

# St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON

Office

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Fr. Mark Sullivan, Pastor

Janet Raats, Office Administrator

Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Fri. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



## Epiphany of the Lord

## A Word From Our Pastor:

Many of us have Nativity sets on display in our homes during the Christmas season. Perhaps we have a set which has been passed on in our families from one generation to the next. I am very blessed to have in my possession my parents' Nativity set which they bought from Eaton's department store in 1948, the year in which they were married. Since my arrival here at St. Joseph's, I have placed it on the side table next to my bed. Over the years, the set has brought back fond memories of past Christmases.

We here at St. Joseph's have a lovely outdoor Nativity set which is placed behind the church. If you have not had the opportunity to stop by and pray at this set, I truly encourage you to do so before it is put away for another year. I am grateful to our Knights of Columbus who purchased this set for the Parish in my first year here.

You may recall that last winter on Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a terrible ice and wind storm. Many individuals and families had to cancel their holiday plans because of the storm. Someone brought to my attention, on Christmas Eve, that one of the figures of the Wisemen had been damaged by the storm. The statue was broken in three different places. The set was put away for the year with the broken pieces.

This year, one of our talented Parishioners kindly repaired the statue. As I write these words it stands in its proper place outside of the Church. I was praying by the Nativity set when the statue was being repaired. It just did not look right staring at two Wisemen instead of three. It is like having only two Musketeers or two Stooges, it just did not seem right. Now, thankfully our Parish Nativity set looks just right.

As we celebrate the Epiphany this Sunday, we must remind ourselves that the Magi were not the first to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Mary, of course, knew that her Child was to be the Messiah and Joseph understood this too. Elizabeth and her son John, not yet born, recognized the Lord's presence at the Visitation. Finally, the shepherds of Bethlehem were also told that the Messiah had been born. All these incidents should more properly be called 'recognitions' of the Lord rather than 'manifestations' because they happened in private settings. The word, 'epiphany' means a public manifestation of the Lord as the Messiah.

This is the first of the three 'epiphanies' we see in the Gospels. The other two being the Baptism of the Lord and the Wedding Feast at Cana. The Magi are in some sense official figures who have come from afar to offer gifts to the Christ Child.

The fact that Christ shows Himself first to these Gentiles indicates that the Messiah's saving work can reach all peoples. At

the same time, the Church teaches and points out with a sensitive nature, the continuing role of the Jewish people. The Magi coming to Bethlehem shows that all can discover Jesus and worship Him as the Son of God and Saviour of the World by only turning toward the Jewish people and receiving from them the Messianic promise found in the Old Testament.

This Sunday, as we celebrate the Epiphany, we are reminded that it gives hope. It shows us that God has revealed Himself in the person of Christ. Despite all the bad we may see in the world; God is in our world. There may be bad people in our world but counting up the Kings, the good outweighs the bad three to one.

*Fr. Mark*

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### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

For by gold the power of a king is signified, by frankincense the honor of God, by myrrh the burial of the body; and accordingly, they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man.  
— St John Chrysostom

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### PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

***Stephanie Lampkin, Evelyn Morel,  
Nicole McInnis***

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### From the Parish Office: - Collection Envelopes

– New envelopes are now available for 2024. For the first few weeks it would be helpful if the name were written on your envelopes as we ensure the correct number was assigned to each family.

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This week we pray especially for the following families:

***Jacob, Jakubiec, James,  
Jones, Joseph, Jowett***

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**CWL General Meeting:** Tuesday January 9 following the 7:00 pm Mass

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JANUARY 7, 2024

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (January 8-January 14)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues 7:30 p.m.	<i>Intentions of Fran Marcoux</i>	CWL
Wed. 9:00 a.m.	People of Ukraine	
Thurs. 9:00 a.m.	Darren Creces	Mary Smith
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	James Bailey	Margaret Aitken
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Annie Rea	Lianna Reinhardt
Sun. 9:00 a.m.	Clarence Albert	Barbara Galway
Sun. 11:00 a.m.	Pro Populo	



Sat. Jan 13 5 p.m.  
 Lector Patricia  
 Extraordinary Minister Nancy

Sun. Jan 14 9 a.m.  
 Lector Andrew  
 Extraordinary Minister Ann

11 a.m.  
 Lector Lorin  
 Extraordinary Minister Lizzie

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (January 21, 2024) marks the celebration of Bible Sunday in the Diocese of Hamilton. Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how #TheBibleSpeaks in our hearts and within our communities of faith. The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2024. Visit our website:

<https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks/>



**CONTACT PERSONS for CWL and K of C**  
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Anyone interested in learning more about our parish Catholic Women's League or Knights of Columbus is invited to call the appropriate contact person:

CWL: Christie deSouza: 519-400-6012 [cwl@lartist.com](mailto:cwl@lartist.com)  
 K of C: Ian Nolan: [grand.knight.8050@gmail.com](mailto:grand.knight.8050@gmail.com)

**Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony**

Father Mark arranges all Baptisms and Marriages personally, by appointment. Please see Father after Mass to set a time for an interview. Marriages must be arranged one year in advance. Completion of a marriage preparation course is required. Application forms are found at the back of the church.

**MEETINGS**

Mon. 6:00 p.m. Tops  
 Tues. 7:00 p.m. CWL General  
 Wed. 8:00 p.m. Acton Sharing Group

**World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Sunday January 21st at 11:00 am at Bethel CRC. All are invited to join with the Christian Churches in Acton as we celebrate our common faith.





**Knights of Columbus**

St. Joseph's Council #8050  
Ilan Nolan, Grand Knight  
Decio Ramalho  
519-856-2753



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**Catholic Women's League**



of St. Joseph's invites the ladies of the Parish to our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

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