

iRev. Chad Grennan, Pastor
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com
 Rev. Deacon Jim McLaughlin
 (phone office for appointment)
 Liliana Haynes
 Office Administrator



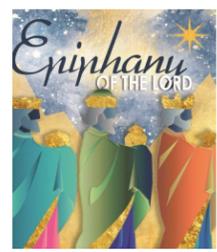
The Epiphany of the Lord

"Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.'" The magi go to the capitol city and entreat with King Herod. This is where they expect newborn royalty to be. But where is the child? "In Bethlehem of Judea," the scribes say. And so the magi go on to what is yet another Christmas miracle.



As they head out to see the Christ Child, "there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy." Finally, the most incredible experience of their lives occurs: "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage." In a humble house, they see the Messiah. Here, in this unassuming abode, the magi "[offer] him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

Have you ever gotten to the end of a great work and found the results to be underwhelming? How did you respond? Were you disappointed or elated at God's providence and your upended expectations? The magi journeyed hundreds of miles over treacherous terrain to pay homage to royalty they have seen prophesied in the stars. They encountered an ordinary family displaced from their home. This Sunday, the magi are an example for us. Can we see God in the unexpected? Do we encounter Him in the person who doesn't fit our expectations of propriety? Do we revere Christ's presence in the poor? Or do we expect to meet God only in places of honor and esteem? This week, ask God for the grace to honor Him in the unexpected places and unassuming people. He is waiting for you.



Epiphany of the Lord
 The song "We Three Kings" details the gifts of the Magi, but do you know what you're singing? "Born a king on Bethlehem's plan, gold I bring to crown Him again." This one is the most straightforward - gold symbolizes the Kingship of Christ. "Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom." Myrrh is an embalming spice. Already at Christ's birth, we have the symbolic reminder of his death. "Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a deity nigh." In many religious traditions, incense symbolizes prayers rising to heaven. In some pagan traditions, it is thought to help "call down" the deity. The gift of frankincense symbolizes Jesus' role as the Great High Priest, sanctifying the world through his sacrifice.

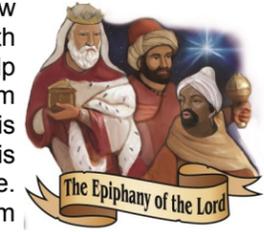
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Offertory December 29th & 30th, 2018	
66 Envelopes	\$1, 581.75
Loose Collection	\$ 49.00
Total Offertory	\$1, 630.75
Offertory Dec 31st, 2018 & January 1st, 2019	
47 Envelopes	\$1, 271.00
Loose Collection	\$ 40.00
Total Offertory	\$1, 311.00
Initial Offering (23 Envelopes)	\$ 409.00

Please remember in your prayers the soul of †Gerry Berkhout whose funeral Mass will be celebrated in our parish on Monday, January 7th at 11am.

Everyday Stewardship

"The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to "the least of these" he has actually given to Jesus himself.



If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man's constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2019

Justice and only justice you shall pursue. (Deuteronomy 16:18-20)

Bishop Bergie will lead the Ecumenical Prayer Service for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019** at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, on Sunday Jan 20, at 3:00pm. The key scripture is "Justice and only justice you shall pursue." (Deuteronomy 16. 18-20) The theme of the service is moving from 'words about justice' to 'action to bring about justice.'

Prayer for Christian Unity
 Almighty God, who are One in three Divine Persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--you have called us to spread the Gospel to all nations. You have also called us to work toward Christian unity. Graciously give us the courage, wisdom and strength to work toward unity so that we may be one, as Our Lord desires. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who live and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Epiphany Prayer:
 Lord Jesus, may your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi: that we too may be led into your presence and worship you, the Child of Mary, the Word of the Father, the King of nations, the Saviour of mankind; to whom be glory for ever.

Parish Calendar

- January**
Jan 9th..... Youth Ministry resumes 6:30-8:30pm
Jan 10th.... Bingo resumes, 7pm
Jan 18-25.... Week of prayer for Christian unity.
Jan 22nd..... Finance meeting 6:30pm

YOUTH MINISTRY: for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings 6:30-8:30pm. will resume January 9th, 2019. Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>. If you would like to volunteer, check out our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry> or email the parish.

As you are aware, our Youth Ministry co-ordinator, Genevieve Broadley is on maternity leave. We are pleased to welcome Sister Aracely and Sister Maria Isodore who will continue the program while Genevieve is on leave. Both are members of the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate. All youth are invited. We hope to see you there!

2019 Offertory Envelopes: FOR THE YEAR 2019, PLEASE USE ONLY THE ENVELOPES ASSIGNED TO YOU FOR THAT YEAR.

Some numbers are re-assigned every year and if you use old envelopes someone else may get credit for your contribution. **It is best to destroy all old envelopes.** A reminder that if you forget your envelope at home, there are visitor envelopes at the church entrance you can use - don't forget to include your name and address on them.

- If you are making up for a missed week, **it is not necessary** to use more than one envelope. Use the envelope for the week you are attending.
- It is always helpful for us if you mark the amount of your donation on the envelope, however this is not required.
- If you are using a lot of coins for your contribution, we suggest that you tape the envelope well as loose change falls out easily.
- For any donations by cheque, please make payable to St. Ann Parish, **including all special collections. Take extra care with the date for the new year.**
- **PLEASE ADVISE THE OFFICE IF YOUR ADDRESS OR OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED.**

If you do not use envelopes but would like to, contact the office and we will prepare a box for you.

ST. ANN WEEKLY BINGO

Bingo resumes on Thursday, January 10th. This parish fundraiser provides us with extra funds to pay for elevator inspections/repairs, fire inspections, church enhancement projects (small and large projects over the years). It is run weekly by a dedicated group of volunteers and attended by parishioners and members of our community. Thank you to all who have worked hard to ensure this fundraiser remains a part of our community and to those who continue to support it. All are welcome to attend.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY. This month's topics are 'Embracing the New Year', Kathryn McMorro, presenter (Jan 14); and 'Navigating Change', Kathryn McMorro presenter (Jan 28). Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

Sat. Jan 5	9-10am	Epiphany of the Lord
	4 -4:45pm	Confession Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Jan 6	9:30am	Epiphany of the Lord ☩ Charlotte Czychun (Jean & Donna Larocque)
	11:00am	☩ Philip Martens (John & Elsie Blaszyński)
Mon. Jan 7	9:30pm	☩ Teresa, Martin & Joe Bajuk (Frank & Ivanka Plesko)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Confession
Tues. Jan 8	9:30am	☩ Aladino Magazzeni (Magazzeni Family)
Wed. Jan 9	9:30am	Blessings & Health for Melissa Ranstoller (Jankovich Family)
Thurs. Jan 10	9:30am	☩ Donna Masi (Ron & Wendy Kuckyt)
Fri. Jan 11	9:30am	☩ Andy Jankovich (Jankovich Family)
Sat. Jan 12	9-10am	The Baptism of the Lord
	4 -4:45pm	Confession Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	☩ Dennis Freeman (Gloria Egert)
Sun. Jan 13	9:30am	The Baptism of the Lord ☩ Lewis Tremere (Tremere Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

Offertory December 22nd & 23rd	
Envelopes	\$2, 469.00
Loose Collection	\$ 55.00
Total Offertory	\$2, 524.00
Offertory December 24 & 25, 2018	
89Envelopes	\$3, 723.00
Loose Collection	\$ 482.50
Total Offertory	\$4, 202.50

