

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

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Epiphany of the Lord



We have come to Homage Him.

The Epiphany of the Lord

There is a Russian legend about an old grandmother who was invited to meet the royal Child who was just born in Bethlehem. The woman was about to retire for the night when shepherds knocked at her door. They shared with her the good news that the long awaited Child has now been born and begged her to come and give what help she could. She was a good-hearted woman, but the warmth of her bed looked more appealing than a cold journey on a winter's night. So she told them that she would go the following day. When asked to give them food that they could take in her stead, she answered, "Tomorrow."

When dawn came, the woman, true to her promise, prepared a basket with goods and gifts. But when she arrived to give her gifts, the Child had already left. She was angry with herself for not heeding the shepherds' invitation the night before. She then began to wander around the world looking for the Christ-child. She joined the legions of wanderers down history to search for the one who would bring new hope and new meaning into their lives. She found children everywhere and gave gifts to everyone in the hope that that child was the Christ-child. But she was never sure.

Today, we are celebrating the feast of the Epiphany, popularly known as the Feast of the Three Kings. The three were really astrologers but they were considered as "wise men" among their people. Through the story of the visit of the Wise Men from the East, Matthew wants to teach us that God's plan of salvation was not only for the Jews but also for the Gentiles, for all humanity.

According to spiritual writers, the gifts of the Wise Men underscore Jesus' identity both as God and man. Incense points to His being God; myrrh, to his being human; and gold, to his being King.

When the Wise Men left their gifts with the Christ-child, they took away a treasure that surpassed anything they themselves brought. They were not only enriched beyond imagination by their encounter with the Child but also took with them the gift of knowing who Jesus was -- the Son of God manifested to the Gentiles. Tradition has it that when they returned to their home country, they told people on the way and in their own country about the Infant "in the manger" and

enriched others with the truth of their own experience. Thus even if they did not yet know Christ's teachings, they had laid the groundwork in their own country for the person of Jesus. They had become "missionaries." Thus when early Christian missionaries went to the East, they were surprised to know that many people had already heard about the Infant Jesus. They were thus open to the preaching of the missionaries and many were eventually baptized.

By our baptism, we have received Christ, the Light. Just as the star led the Wise Men from the East to the Infant King and later proclaimed to their people as the Light of the world, we should do likewise with the Light of Christ we have received through baptism. Enriched by the sacraments, especially the Eucharist which is our spiritual nourishment and through which Jesus resides in our hearts, we have to make this Light disperse the dark areas in our lives. We also have to show our love and concern for Jesus by radiating this Light all around us through what we say and do so that others, too, will embrace the Light and in turn, pass it on to others.

When are we going to do this? Not tomorrow as the woman in our story did. For tomorrow is still to come and is beyond our control while yesterday is gone forever. Now is the only time we have and under our control. Thus now is our time to accept Jesus as our Light and radiate Him to others. Then, unlike the woman, we will not suffer any future regrets.

PLEASE START USING YOUR 2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES




Offertory Envelopes for the year 2025 are conveniently placed on the table at the rear of the church. Upon collecting your 2025 envelopes, please complete the card sticking out from the box, furnishing your full name, address, telephone number, and email address and leave it in the container provided.

Please do not use 2024 envelopes; they will not be assigned to your account.

Take a moment to inscribe your name and address on the envelopes for the initial weeks of 2025, offering an additional way to verify your contact details. We encourage you to include the donation amount on your envelope, providing valuable assistance to the counters.

If you currently do not use donation envelopes, we urge you to consider adopting them or explore the option of enrolling in a monthly-preauthorized giving plan. (PAG) Both approaches contribute to the financial stability of your parish while ensuring you receive a beneficial tax receipt annually.

*Your ongoing support
Is deeply appreciated, thank you!*

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">MASS INTENTIONS</h2>
<p><u>Saturday January 4th 2025</u> 5pm Parishioners of Our Lady of Peace</p>
<p><u>Sunday January 5th 2025</u> 10am †John Bartys & †Peter Adamiec Requested by Drozdal Family Special Intentions of Michelle Giorno 11:30am †William (Bill) Jarosz Requested by Jenny Jarosz †Vincenzo & †Filomena Domenichini Requested by Jenny Jarosz</p>
<p><u>Monday January 6th 2025 - No Mass on Mondays</u></p>
<p><u>Tuesday January 7th 2025</u> 9am</p>
<p><u>Wednesday January 8th 2025</u> 9am †Edgardo Manalang Requested by Manalang Family</p>
<p><u>Thursday January 9th 2025</u> 9am †Julian Molina Requested by Eden Molina</p>
<p><u>Friday January 10th 2025</u> 9am †Joseph Mifsud Requested by Joan Grima & Family</p>



Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

The Catholic Church worldwide will be celebrating a special Jubilee Year in 2025. This has been a tradition dating back to the year 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII announced the first Jubilee, which is also referred to as a “Holy Year”. The frequency has changed over time, with a Jubilee year originally celebrated every 100 years, later every 50 years and, more recently, every 25 years or at the request of the Holy Father.

The Jubilee Year includes many celebrations within the city of Rome and local initiatives in dioceses around the world. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee will be “Pilgrims of Hope”. In the words of Pope Francis: *“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”*

The Holy Father opened the Jubilee Year on December 24, 2024, with the official opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter’s Basilica and will continue until January 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Holy Door.

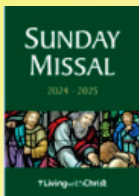
In the Archdiocese of Toronto, we inaugurated the Jubilee Year with a Solemn Opening Mass on Sunday, December 29th, at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica.

May this Holy Year provide a grace-filled opportunity to nurture the seeds of faith for you and your loved ones, immersing ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope into a year-long journey of prayer, witness and service drawing on the example of Jesus, our Lord.



Sanctuary Candle Intentions

Sacred Heart: †Dino Snidero

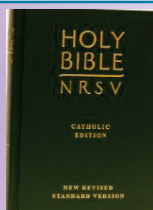


The 2024-2025 Sunday Missals

Are ready for you at the back of the church. Please consider a minimum \$5.00 donation

Recycle bins are located near the church exit doors, if you'd like to discard your Sunday Missals from past years.

Holy Bible NRSV
 For sale in the Parish Office - \$40



ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY



We will be continuing our regular training sessions with our new & experienced Altar Servers. If your child is interested in joining the Altar Servers, For any questions, please contact Arnold at asamson@archtoronto.org

OLP Youth Ministry

Starts back on January 10th 2025
 6:30 pm-9:00 pm

Location: St Elizabeth School, 5 Redcar Ave, Etobicoke
 Register on our Youth Ministry page, or contact Arnold Samson at asamson@archtoronto.org

Visit our Youth Ministry page on the parish website! Go to “Our Ministries” and select “Youth Ministry” from the menu. Updates & important information posted regularly.

Our Lady of Peace Pray for us



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