



Canadian Martyrs Church

100 Main Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2

Phone: 613-232-5347 Email: office@canadianmartyrs.org

www.canadianmartyrs.org

No in-person Masses during Lockdown

Pastor

Fr. Tim Coonen, OMI

Parish Life Coordinator

Maureen Cerroni

Administrative Assistant

Heather Duggan

Pastoral Council

Angela Burton

Meetings: 1st Thurs., 7:00pm

Finance Committee

Joseph Duggan

Development and Peace

Anna Dorner

Christian Meditation

Dorothy Wood

Mondays, 3pm

Evening Prayer

Pierre LaViolette

Thursdays, 6:30pm

Diocesan Centre

1247 Kilborn Pl.

613-738-5025

Schools

Corpus Christi

798 Lyon St. S

613-232-9743

Immaculata HS

140 Main St.

613-237-2001

Cemeteries

Hope Cemetery

613-822-1212

Notre-Dame

613-746-4175

Mary, Mother of God January 1 2021
Epiphany of the Lord January 2/3 2021



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Devin Bursey, Sandy Cano, Fred Miller, Liam Elder, Sheila & Edward Gasnick, Raul Esteban, Chris Smith & family, Leonardo Miferi, Fred Kapusta, Jane Hoey-Ray, Amy Gertz, Fr. Frank Kavanagh, Clare Dashney, Ping Cai, Judette Budden, Marie Christine Maisog, Joan Beaton and Diana Ayotte-Pettitt

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For the Church: that we may be a Light to those who are searching for direction and illuminate the path through our words and deeds. We pray to the Lord.

For God's blessing on the New Year: that God will fill the coming days with health of body, mind, and spirit. We pray to the Lord.

For all who are ill: that God will heal the sick, comfort loved ones who are struggling, brighten the day for those in isolation, and strengthen all caregivers. We pray to the Lord.

For a renewal of prayer in our lives: that we may make time for God each day of this year and be attentive to God's invitations and promptings in our hearts. We pray to the Lord.

NOVEMBER COLLECTION

Envelopes/Loose change:	\$ 6,697.00
Direct Deposit (EFTs):	\$ 7,460.00
Canada Helps:	\$ 7,199.19
Total:	\$21,356.19

Average monthly expenses: \$20,614.18

Thank you!

ZOOM GATHERINGS

3pm Monday: Christian Meditation
8pm Tuesday: Lectio Divina and Meditation
6:30pm Thursday: Evening Prayer
11:15am Sunday: Liturgy of the Word
(4th Sunday, Children's Liturgy)

Please contact the office if you would like to join any of these sessions.

Parish News

OTTAWA LOCKDOWN

All in-person Masses will be cancelled during the lockdown. As done by his predecessor, Archbishop Dampousse grants the dispensation of your obligation to attend Sunday Mass and the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, throughout this pandemic. The Zoom link for our Liturgy of the Word can be found in the body of the Bulletin email.

LAUDATO SI' UPDATE AND NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Hello friends, You have probably already heard or read about the aim of starting Action Groups to rescue and preserve our natural and social environments, as Pope Francis called for in June 2015 in the encyclical, *Laudato Si*. A message was shared with parishioners in early December, summarizing two big Zoom meetings and presenting a survey to help you join a group that interests you. Sufficient numbers responded for us to create two groups. However, we are certain that there's more interest out there. And we're sure that the end of December is an ideal time for a New Year's resolution to join in *Laudato Si* action!

Please read the message with the survey by clicking [on this link](#). Please send in your survey response by the new deadline of **January 15**.

Thank you. John Dorner and Bob Czerny, on behalf of the planning team and our parishes (Holy Canadian Martyrs and St. Basil's)

507 SANDWICH CLUB

Thank you to all who have already donated to our 507 Sandwich Club. If you would like to donate towards this project, please make cheques payable to Canadian Martyrs Church. **Please contact Angie at angieb3000@gmail.com with any questions or if you wish to volunteer.**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

If you have a child whom you would like to receive the sacraments of First Communion and Reconciliation (Grade 2), or the sacrament of Confirmation (Grade 6), please call or email the office. Sessions will start the **week of Jan. 17th**. Because of COVID guidelines, the preparation sessions will take place virtually via Zoom.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

With the Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

VOCATION REFLECTION: FOLLOW THE STAR

By Richard Beaudette, OMI

"What we can say is that the Magi were God-seekers and so were attentive to signs from heaven and were trusting enough to follow the signs that appeared – in this case, the star. They believed that God was doing something new and this awakening, this awareness shook them out of their settled routines and set them on the road to discover what God wanted to reveal to them."

