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Sunday, January 7th, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Sat. Jan 6	9-10am	Epiphany of the Lord Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Jan 7	9:30am	✠ Alex Augustyn (Diane & Richard Stanlik) Blessings & Peace for Maria Zaraza (Dayna & Mark Young)
	11:00am	✠ Mike Gorka (Biggar & Mikolasek Families)
Mon. Jan 8	9:30am	✠ John Rosinski (Family)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Jan 9	9:30am	✠ Brigitte Paulin (Jean & Donna Larocque)
Wed. Jan 10	9:30am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Shirley Milo & Family)
Thurs. Jan 11	9:30am	✠ John Roy Buckner (Racz Family)
Fri. Jan 12	9:30am	✠ Jack, Anne & Patrick Rosinski (Family)
Sat. Jan 13	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Jan 14	9:30am	✠ Lewis Tremeer (Liliana Haynes)
	11:00am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Catherine Robb)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.
Offertory December 30th & 31st, 2017

75 Envelopes	\$1,639.00
Loose Collection	\$ 66.00
Total Offertory	\$1,705.00
Christmas	\$ 95.00

Offertory January 1st, 2018

39 Envelopes	\$1,050.00
Loose Collection	\$ 111.90
Total Offertory	\$1,161.90
Initial Offering	\$ 245.00

The Epiphany of the Lord

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." What a wonderful example the Magi give us in their visit to the infant Jesus. First of all, they demonstrate profound faith in God's word, spoken through the prophet Micah: "And you, Bethlehem ... from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel" (cf. 5:2). Embarking on a long and difficult journey, they trust that they will find this newborn king of the Jews in Bethlehem as the prophecy announced.

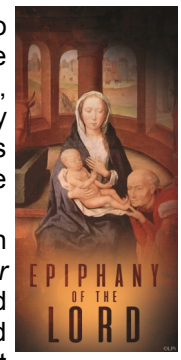
On their arrival at the home of the Holy Family, the Magi also give us an example of profound humility. These important men, to whom kings look for guidance and advice, do not hesitate to bow down, to "prostrate themselves" and give homage to a tiny babe. Putting their own position out of their minds, they reverently worship the infant Lord even as he sits on the lap of



his mother. The generosity of these three "kings" is also evident as they open their treasure boxes and give to the poor child the richest of gifts. Traditionally, we understand the gold to symbolize the earthly kingship of Christ, the frankincense to represent his divinity, and the myrrh to stand as a symbol of the anointing he will receive upon his death.

Finally, the wisdom of these men is evident in their decision to return to their country "by another way." Understanding the threat that King Herod posed to Jesus, they followed a plan that would help keep the divine child safe even though it meant inconvenience to themselves.

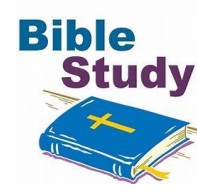
Faith, humility, generosity, and wisdom. These gifts are the real legacy of the Three Kings. Today, let us ask God for the blessing of having these gifts in our lives.



Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

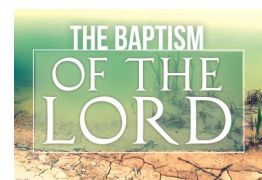
Matthew shows that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

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.



REMINDER—For all those taking the Bible Study course, please note that classes resume on Tuesday, January 9th, 2018 at 7pm in the church hall.

The Baptism of the Lord—Jan 8th



At first glance, the Baptism of the Lord might seem an odd feast. Since the Catholic Church teaches that the Sacrament of Baptism is necessary for the remission of sins, particularly Original Sin, why was Christ baptized? After all, He was born without Original Sin, and He lived His entire life without sinning. Therefore, He had no need of the sacrament, as we do. In submitting Himself humbly to the baptism of St. John the Baptist, however, Christ provided the example for the rest of us. If even He should be baptized, though He had no need of it, how much more should the rest of us be thankful for this sacrament, which frees us from the darkness of sin and incorporates us into the Church, the life of Christ on earth! His Baptism, therefore, was necessary--not for Him, but for us.

Many of the Fathers of the Church, as well as the medieval Scholastics, saw Christ's Baptism as the institution of the sacrament. His Flesh blessed the water, and the descent of the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove) and the voice of God the Father announcing that this was His Son, in Whom He was well pleased, marked the beginning of Christ's public ministry. Today we are asked to reflect on the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and our own Baptism. The Baptism of Jesus was the beginning of his public ministry among us. God was with his Son Jesus in power, and made it known that Jesus was his specially chosen witness on earth.

Prayer: Open the heavens almighty Father and pour out your Spirit upon your people. Renew the power of our Baptismal cleansing and fill us with zeal for all good deeds. Let us hear your voice once again, that we may recognize in your Beloved Son our hope in inheriting eternal life. Grant this through Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Bishop Bergie will preside at the liturgy for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** on Sunday, January 21, 2018, 3:00 pm, at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, 3 Lyman Street, St. Catharines.

The Second Vatican Council's declaration on Christian Unity expresses the Church's heart on this issue, "*The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves to men as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ Himself were divided.*) Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature." The theme for the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity comes to us from the Caribbean region: "**Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power**" (Exodus 15:6).

Catholic Women's League Meeting

Please join us for Mass on Wednesday, January 17th at 9:30am to be followed by a short business meeting. After the meeting, Rosa Colangelo will teach us how to make gnocchi! We will finish the meeting with a tasting. All ladies of the parish are welcome!

We will be taking down Christmas decorations on **Monday, January 8th**. If you can help, we will meet at 10am. Thank you.

Parish Calendar

January 2018
Jan 8th.... School resumes
Jan 9th Bible Study resumes 7pm parish hall
Jan 10th.... Youth Ministry resumes
Jan 11th..... Bingo resumes (Thursdays in the hall) 7pm
Jan 17th.... School Mass 9:30am
Jan 17th..... CWL meeting following morning Mass
Jan 17th.... Finance Council meeting 6:30pm
YOUTH MINISTRY: YM for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings. Youth Ministry will resume **January 10th, 2018. 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 me gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org

2018 Offertory Envelopes: are now available in the church hall. Please note that there have been updates made to the offertory numbering system. **FOR THE YEAR 2018, 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.

Separated and Divorced Healing Ministry— January 8th 'Welcoming the New Year' on ; 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

Bulletin Sponsorship: Early in this new year, we will be printing new bulletin covers. At this time, 1, possibly 2 spots may be available for advertising at the back. If you or someone you know may be interested in advertising a business, please phone the office. The cost of one space, 2 X 2 inches is \$100 for one year.

ST. ANN WEEKLY BINGO

Bingo resumes on Thursday, January 11th. Callers are needed! Your commitment would be every 4-6 weeks or if you can only help once or twice, that would be appreciated. Please phone the office if you can assist. 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.

