to inform him of their findings. Herod is fearful, but the magi are filled with joy when the star stops over the place where Jesus is. Without hesitation, they enter and pay homage to him, presenting symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (gold for a king, incense for a god, and myrrh for one who will die). The same wisdom that guided them warns them not to return to Herod.

Matthew's message is clear: while the knowledgeable scribes and priests who possess scripture knowledge do nothing, these foreign visitors eagerly embrace the opportunity to greet the newborn king.

As we gather with our loved ones to celebrate the Christmas season, let us remember the true essence of this special time - to commemorate the birth of our savior and to show our reverence through heartfelt prayers and acts of kindness.



### CHANGE IN VIGIL MASS SCHEDULE

Please be advised that effective this weekend the vigil mass will be at **4:30 PM**. This change will last for **six months**, after which we will evaluate its impact and feedback.

If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please feel free to contact us. We appreciate your support and participation in our parish life. We look forward to seeing you at the new vigil mass time beginning in January 2024.



Thank you 

THANKS FROM FR. ROY I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who enthusiastically took part in the Christmas Liturgies and took on specific roles. It is truly a remarkable blessing for our parish to have such a dedicated community, willing to devote their time, talent, and resources. The Christmas season is a truly enchanting time of the year, filled with joy and warmth. The sight of many individuals attending these celebrations was truly heartwarming. I am also incredibly grateful to every person who took the time to send me Christmas cards, greetings, and gifts. Your thoughtfulness touched me deeply. Although it is impossible for me to thank each individual personally, please know that your gestures meant the world to me.

### Mission Youth from Hamilton

will be joining us to serve the homeless on January 27<sup>th</sup>. They will meet at the parish at 10am for an event that last until 8pm. All youth are welcome to join, and parents are welcome to volunteer as well. To register, please visit [www.hamiltonmissionyouth.com](http://www.hamiltonmissionyouth.com)



### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. This feast day invites us to reflect on the revelation of Christ to humanity. One principle episode that the Epiphany celebrates is the visit of the Magi. The Magi represents the Gentiles and all nations coming to know and worship Christ. St. Leo the Great said that this revelation "came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognise and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ." As stewards, we should strive to be like that great star that led the Magi to encounter Christ. The star, as spectacular as it was, did not draw the Magi to itself but instead pointed towards Christ. So too, when we perform acts of stewardship and charity we should not take the glory or expect people to sing our praises. We should rather strive to remain humble and direct any praise to Christ who always sustains us in our good works. Moreover, the star stood out from the rest of the stars in the sky. As stewards, the joy of the Gospel should be our identifying characteristic. Therefore, let us strive to imitate that great star and joyfully point others to an encounter with Christ our Saviour.

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord where we reflect on the revelation of Christ to humanity. As stewards, we should strive to be like that great star that did not draw the Magi to itself but instead pointed towards Christ. We should try our best to remain humble and direct any praise to Christ who always sustains us in our good works.

*Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.*

### THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CALENDAR YEAR BRINGS NEW HOPE FOR A FRESH START

A new beginning is a great opportunity to deepen your Catholic faith life. Many people make New Year's resolutions, and they break them and then feel bad for not keeping them. It might be a good idea to make a few realistic New Year's goals. Here are some ideas to consider.

**PRAYER** Add more prayer to your daily life. There are many ways to pray. Traditional prayers like the Rosary, talking to our Lord, admiring his wonderful creation and praying before the Blessed Sacrament are ways to enrich your life with daily prayer.

### BE PROACTIVE AND ENGAGE ACTIVELY

Attending Sunday Mass alone does not encompass the entirety of being a Catholic Christian. Our parish has many ministries, all of which rely on volunteers to sustain their operations. What are your interests? I urge you to consider dedicating your time and talents seriously in 2024 to contribute to the growth of our parish community. Kindly arrange a meeting with Fr. Roy to explore the various avenues through which you can enhance your involvement.

**MAKE IT A PRIORITY** to attend daily Mass as much as possible during the week. It is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your love and devotion for the Eucharist.

**TAKE CHRISTIANITY WITH YOU**, and don't confine it to the church pews during Mass. Attempt to live according to Jesus' teachings as we engage with our loved ones, friends, and colleagues.

### ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD

**JESUS GROUP** will meet on **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 am.

**New members are welcome!** There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for new members.

