



*"Opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (Mt. 2)*

January 1, 2021  
January 3, 2021

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD  
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOCKDOWN**

Bishop Fred Colli has announced: "Due to the restrictions of the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Health Authorities, our Cathedral and all the churches in our Diocese will be closed and all our public Masses will be cancelled from Boxing day, December 26, 2020 until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 10, 2021.

Our first Cathedral public Mass after lockdown will be celebrated on Sunday, January 10 at 8:30 am.

**JANUARY 1, 2021 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
SOLEMN FEAST OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**

*As we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God, we wish all our parishioners, new and hopeful beginnings and a New Year filled with prayer, good health and anxiety-free peace of mind!*



Our Parish Office will still remain open during the lockdown but ONLY for telephone and e-mail contact. **NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS ARE ALLOWED.**

**BULLETIN ADVERTISING**

Our Bulletin covers for 2021 are now being developed and will soon be printed for use throughout the year.

This year, two ad spaces on the back cover are still available. To inquire, please call our Parish Office at 622-5389 this week.

**DAILY MASS INTENTIONS TRANSFERRED**

Although Msgr. Stilla and Fr. Marco will be celebrating daily Mass privately during the current lockdown, your Mass Intentions that had been posted from December 26 to January 9 will be moved to the days after January 10, at a time when you will be able to attend.



*The members of our Pastoral Team and Parish Staff wish to thank all of you for your thoughtful cards, gifts, baking and Christmas greetings to us during this special time of the year!*

**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION AND DONATIONS**

Christmas Collection .....	\$ 11,560.00
Last Sunday's Collection (December 27) ..	1,770.00
Online Donations (week of Dec. 20 - 27)...	3,475.00
Christmas Flowers Donations.....	20.00
Miscellaneous (refund) .....	427.14
Votive Candles .....	20.00
Missal Sales .....	10.00
Bulletin Advertising.....	3,800.00

\*\*\* + Hundreds & hundreds of volunteer hours! \*\*\*

**BISHOP'S MINISTRY CAMPAIGN**

2020 Parish Goal ..... \$ 34,000.00  
Donations this week.. \$ 10,950.00

Total to date ..... \$ 34,395.00  
% of Parish Goal ..... 101.1% !

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF US FOR SURPASSING OUR GOAL AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO SOME FAMILIES FOR THEIR EXTRA GENEROSITY!**



Q. Why do we use these titles among many others to address the Virgin Mary: `Mother of God`, `Tabernacle of the Most High`, `House of Gold` and `Morning Star`?

A. Your question is a fitting one as we reflect on the meaning of Christmas and on the special role that

Mary accepted and brought to fulfilment by giving birth to her Son. `Mary, Mother of God` Since the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, this title, which in its original Greek, means, `God-Bearer` has been associated with Mary by Catholics and Orthodox Christians alike and is celebrated in our Church calendar annually on January 1<sup>st</sup>. In our English translation of the title, it can be a confusing one because it



sounds as if we are placing

Mary in a lofty position superior to God by calling her God's mother. Of course this has never been our belief nor has it been the belief of any Christian. Instead, we know that Mary is human and does not in any way share in Jesus' divine nature. However, she did bear in her womb, Jesus, who was not only



human but God as well. The title, `God-Bearer` accurately denotes that Mary is a Saint who answered the call to bear and to give birth to God's only Son.

`Mary, Tabernacle of the Most High`

The Tabernacle which is found in all Catholic, Orthodox and some Anglican Churches contains the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. This sacred fixture in our Churches was prefigured in the Jewish Faith by the `Ark of the Covenant`, the container in which the Jews kept the tablets of the 10 Commandments. When this Ark was in the midst of God's Chosen

People, the Jewish Faith taught that God was also truly present in the community. `The Most High` is one of many Jewish titles for God. Like the Tabernacle in our Churches, Mary's womb was once the dwelling place which contained Christ, Who is the second Person of the Trinity and God, `Most High`. `Mary, House of Gold`

Kings live in "houses of gold" and gold was once the ideal gift for a newborn king. Since her Son, Jesus, Who is the King of the Universe, lived within her



womb for nine months before His birth, Mary is aptly named His `Palace` or indeed, His `House of gold`.

`Mary, Morning Star` Perhaps the most beautiful of these titles is this one. The star which we see at dawn each day heralds the rising of the sun. This aptly named, `morning star` in the sky gladdens our hearts because it tells us that the sun will soon rise to bring its light and warmth to the earth. Like this star, Mary heralded the imminent arrival into the world of the Son of God, the true Light, when she accepted God's plan at the Annunciation. Then, at His birth, the Son of God appeared on the earth to bring hope, light and warmth to all.

Other Titles

Among the many other titles that help us understand Mary's role in salvation history are these:



`Mirror of Justice`, `Seat of Wisdom`, `Cause of our Joy`, `Spiritual Vessel`, `Vessel of Honour`, `Mystical Rose`, `Tower of David`, `Gate of Heaven`, `Refuge of Sinners` and `Comforter of the Afflicted`.