

Epiphany

More than at any other time of the year, the readings make us conscious that we are a people who has received revealed faith from God. When we read St. Luke's account of Jesus birth and his earliest days, Luke repeatedly reports that Mary and Joseph are following the instructions given them by the angel. The gift to receive God's word with the ears of faith is one that we need to pray for continually. Faith is a gift.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany – the showing, the manifestation of Our Lord, even in the cradle as the true king – the sovereign over our hearts. The wise men who come from the East show us also how we are to respond to the birth of Jesus and they tell us, what is more, that the world has been changed.

Epiphany celebrates Jesus Christ revealed to us as truly human and truly divine. Throughout human history there has always been a struggle within the membership of the Church to grapple with this. We can easily make Jesus into a highly ethical but solely human friend who walked the earth. Or equally we can fill our utterances with so many superlatives that we no longer have any words left to express the very heart of the mystery of God's love, that He has come to dwell with us – to experience what we experience and redeem the brokenness of our human condition, so that life will no longer be futile, but fruitful.

I have often reflected myself on the years when Jesus lived His so called "hidden" life, before He began to proclaim the Good News. He worked. He prayed and ate with his family and neighbours. Sometimes He was tired and needed to rest from His labours. To me this is a kind of Epiphany too, when we see Christ with that much more beauty because of the simplicity and immediacy of His humanity.

This feast is the complement to Christmas. It announces the fruit of God's gift to humanity. It includes us in the scene and it proclaims the universal nature of Jesus' saving mission.

In Christ. *Fr. Bob*

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday **Blessed André Bessette**, religious, *Optional Memorial*.

Please note: Press Release from VATICAN CITY, 19 DEC 2009 (VIS) - The Holy Father today received in audience Archbishop Angelo Amato S.D.B., prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and authorised the promulgation of decrees concerning the following causes:

MIRACLES - Blessed Andre Bessette (ne Alfred), Canadian professed religious of the Congregation of the Holy Cross (1845-1937). (The release lists several other causes for sainthood as well.)

5 Feb.
9:30am

First Reconciliation for St. Gertrude's School at St. Francis Xavier Parish

9 Feb.
9:30am

First Reconciliation for St. Hilary's School at St. Francis Xavier Parish

10 Feb.
9:30am

First Reconciliation for San Lorenzo's School at St. Francis Xavier Parish

12 Feb.
9:30am

First Reconciliation for St. Matthew's School at St. Francis Xavier Parish

17 Feb

Ash Wednesday.

LOOKING AHEAD

13 Jan. 9:30am Feast Day School Mass at **St. Hilary School**

17 Jan. Noon **50th Anniversary** of Ordination to the Priesthood of **Monsignor Terence F. D'Souza**, C.H.H. Msgr. will celebrate the **Noon Mass** at the Parish. You are most welcome to join him.

19 Jan. 7pm **Parent and Candidate Meeting** for the Sacrament of **Confirmation**. In the church.

26 Jan. 9:30am **First Reconciliation for St. Valentine's School** at St. Francis Xavier Parish

27 Jan. 9:30am **First Reconciliation for St. Pio School** at St. Francis Xavier Parish

29 Jan. 9:30am **First Reconciliation for St. Veronica's School** at St. Francis Xavier Parish

3 Feb. 9:30am **First Reconciliation for St. Jude's School** at St. Francis Xavier Parish

AROUND THE PARISH

Baptisms at Masses Next Week

At most of our parish Masses next week the Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Our Lord, that brings the Christmas season to an end.

The Baptism consists of introductory rites, the anointing with the Oil of Salvation, when Original Sin is forgiven, the baptism itself, the anointing with Oil of Sacred Chrism following the baptism, the reception of the lighted candle by the sponsors (godparents) and a blessing.

Listen carefully to the prayers for each of these parts. They tell us clearly what our life as Christians is really all about.

Family Pictures for Parish Database

Are you able to provide a digital family picture to go with your information in the database? Late last spring the data from the parish surveys was entered onto our new database. The database provides the opportunity to include a photo with family and individual files.

