

# St. Joseph The Worker Parish

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## Parish Office Team

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## Epiphany of the Lord

**GOSPEL REFLECTION: GOD'S REVELATION**

*They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Matthew 2:11)*

In your high school English class, you might have learned that an “epiphany” is the moment when a character is struck with a life-changing realization that changes the rest of the story. Every good novel has one. That’s one way to think about the feast we’re celebrating today. God revealed himself to the Gentiles, and that moment changed everything.

There had been hints of God welcoming the Gentiles throughout the Old Testament. But Matthew’s Gospel shows us this pivotal moment: pagan astrologers from the East came to worship Jesus, the newborn king of the Jews (2:11). They are the first of the “nations” whom Isaiah prophesied would walk by the Lord’s light (Isaiah 60:3). They are the first of those Paul says will be “coheirs . . . in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6).

Why is this event so important? Because it reveals to us that God’s love is far more expansive than anyone had ever thought. We begin to see that in Christ, a loving relationship with God is open to everyone who comes to him, Jew or Gentile.

That includes you! And your annoying cousin. And the notorious criminal on death row. And the atheist on that YouTube channel. The invitation to come to Jesus extends to everyone. Because God’s loving desire to draw all people to himself cannot be contained; no one is excluded from it. And that’s a life-changing realization!

Today, as you celebrate this great feast, give thanks to God who loves so extravagantly that he opens his arms wide to welcome everyone who believes. Pray, too, that all people will come to the Lord.

*“Lord God, your revelation to the Gentiles has changed the course of history! Thank you for your love that reaches out to everyone!”*

**MASS READINGS**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60.1-6

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3.2-3, 5-6

**Gospel:** Matthew 2.1-12

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday 6 January, 5:00 PM**

+ Jimmy Saldanha

**Sunday 7 January, 9:00 AM (Italian)**

+ Orazio Facchini

**Sunday 7 January, 10:30 AM**

For all Parishioners

**Sunday 7 January, 12:00 PM**

+ Elizabeth Gayle Cole

**Tuesday 9 January, 9:00 AM**

For all Parishioners

**Wednesday 10 January, 7:00 PM**

+ Maria Miemban,

+ Jimmy Saldanha,

+ Marco Cordova,

+ Vincenzo Pulla,

+ Primo Rapini

**Thursday 11 January, 9:00 AM**

+ Giovanna Cea

**Friday 12 January, 7:00 PM**

+ Virginia de la Cruz

**Saturday 13 January, 9:00 AM**

+ John George

**Saturday 13 January, 5:00 PM**

+ Domenico Caravaggio

**ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE 2024**

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.

Resources: The following complementary resources provide helpful information of how to observe the WPCU in your parish.

- The Roman Missal (Third Typical Edition-Canada 2011) offers: The Eucharistic Prayer ‘The Church on the Path of Unity’ (pages 748-754); The ‘Mass for the Unity of Christians’ (with options A, B and C) (pages 1261-1267); as well as Formularies for the Universal Prayer (e.g., pages 301-302 and pages 1450-1451).
- The 2024 WPCU international resources produced and published jointly by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches may be retrieved at: <https://rb.gy/wajo9>.
- Sample Intercessions and Prayers of the Faithful for 2024 may be accessed at: GEII-Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute.
- Remind and encourage High School Students to participate in the Annual Friars’ Writing Contest for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. For details, please see the poster at: <https://bit.ly/3G0I4zT>.
- Consider organizing a weekday neighbourhood service during the WPCU according to local situations: ideally prepared ecumenically with other Christians in your parish boundaries, or for your parishioners in your church (with an outreach/invitation to other Christian communities in your area if possible). The international service is easily adapted for local use. Should assistance be required, please contact us at [Ecumenical@archtoronto.org](mailto:Ecumenical@archtoronto.org)

## JOIN THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Our Faith calls us to serve, and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul welcomes all who wish to live their faith by loving and serving their neighbour. We are seeking new members to help visit the poor and others in need in their homes and assist us with food and clothing drives. For more information on how you may be able to help, please call our helpline at 647-303-2621.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Come and join us in learning more about the women of the Bible. Have you often wondered who are some of the women in the Bible that really had an impact? Can we as women in our modern world relate to any of these stories or experiences in our lives. Join us on January 24 after the Wednesday Mass at 7:35 pm. There will be fellowship, Bible reading, and sharing of ideas. If you are 18+ we look forward to seeing you. Please bring a notebook and a bible.



## REMINDER

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation Classes will be starting Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 10 AM- 12 PM in the Basement Hall.

### CONFIRMATION

Preparation Classes will be starting Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. from 3 PM- 5 PM in the Basement Hall.

## CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO – FEBRUARY 11, 2024 AT 3:00 P.M.

As part of Marriage Sunday 2024 celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2024. The Mass will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass.

All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversary in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass. Registration and other important information can be found at [www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage).

For questions, please email [formation@archtoronto.org](mailto:formation@archtoronto.org) or call 416-934-3400 ext. 523.

## STREET PATROL

Our upcoming Street Patrol trip is on Saturday, January 20. We will meet downstairs in the Church Kitchen at 9:00 AM to make meal packages before we head downtown. In the days leading up to our deliveries to the needy, we welcome the following donations, which can be dropped off at the church office:

- Food items (sliced bread, cheese, deli meat, juice boxes),
- Gift Cards to shop at Walmart, No Frills, Superstore etc.

As well with the harsh winter season, we also encourage the donation of socks, tuques, mittens, and other winter accessories.



## FRIARS STUDENT WRITING CONTEST 2024 (NOVEMBER 8, 2023 TO JANUARY 15, 2024)

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

High school students (ages 13-19 years) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to participate in this annual event that commemorates the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18-25. Write a five-hundred-word essay that explores the 2024 theme. Great prizes await the top three submissions. Students are to consult the resources at <https://rb.gy/wajo9> to understand the meaning and purpose of the theme and address the focus question found on the poster at <https://bit.ly/3G0I4zT> and submit their entries at, <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>.

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