

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

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## **Pastoral Team**

**Pastor:** Rev. Mark Achilles Villanueva

**Deacons:** Deacon Gerry Steyn, Deacon Michael Ho, Deacon Roman Lim

**Administrative Assistant:** Cecilia Vaz

**Assistants:** Clifford Jumapit, Benjamin Alcantara

**Volunteer Asisstants:** Marina Taguicana, Agnes Lim



## **Epiphany of the Lord**

MASS INTENTION

SATURDAY (January 6)  
5:00 PM +Josefina Ramos.  
+Mike Galloro

SUNDAY (January 7)  
7:30 AM Thanksgiving of  
Arbie Sarmiento & Family,  
Thanksgiving of Binondo  
Carandang & Family  
9:00 AM Open  
11:00 AM +Francisco Coronel,  
+Luisito Guevara  
12:30 PM +Roma Rivera,  
+Remigio Tan, Thanksgiving of  
Quinsay and Orfano Family

MONDAY (January 8)  
7:00 PM +Eusebio Borral

TUESDAY (January 9)  
7:30 AM +Open

WEDNESDAY (January 10)  
7:00 PM Open

THURSDAY (January 11)  
7:30 AM Thanksgiving of Vicky  
Soto

FRIDAY (January 12)  
7:00 PM +Patrick Pillai

SATURDAY (January 13)  
9:00 AM +Tony Pavao,  
+Fernando Carreiro

5:00 PM +Ted Rynkun, +Lucja  
Gaska, +Ciriaco Perera,  
+Esmeralda Cardozo, +Jason  
Avelino Mistry

OUR LIVES ARE A JOURNEY

We are celebrating today the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. There are three things in the Gospel account that stand out for us today: the Star, the Wise Men, and Mary. As they studied the constellation of the stars, they suspected that a Child King was born destined for great things. They embarked to prove their suspicion and it led them to Jerusalem and eventually to Bethlehem where “And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was” (Matthew). The real star is no other than the Baby itself. We do not know how long the journey took them. It could be two years since his birth. King Herod ordered the massacre of children from two years old and younger, but whether the journey was short or took forever, “the sight fo the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage.” (Matthew)

All of us have a journey to make whether short or long. The journey can be individual or done as a group. Regardless of how the journey will be, we pray that like the Wise Men, we, too, will always be filled with delight, May our lives be a continual offering - every step that we take an offering of our dedication and commitment. May we never get discouraged along the way - no matter what life throws at us.

His Grace, the Archbishop of Toronto, has extended my stay with you until the end of June 2025. I will be focusing this year (2024) to prepare the community for the transition. Just the thought of leaving you saddens me greatly, but the journey must continue - for myself and for the parish community - it is for your benefit as it will also be mine. You are now about to be 16 years old and by the time I finish my term in 2025, you will be 17. May the good Lord send to us a shepherd after his own heart and who will help you to grow even deeper in your relationship with Jesus. May St. Josephine Bakhita pray for us!

SUNDAY OFFERING

Offertory	\$ 6,532.40
Building Fund	\$ 1,535.00
Mass Stipend	\$ 440.00
Liturgical Fund	\$ 77.10
Flower Donation	\$ 206.75
Christmas	\$ 891.00
Candle Offering	\$ 373.48
Wedding	\$ 500.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 3.00
Total	\$ 10,588.73

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Offertory	\$ 4,060.10
Initial Envelope	\$ 1,210.25
Flower	\$ 50.00
Building Fund	\$ 265.00
Total	\$ 6,585.35

THE DEVOTEES OF THE BLACK NAZARENE

invites you to a Special Mass on the Feast of the Black Nazarene here at the Parish on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 7 PM

The Black Nazarene is a statue of Jesus after his scourging at the pillar. It is a devotion dear to the hearts of many Filipinos.