[Read the reflection here.](#)

ZOOM AND SEE

The Courage to Walk in the Footsteps of the Apostles
Hearing and answering God's call is not always easy. The OMI Lacombe Canada Vocation Team is ready to accompany inquirers and discerners as they search for how Christ is inviting them to follow Him. If you are a young Catholic man (18-40 years of age), who is a Canadian resident and are interested in Oblate religious and missionary life, we invite you to "Zoom and See" on **January 25** at 7:00pm - 8:30pm. [More info here.](#)

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Excerpt from a homily by Fr. Carl Kelly, OMI

Today, one week after we celebrated the feast of the birth of Jesus, we celebrate the greatest feast of Mary. Today, we recall Mary and acknowledge her title as Mother of God. It is the oldest title attributed to Mary and is the basis of all the other titles of Mary.

The Gospel tells us the story of the shepherds going to the stable and there, they worshipped the child. They told the story of what had happened to them, and Mary treasured all these things and pondered them.

In the first reading, God spoke to Moses, and told him how Aaron and his sons were to bless the people. It is a beautiful blessing, based on great trust in God, and a blessing that expects the face of God, a loving and forgiving face of God, will look upon us and give us peace. We all have some hopes and dreams for this new year.

A few years ago, I found a book called: *The Legend of the Christmas Prayer* by Brian Morgan. “Once upon a Christmas time, long ago, a man who had a big heart, but little money, dreamed he could give his friends endless riches. When he awoke, the dream kept running through his mind. Finally he asked himself: ‘If I could give my friends anything, what would I give?’ He smiled as he began to think of all the wondrous things he could buy for them. But then he thought: ‘I’m a happy man, yet I have none of those things.’ And he began to think that perhaps real wealth could not be measured in riches. In the still of the night, he pondered these things and thought of Christmas and what it meant to him. Taking out his pen, he began to write. On the first day of Christmas, I pray for you **joy in abundance and laughter**, for laughter cures our ills and makes our spirits rise. On the second day of Christmas, I pray for you **a sigh when you need one**, for a sigh clears the heart as a cough clears the throat, and with a sigh comes acceptance of what we cannot change. On the third day of Christmas, I pray for you **tears when you need them**, for tears clear the eyes to see the stars and cleans the soul to let healing begin. On the fourth day of Christmas, I pray for you **serenity**, for fights and wars start in individual hearts and that is where they must end. On the fifth day of Christmas, I pray for you **wisdom**, for our priceless gift is the gift of choice and we should use it well every day, in word and deed. On the sixth day of Christmas, I pray for you **patience**, for most troubles pass if we wait them out, and success comes with persistence. On the seventh day of Christmas, I pray for you **courage**, for there may be many pitfalls and dangers ahead, and problems can only be solved when they are faced. On the

eighth day of Christmas, I pray for you **compassion**, for we cannot help others until we understand them, and we cannot understand them until we walk in their shoes. On the ninth day of Christmas, I pray for you **a willingness to work**, for work turns dreams to reality whether the dreams are ours or belong to those we can help. On the tenth day of Christmas, I pray for you **unwavering faith**, for faith shapes our morals and our destiny and draws us closer to God. On the eleventh day of Christmas, I pray for you **a mind full of hope**, for hope determines our attitudes, sets our goals and creates our ideals. On the twelfth day of Christmas, I pray for you **a heart so full of love**, that every day you must give some away to those whose paths you cross.” And with each prayer the man realized he was not giving a gift at all, but hoping that his friends would find the gifts they already had within them. Each time he wrote a prayer, a marvellous thing happened. It seemed to him that the prayer, although offered for his friends, remained in his heart and produced in him the very thing he prayed for them. The man copied his scroll and sent the Christmas prayer to special friends, and that is where the Legend of the Christmas Prayer is lost in the mists of time. The man was never heard of again but, over the years the Christmas Prayer began to appear all over the world. And so the wonder multiplied, until the story finally reached you. And that is why I have shared the legend of the Christmas Prayer with you, today, at the beginning of 2021.

AN INSPIRING LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS
Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* of the Holy Father Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. With a father’s heart: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as “the son of Joseph”.

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”

— C.S. Lewis

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Excerpt from a homily by Fr. Carl Kelly, OMI

We have just heard the story of the revelation of the Messiah to the pagan world. The story is of the visit of the Wise Men. Who were these prophetic figures?

One of the great religions of the time was Zoroastrianism. The Persian prophet, Zoroaster, lived about 600 years before Christ. Matthew says that when Jesus was born, Wise Men came from the East to Jerusalem asking, "Where is he who has been born the King of the Jews? We have seen his star in the East." It is very likely that these wise men were priests of the Zoroaster religion. They refer to the star, because it is their belief that every good person has a guiding light in the heavens that appears as a star. As Zoroastrian priests, they saw this bright star and knew that a great person had been born. The Zoroastrians worshiped the god of light. These priests have come down to us as the Wise Men.

