

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 1 (3528) January 7th, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - B



The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. 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.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. (loyolapress.com)

"Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for bringing salvation to all the nations. May the gospel of salvation be proclaimed to every nation today and to every person on the face of the earth. Help me to be a good witness of the joy of the gospel to all I meet." (dailyscripture.net)

†R.R.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

- 9 a.m. †Liuda (15th anniv.) and Petras (12th anniv.) Jurenas (family)
11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners
for peace in the world
request grace of health for Fr. Augustinas and Deacon Kazimieras Ambrozaitis
†Ona (10th anniv.) and Zigmantas (13th anniv.) Girduškas (family)
†Grazina and Alfonsas Sudeikis (E.Sudeikis)
†Teresa Montinaro (1st anniv.) (R.C.Montinaro)
†Inocentas Jurcevicius (family)
†Liudmila and Henrikas Sukauskas (A.Jurcevicius)
for Vanagas' and Kazlauskas' deceased family members (A.S.Vanagas)

2024

February 4

Sports club "AUSRA" Mass

February 11

Pancakes day

February 14

Ash Wednesday

March 3

St. Casimir Fair

March (date TBD)

Lenten Retreat

March 28-31

Holy week

March 31

Easter

April 7

Choirs "Balsas" and

"Volunge" concert

April 26-27

Spring Rummage Sale

May 5

First Communion

June (date TBD)

Run for Hope

June (date TBD)

Confirmation

Camp Kretinga

July 7-20 (En.)

July 21 - August 3 (Lith.)

October 18-19

Fall Rummage Sale

November (date TBD)

Annual Dinner

December (date TBD)

Advent Retreat

December 1

Christmas Concert

December 25

Christmas

Cantors of the Masses:

9 AM - Zibute Janeliunas and Ted Chornomaz

11 AM - Occasional

organist - Ilona Beres

The week's Holy Masses

MONDAY (January 8): 7 p.m. †Algis Vaisnoras (V.Groen in't Woud); †Leo and Teresa Pereira (son);

TUESDAY (January 9): 7 p.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Saulius Macijauskas (B.B.Degutis);

WEDNESDAY (January 10): 7 p.m. †Viesius Siska (Prakapas family);

THURSDAY (January 11): 7 p.m. †Terese Grazulis (Buozis family);

FRIDAY (January 12): 7 p.m. †Edvardas Peciulis (Prakapas family); in thanksgiving (Pereira);

SATURDAY (January 13): 9 a.m. †Irena and Henrikas Matusaitis (R.J.Balaisis); 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor";

SUNDAY (January 14): 9 a.m. †Juzefa and Pranas Dovidaitis (daughters); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Alfonsas Simonavicius (40th anniv.) (family); †Ona and Stasys Nomeika and deceased family members (daughter Zita); †Dr.Edvardas Puodziukas (2nd anniv.) and Sally Puodziukas-Pennock (family); †Algis Vaisnoras (family); †Sheila and Douglas Stacey (D.Danaitis); †Irena Labanauskas (V.White); †Adela and Eugenijus Abromaitis (B.Abromaitis); †Stasys and Vladas Vydmantas (GJ).

Capital Fund - \$ 371,055

Donation during Christmas time - \$ 4,345

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday (12.31) and "Vilnius Manor" Collections -

43 envelopes - \$ 1,790

No envelopes - \$ 95.55

Direct deposit - \$ 1,125

New Year (01.01.24) Collections -

20 envelopes - \$ 990

No envelopes - \$ 35

K.J.Gataveckas donated - \$ 12,500

for parish renovation fund

THANK you for your generosity...

Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, strength and sweetness of God!

Come, You, movement and peace!

Renew our courage, fill our solitude in the world,

Create in us intimacy with God!

We no longer say, like the prophet:

"Come from the four winds",

As if we did not yet know from where you came;

*We say: Come, Spirit from the pierced side
of Christ upon the cross!*

Come from the mouth of the Risen One!

We invite you next Sunday, January 14th,

to stop by our cafeteria for Lithuanian food.

Also enjoy coffee and sweets after 9 am and 11 am Mass.

We invite everyone to attend!

Our parish "Labdara" committee CONTINUES The **FOOD DRIVE** in aid of the needy in Toronto and **INVITES ALL to participate.**

NON-PERISHABLE Food may be brought and left in the box provided, at the parish door.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations.

Your 2024 Church Collection Envelopes
are available at the back of the church.

**PLEASE PAY ATTENTION WHEN
WRITING CHECKS**

Donations *to the Church, Mass* should be written to **Resurrection Parish** with your direction in the Memo cheque for the charitable purpose.

The donations to ***Renovation fund, "Capital fund", the Monastery, Soup kitchen in Lithuania or other charity*** should be written to the **Franciscan Fathers** with your direction in the memo cheque for the charitable purpose.