SANCTUARY LIGHT FIXTURE NEEDS REPLACEMENT

As you can all see, one by one the bulbs in our Sanctuary are going out. I have asked Deacon Roman to look into having these bulbs replaced. Since they are located so high, it will require a heavy lift. It is important that the light fixture can last us a few years. We will advise you as we know exactly what we are doing. Thank you for your patience.

116-1

**Week of Christian Unity**  
**Sunday, January 21 at 4 PM**  
 St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, 455  
 Ferrier St. Toronto

Join Archbishop Francis Leo and a wide representation of Christian leaders to pray for the restoration of full visible unity willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. The homilist is H.G. Anba Archilids, General Bishop and Papal Vicar, Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of Toronto. In this annual celebration we are reminded that the unity of the Church is both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a task for all Christians.

This event is jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches (GTACCC). All are welcome to attend.

As part of **Marriage Sunday 2024** celebrations, Archbishop Francis Leo will preside at a special Mass to honour married couples, with special recognition for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2024. The Mass will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (65 Bond Street, Toronto). All married couples will have an opportunity to renew their marriage commitment during the Mass.

All are welcome to attend. Couples celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ anniversaries in 2024 may register for reserved seating. Reserved seating is limited, so please register early. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend at the Cathedral are invited to join the celebration via livestream Mass.

Registration and other important information can be found at [www.archtoron-tor.org/marriage](http://www.archtoron-tor.org/marriage).

### 350 YEARS OF MEANING AND ACTION in Quebec City

From December 8, 2023 to December 8, 2024, the Catholic Church in Quebec City will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the founding of its Diocese! The oldest diocese north of Mexico, the cradle of faith in our country, has given birth to more than 150 dioceses over the years. Its community has lived, celebrated and shared the faith, met social needs, founded organizations that are still vibrant, and helped give life to the culture we inherit today. The fundamental importance of this legacy will be celebrated in a program that also takes a look at the life of today's community. The Catholic community of the Diocese of Quebec opens wide its arms to you. Cross the threshold of America's only Holy Door. Come and experience a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the founding saints of the Church in Canada. Like Compostelle pilgrims, criss-cross the magnificent Charlevoix and Côté de Beaupré regions on the new Kapoah Trail. Rediscover our shared history through activities for all: visits to rarely accessible heritage sites, "Founders' Fortnight," exhibitions, concerts... All the details are available on the website: [fetes350.ca](http://fetes350.ca). Happy 350th!

**PICK UP A CHALK AND MARK  
 YOUR HOUSE DOOR POST  
 TODAY**  
 20 C + M + B 24

### WHEN SNOW COMES

To ensure your safety while you are at the church during the winter months: whenever there is a heavy accumulation on the slope roofs, we will close the inner courtyard. We ask that you use the door to enter the Parish Hall to come in. Thank you.

### IMPORTANT INFO

Your 2024 Parish Envelope Box is available at the Narthex. If you cannot find your box or if you have not used a Box of envelopes before, please do not hesitate to see the Parish Desk.

If you have changed address recently or any of your information needs to be updated in our parish file, please see Cliff or Ben.

### IF YOU WANT TO ADD TO YOUR 2023 DONATION

In case you are intending to top your donation for 2023, please ensure that your cheque is dated December 31, 2023. Any donation received on January 1 (unless we are instructed by you) will be recorded as your donation for 2024. The cut off will be Sunday, January 14. We hope to close the Financial Book shortly thereafter to ensure you get your Tax Receipts as soon as it is possible.

### OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE PARISH FINANCIALLY

You can also support our Parish via Credit Card. You can go to our Parish website and click on the Donate Now. You will then be able to contribute either one time or recurring. Please note that if your donation is one time only, you will immediately receive a TAX receipt via email. For Recurring donation, you will receive your TAX receipt at the end of the year.

If you prefer PAG (Pre-Authorized Giving - monthly withdrawals directly from your bank account, please fill the form available at the Parish Desk and provide a void cheque. Cliff, our parish admin assistant will set it up for you.



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