

# St. Pius X Parish

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## PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Massillamani Zacharias (Fr. Mani), **Pastor**

Michelle Somers, **Parish Secretary**

Viktoria Navumava, **Volunteer Screening Coordinator**

Anselm Kerkos-De Souza, **Sacramental Preparation Coordinator**

May the  
Spirit of God  
Lead You Through  
the New Year





**Saturday, January 3**

5 pm Anna Togias - Birthday

**Sunday, January 4**

10 am No Intentions

**Tuesday, January 6**

8:30 am Billy Dunbar  
+ Patricia Dunbar

**Wednesday, January 7**

8:30 am + Peter Tran

**Thursday, January 8**

8:30 am Parishioners

**Friday, January 9**

8:30 am Parishioners



**Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord**

First Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6  
Psalm: Ps 72.1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Second Reading: Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12



**Sponsoring the Sanctuary Lamp**

The Sanctuary lamp signifies the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It burns for the greater glory of God. Parishioners are invited to become monthly sponsors of the Sanctuary Lamp. Please contact the parish office if you wish to donate. Doing so becomes an opportunity for friends and families to pray at the Tabernacle, knowing the Lamp burns for their intentions.

**The Sanctuary Lamp burns in January for the intentions of: --**

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

*"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy."*

An "epiphany" is an appearance. In today's readings, with their rising stars, splendid lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears.

Why did God use a star to reveal the birth of the King of Kings to foreigners from the East? To Mary, Joseph, and even the shepherds, God sent an angel to announce the Good News. But to the Magi, He chose to use a medium they understood—a star.

The Magi, originally a priestly caste from Persia, were skilled in astrology, astronomy, dream interpretation, and other forms of wisdom and divination. The three Magi mentioned in Matthew's Gospel were clearly experts in astrology, carefully studying the night sky. On the night of Christ's birth, they made an extraordinary discovery: a new star had appeared in the sky.

This star was not just a celestial phenomenon; it symbolized the light of Christ breaking into the world, guiding all nations—Jew and Gentile alike—toward the Savior. Just as God drew humble Jewish shepherds to the newborn King, He also drew representatives of the Gentiles to adore Him, for Jesus came to save all of humanity.

The divine initiative to include the Gentiles was not a new concept but a fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham: "All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:3). Isaiah the prophet in today's First Reading and the Psalm echo this theme, emphasizing that all nations will come to the Lord.

Herod, in today's Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David, the other predicting "a ruler of Israel" who will "shepherd his flock" and whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth".

In Matthew's Gospel, the Magi represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death. (Excerpts from: *My Catholic Life*; Loyola Press.)

## PARISH NEWS

### Weekly Prayer

On the first weekend of the month, we remember the birthdays of those who were born in the month of January. Let us congratulate and pray for them:

*Heavenly Father! We thank You for the gift of life You have given to our celebrants. Kindly keep showing them Your grace and we seek that You continue to bless them. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

### 2026 Pilgrimage

Fr. Mani will be leading a 14-day pilgrimage to the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, France, Switzerland and Italy. The tour will run from September 3 to 16, 2026. Beginning in Amsterdam, pilgrims will visit notable shrines and churches, as well as famous tourist sites, throughout Europe. After your flight, the trip will be entirely land-based except for a boat cruise on Amsterdam's canals. Please see details on the green sheet in the foyer or speak to Fr. Mani after Mass.

### Save the Dates

1. St. Pius X Feast Day Mass – Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am
2. 75th Anniversary Closing Mass – Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 am

**Note:** On these dates, there will be only one Mass. Additional event dates are forthcoming.

### Friars Student Writing Contest 2026

High school students (ages 13-19) in the Catholic School Boards located in the Archdiocese of Toronto are invited to submit a 450–500-word essay for this year's contest. They should consult the resource of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 at [bit.ly/3XYLAUn](http://bit.ly/3XYLAUn). More resources can be found at <https://bit.ly/WPCU2026> (scroll down past the Notice). Entries can be submitted at: <https://www.catholicregister.org/writingaward>. For more information, please contact [ecumenicalandinterfaith@archtoronto.org](mailto:ecumenicalandinterfaith@archtoronto.org) or call 416-934-3400 x. 527. The deadline for entries is January 12, 2026.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18-25, 2026, marks the annual celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU). Parishioners are invited to join Bishop John A. Boissonneau and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. This service will be held on Sunday, January 18 at 4:00 pm at Runnymede United Church. All are welcome.

### Vocation Discernment Weekend

The Office of Vocations will be hosting a Come & See Weekend Discernment Retreat for men 18 years and older, at St. Augustine's Seminary. The retreat will take place on Friday, February 27 until Sunday March 1. Registration must be done online at [www.vocationstoronto.ca/comeandsee](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca/comeandsee). For more information, email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org).

### Opportunities to Serve Your Parish!

Each week, some parishioners give their time and talents so that St. Pius X can be a welcoming place. Whether greeting celebrants, serving during the Mass or working behind the scenes, every volunteer makes a huge difference in our church and helps create a great Sunday experience for all. If you have any questions or are interested in these or other roles in your parish, please speak to Fr. Mani after Mass.

**Ushers** – a wonderful way to extend our welcome, coordinate seating, or assist with offertory collection.

**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers** – These positions hold great honour and do not necessarily require a weekly commitment.

**Altar Servers** – Here is a wonderful chance to be deeply involved in the service of the Mass.





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