Matthew reaches back to the Old Testament for an example. Psalm 72 says, "The Kings of Arabia will come bearing gifts." Some commentators say that the Wise Men were not named since King Herod was killing anybody connected with the Christ Child. Long after Herod died, names were found. The names were first found in the 6th century in Italy: Balthazar, Melchior, and Gaspar. The gifts the Wise Men gave were all symbolic. Gold symbolizes the virtue of these travellers. Frankincense, like the smoke of incense going up to heaven, says they were a people of prayer. And myrrh, which is a bitter mineral, means they were willing to take on the bitterness and sacrifice necessary in their pursuit of the Holy One.

One legend says that the Magi were of three different ages. Melchior was an old man, Balthazar was middle aged, and Gaspar was a young man. When they arrived at Bethlehem, they went to see the Saviour, one at a time. Melchior, the old man, went first and he met a very old man, his own age with whom he was quickly at home. They spoke together of memory and of gratitude. Balthazar encountered a middle-aged teacher, and they talked passionately of leadership and responsibility. When young Gaspar entered, he met a young prophet, with whom he spoke of dreams, hopes and promises. After they had all gone in one by one, they took their gifts and went in together. There was nobody there but a 12-day-old infant. Later on, they understood. The Saviour speaks to every stage of life. The old hear the call to integrity and wisdom. The middle-aged hear the call to generativity and responsibility. And the young hear the dreams, hopes and intimacy.

Our experience is like the struggling Magi. We, like them,

are searchers. We have difficulty with the larger life questions. We are harassed by our modern Herods who seek to destroy our children with consumerism, materialism and greed. We worry about family life, crime in the streets, illness, war, recession, and death. We, too, would like heavenly messengers and heavenly assurances, such as the shepherds got, but the fact is, we experience neither. It is the Magi, the struggling band crossing a hot desert with only a vision and hope to guide them, that resonates with us. They are our kind of people and we will continue to tell stories about them. They are searchers and so are we. But they are searchers who have taught us something. They searched together and have left us the clear message that we must do the same. We cannot search alone, travel alone, and find alone. We need one another. We need the wisdom of the community. We need the support and prayers of our fellow pilgrims. Like the Magi, we search the ancient Scriptures together. We listen together. We pray together. We cry out together. We are strengthened and comforted by each other. There is no other way to travel. The Magi did not have all the answers, neither do we. On their travels what they did have, was fellowship and the light of Christ to guide them, and so do we. The best part of the Magi story comes at the end: they left us a promise. At the end, they found what they were looking for. And so will we.

THEY'RE ALL HOLY

Thomas Merton recounts what he saw in March 1958: "In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we couldn't be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun. I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts, where neither sin nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God's eyes. If only they could all see themselves as they really are. If only we could see each other that way all of the time. There would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed ..." *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander, New York: Doubleday, 1996.*

To me, it is no less seminal than the sudden flash of illumination when the wise men from the East recognized the divinity of a tiny child so long ago. We are all "walking around shining like the sun." If only we could see ourselves as we really are. *MD Ridge*

[Full article can be read here.](#)

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DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

Our parish still needs funds to cover recurrent expenses such as heat, electricity and salaries of essential staff, and new expenses such as hand sanitizer, masks and cleaning supplies. If you wish to donate to the church, you can through Canada Helps using a credit card on the secure link at <https://canadianmartyrs.org/donate/> or drop your donation cheque in our mailbox or mail it to us at 100 Main St., Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2. If you are able to come to

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact the office a minimum of 3 months before the baptism. Baptismal instructions are required.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Contact the office to set up the initial interview. It is recommended that the first contact be a minimum of 6 months before the wedding.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Please call or email the office to inform us of shut-ins or people in hospital so that we can arrange a visit, bring Holy Communion and administer the Sacrament of the Sick if desired.

PARISH REGISTRATION: The registration form is available at the back of the church or can be filled out online at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/register/>.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES: For your information, the minutes are available in a binder at the back of the church and at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/pastoral-council-minutes/>

DIRECT DEPOSIT DONATIONS: The forms are available on the Welcome table if you wish to make donations to the church through direct deposit. Envelopes for special collections will still be provided.

FOOD CUPBOARD: Non-perishable food items for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre are collected on an on-going basis.

MILK BAGS: Milk bags are collected for making into sleeping mats. Please bring in your milk bags and put them in the baskets under the table in the hall near the breezeway.