The database itself is used only by staff and priests at the parish who are accessing it for administrative or pastoral reasons. Providing a photo will make it much easier for all of us here at the parish to know more of the parish by name.

Perhaps down the road we will to another parish photo album so that we can to recognize one another more easily.

Please e-mail your photos to:

marilou@stfrancisxavierchurch.ca or
joanita@stfrancisxavierchurch.ca.

Be sure to include your name and mailing address in the e-mail.

Parish Ministry Development

The Archdiocese of Toronto is initiating a program to help parishioners become formed for ministry. The process is one that spans two to three years, but involves relatively short periods of time committed to study and prayer.

St. Francis Xavier Parish will be hosting this program soon in our region of the Archdiocese. As this program is just beginning it coincides well with the development of ministry in our parish.

I appeal in particular to those currently active in ministry to consider the possibility of committing some time in the next few months. More details next week!

Lay Pastoral Visitors Training

Saturdays, February 13, 20, 27, 2010 – 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Mississauga

The Office of Formation for Discipleship will be offering the Lay Pastoral Visitors Training beginning in February 2010. This training is designed to prepare lay persons to become Lay Pastoral Visitors in the ministry of spiritual and religious care of shut-ins and the sick of our parish communities. Registration fee is \$20.00

For further information, contact Sally Amaral at (416) 721-3741.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Youth Ministry Studies Program

A program conducted by the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto

January 30-31 – Justice and Service

March 27-28 – Pastoral Care

August 15-19 – Principles of Youth Ministry, and Practice of Youth ministry (these are the first 2 courses of a series of 8 courses to complete the certificate program)

This Certificate program is an eight session (two-day) training program designed for professional and volunteer leaders in parish and Catholic school settings with adolescents. This may be of interest to youth ministers, religious educators, chaplains, and school teachers.

For more information or enquiries, contact Pat Csinos, Director of the Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies at 416-593-6520, or pcsinos@ccyms.ca or visit www.ccyms.ca. To register for any of the above courses, contact: University of St. Michael's College, Continuing Education Dept. www.utoronto/stmikes/conted. (Certificate Programs).

Come & See Weekend: *Discerning a Call to Priesthood*

February 5, 2010 – St. Augustine's Seminary

The Love of Christ urges us on to radically respond to His call to follow Him whole-heartily. Jesus is inviting you to spend time with Him so that you may discover His call to the priesthood. There will be an opportunity for young men of 18 years or older to spend a weekend for time of prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming a Christ's disciple through the Catholic priesthood. During this gracious year for priests, consider the call to the priesthood. *If God is calling you, say yes... and Come and See.*

Those interested are asked to speak with their Pastor. For further information, contact the Vocation Office at 416-968-0997.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 2 Jan.	5:00 pm	+ Wilfreds Ines
Sunday, 3 Jan.	8:00 am	<i>Thanksgiving – Founders & Benefactors</i>
	9:00 am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:30 am	+ Walter D'Souza
	Noon	Special Intentions – Valbuena Family
	1:30 pm	+ George Cornelio
	7:00 pm	+ Wilfreds Ines
Monday, 4 Jan.	7:00 pm	+ Severina Bautista
Tuesday, 5 Jan.	8:00 am	+ Anthony Clark
	Noon	+ Cajetan Fernandes
Wednesday, 6 Jan.	8:00 am	Special Intentions – Heather Raymond
	7:00 pm	+ J. C. Babu + Adriana Bercasio + Ted Grant Carino + Elviro Sr. Ibanez Special Intentions – William & Angelica Palattao
Thursday, 7 Jan.	8:00 am	+ Elviro Sr. Ibanez

	Noon	+ Avelino D'Souza
Friday, 8 Jan.	7:00 pm	+ Francisco Fernandes
Saturday, 9 Jan.	9:00 am	Special Intentions – Joseph & Bernadette Remedios