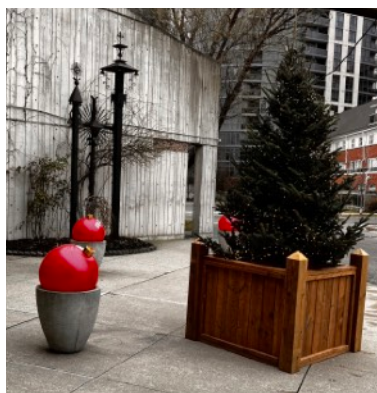
We kindly ask, that everyone who donates to the parish, or in support of its causes by way of envelopes, **kindly ensures that the information requested on the envelope is correctly submitted, i.e. name, address.**

This will greatly facilitate the work of the Parish office.

Thank you in advance!

Thank you to ALL who contributed to the holidays with donations, gifts and prayers...
Thank you - readers, singers, helpers...

A BIG THANK YOU



for helping with the preparation and decorating the church and the parish - to Algimantas Nakrosius, Romas Krasauskas, Romas Puteris and Teodoras Pabreza...

Blessings to ALL in 2024...



On behalf of all Nursing Home "Labdara" residents and staff, we would like to sincerely thank the parishioners of the Resurrection parish, "The Kingsway" neighbourhood families and the Dirmantas-Groen in 't Woud family for the wonderful Christmas gifts.



Our Nursing Home "Labdara" residents received an overwhelming 375 hand-made and written Christmas greeting cards and 9 'jigsaw puzzles'. These gifts warmed the hearts of our seniors.

Your generosity to our seniors is outstanding.

May the Lord reward you all abundantly.

Pope at Audience: God's grace helps us triumph in spiritual combat



At the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis continues his catechesis on vices and virtues, and recalls that Christian life is filled with opportunities to turn spiritual struggles into moments of grace.

Pope Francis picked up his catechesis series on vices and virtues at the Wednesday General Audience, focusing his reflections on spiritual combat.

The Pope said that our Christian life is never "linear or devoid of struggle," but rather requires "continuous combat."

He pointed to the oil with which Christians are first anointed at Baptism, saying it contains no fragrance, as if to announce that "life is a struggle."

"The anointing of the catechumens immediately makes it clear that the Christian is not spared from struggle," he said. "Our existence, like that of everyone else, must enter the arena, because life is a succession of trials and temptations."

Temptations and grace

However, temptations are really a chance to allow God's grace to work in us.

As St. Anthony, the first abbot, said, "Remove temptations and no one will be saved."

The Pope said that Christians who "absolve themselves" of their own sins risk living in darkness since they can no longer distinguish good from evil.

"We must all ask God for the grace to recognize ourselves as poor sinners in need of conversion, keeping in our hearts the confidence that no sin is too great for the infinite mercy of God the Father," he said.

Challenges and mercy

Even Jesus, noted Pope Francis, presented Himself for Baptism despite being free from all sin, so that we might follow His example and never be afraid to ask for God's mercy.

After His Baptism, Jesus withdrew into the desert where He was tempted by Satan.

"He has experienced what we too must always prepare to face," said the Pope. "Life is made of challenges, trials, crossroads, opposing visions, hidden seductions, contradictory voices."

Spiritual combat and the Holy Spirit

Pope Francis invited Christians to walk the daily tightrope between opposite extremes: "Pride challenges humility; hatred contrasts charity; sadness opposes the true joy of the Spirit; the hardening of the heart rejects mercy."

By reflecting on the vices and virtues, he said, we can overcome our nihilistic culture in which the "contours between good and evil remain blurred".

At the same time, he added, our reflections on vice and virtues "reminds us that the human being, unlike any other creature, can always transcend itself, opening up to God and walking towards holiness."

"Spiritual combat," concluded Pope Francis, "leads us to closely look at those vices that chain us and to walk, with the grace of God, towards those virtues that can bloom in us, bringing the spring of the Spirit into our life."

The Parish is not responsible for the content of the ads

THANK YOU for donations.

You can donate to the parish and for parish causes through: envelopes; eTransfers (email: resparish@prisikelimas.ca ;

Q: What is the name of the parish?

A: Resurrection; (indicating to whom the donation is addressed) or on the parish site www.prisikelimas.ca/give.

Through banks - RCU and Parama by direct deposit.

PLEASE NOTE: Writing Cheques payable to **Resurrection Parish** in the MEMO: Donation to Parish or Mass.

Writing Cheques payable to **Franciscan Fathers** in the MEMO: Capital Fund, Renovation fund, Monastery, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda, Franciscan Fathers projects in Lithuania.

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Season's Greetings

Wishing you a festive and safe holiday
season and a Happy New Year!

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Church of the Resurrection

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Associate Pastor/Parish economist:

Fr. Raimundas Bukauskas, OFM

Serving Priest: Fr. Augustinas Simanavicius, OFM

Deacon: Dr. Kazimieras Ambrozaitis

Parish office administrator: Gitana Judvytyte