

# *St. Mark's Catholic Church*

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**Pastor: Rev. Edward Koroway**



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to  
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

## Mass Intentions



### for the Week

- Jan. 6: 5:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Burzawa and Wojciechowski Families
- Jan. 7: 8:30 a.m. Gloria and John McDonald  
10:00 a.m. Za Tadeusza Zych (18-tą rocznicę)  
11:30 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Mark's
- Jan. 8: 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving
- Jan. 9: 9:00 a.m. Special Intention
- Jan. 10: 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving
- Jan. 11: 9:00 a.m. George Lee
- Jan. 12: 9:00 a.m. Special Intention
- Jan. 13: 5:00 p.m. Emilia Hojka
- Jan. 14: 8:30 a.m. Clarita and Osmundo Angeles  
10:00 a.m. Za Gertrudę i Lucjana Kocleyda  
11:30 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Mark's

### PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP LEO:

**"Seeking The Kingdom of God Above and Beyond All Other Things".** Archbishop Francis Leo has released a Pastoral Letter to the Church of God in the Archdiocese of Toronto, entitled, *"Seeking The Kingdom of God Above and Beyond All Other Things"*. This significant reflection from our spiritual shepherd is intended to offer a theological, spiritual, and pastoral meditation as we embark upon a New Year and our collective efforts to build and strengthen the Kingdom of God throughout our archdiocese. The Pastoral Letter can be accessed by visiting the archdiocesan website at: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org).

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY:** The word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word meaning "appearance" or "manifestation". Today we honour the revelation Our Lord made of himself to the wise men, or magi, who, inspired by almighty God, came to worship him and gave him presents. Of the four evangelists, only St. Matthew relates the events described in today's Gospel. He says some "wise men" came to Jesus. He does not name them, but by tradition, they have been known as Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Their remains are believed to have been taken to Cologne, Germany, and are enshrined in the cathedral there. These were the first of the Gentiles, that is, the non-Jews, to come to see the King of the Jews. That is really the main point of today's feast. Our Lord has come as Saviour of all peoples, of all nations, of whom the Magi were the first to come and worship Our Lord.

**BECOMING A STAR.** 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 principal episode that the Epiphany celebrates is the visit of the Magi. The Magi represent 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 recognize 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. (source: [www.archtoronto.org/stewardship](http://www.archtoronto.org/stewardship))

### **BLESSED CHALK ON THE SOLEMNITY OF EPIPHANY:**

Gold and frankincense were blessed on the Feast of the Epiphany in the 15th/16th centuries. Blessing of chalk was first introduced in the 18th century. This beautiful tradition is carried out in many countries, including Poland. The Blessed Chalk is used to inscribe the first letters of the names of the Magi and the current year (K+M+B 2024) on the front door of Catholic homes. A small piece of chalk may be taken home and the following is said with family and friends gathered at the front door:

*Leader:* And the Word was made Flesh.

*All:* And dwelt among us.

*Leader:* May Christ dwell in our midst.

*All:* Amen.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2024:** These have been placed on tables at the back of the Church, *in numerical order*. Blank envelopes (with no labels) are available for those who would like to start using envelopes. Envelope users receive a receipt for their

charitable donations, which reduces their income tax payable. For total annual donations over \$200, there is a *combined federal and provincial* tax credit of approximately 40 per cent.

**INCOME TAX RECEIPTS** for 2023 will be mailed directly from the Chancery in January.

**DAILY ROSARY:** We are reciting the Holy Rosary before weekday Mass, Monday to Friday, beginning around 8:30 a.m. You are invited to join us.

**NEW LIVING WITH CHRIST SUNDAY MISSALS** are for sale in the vestibule of the Church for **\$6.00** each. Simply place the money in the offering box on which the Missals are displayed.

**CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING:** Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our parish bulletin. The advertising will begin in February, 2024, and supports our bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1-800-268-2637 for more information and to advertise.

**Saint Michael the Archangel**, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

### **Uroczystość Objawienia Pańskiego**

**MĘDRCY W BETLEJEM.** W święta Bożego Narodzenia cieszyliśmy się, że Bóg stał się człowiekiem i narodził się z Maryi Dziewicy w ubogiej stajni w Betlejem. W uroczystość Objawienia Pańskiego serca nasze wypełnia radość, że Bóg objawił swego Syna wszystkim narodom, które oddały Mu pokłon w osobach Mędrców ze Wschodu. Spełniły się w ten sposób słowa psalmu: Uwielbią Pana wszystkie ludy ziemi.

Trzej Mędrcy ze Wschodu ujrzeli gwiazdę Boga Wcielonego, która wzbudziła w nich nadzieję zbawienia. Poszli za tą gwiazdą, a ona zaprowadziła ich do Betlejem. Tam zobaczyli Dziecię wraz z Matką Maryją, upadli na twarz i oddali Mu pokłon. Ofiarowali Mu też dary pełne zbawczej symboliki: złoto, kadzidło i mirrę.

Świętych Mędrców uważamy za ojców naszej wiary i śpiewamy na ich cześć najpiękniejsze kolędy. Ale czy sama radość z powołania do zbawienia wystarczy? Mędrcy ze Wschodu przebyli długą drogę do Betlejem. Była ona pełna różnych doświadczeń i cierpień duchowych, jak znikanie gwiazdy, obojętność na przyjście Chrystusa, a nawet strach mieszkańców Jerozolimy z powodu Jego narodzin i nienawiść Heroda do nowo narodzonego Zbawiciela. Jednak podobnie jak droga krzyżowa wiedzie do zmartwychwstania, tak pełna doświadczeń droga Mędrców prowadzi do szczęścia z odnalezienia Chrystusa. [abp Stanisław Nowak]

**POŚWIECENIE KREDY.** Kredą oznaczamy drzwi na znak, że w naszym mieszkaniu przyjęliśmy Wcielonego Syna Bożego. Piszemy na drzwiach domu poświęconą kredą: K+M+B. Niech przypominają nam one imiona Mędrców: Kacpra, Melchiora i Baltazara, a także łacińskie życzenia „*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*” (Niech Chrystus błogosławi temu domowi). Módlmy się więc, aby Chrystus Pan w tym Nowym Roku zawsze przebywał między nami i aby wszyscy, którzy Go szukają, tak jak Mędrcy ze wschodu, znaleźli Go w naszej rodzinie.

K+M+B = 2024 (*mówiąc przy tym:*)

*Przewodniczący ceremonii:*

A słowo stało się ciałem

Wszyscy: I mieszkało między nami

*Przewodniczący ceremonii:*

Niech Chrystus mieszka w naszych sercach i umysłach i niechaj każdy, kto Go szuka znajdzie Go między nami.

Wszyscy: Amen.

**KOPERTKI PARAFIALNE.** Kopertki są wyłożone na stolikach przy wejściu do Kościoła według numerów. Zachęcamy wszystkich do korzystania z kopert na ofiarę, ponieważ zapewniają one zapis darowizn. Składając ofiarę w kopercie, możemy otrzymać pokwitowanie do podatku dochodowego od darowizny na cele charytatywne.

**Święty Michale Archaniele**, wspomagaj nas w walce, a przeciw niegodziwości i zasadzkom złego ducha bądź naszą obroną. Oby go Bóg pogromić raczył, pokornie o to prosimy, a Ty, Wodzu niebieskich zastępów, szatana i inne duchy złe, które na zgubę dusz ludzkich po tym świecie krążą, mocą Bożą strąć do piekła. Amen.





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