

St. John the Evangelist Church

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Mrs. Vicki Morgan	Secretary
Mrs. Cathy Dykeman	Parish Home Catechism
Mr. Breandán Orian McCallister	Youth Ministry

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Epiphany of the Lord

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

I want to wish you a Happy New Year! May the Lord give you a year filled with peace and of the mercy of the Lord! The First

Reading, from the prophet Isaiah, presents to us a beautiful image of how the Lord will come to bring His light and life to the city of Jerusalem to dwell. We are called to receive in our hearts the Lord who comes to fill us with hope, peace, and consolation. The Second Reading, from the Letter to the Ephesians, gives us the assurance that God's love has been revealed to all nations and peoples. It is very comforting to realize that God's plan is that everybody experiences his mercy and love. God always wants to share his life with us to fulfill our deepest desires. In the Gospel, from St. Matthew, we are presented with the manifestation of the Lord to the Magi. They come from the Far East to pay homage to the newborn king of the Jews. However, they are astonished to realize that the King of Kings is born in a stable, humble, and weak, born to give his life for our sins. They recognize Him as the Savior of the World, and they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolizes that He is a King who has come to serve us and to share His life for us. Frankincense means that He is God, He is the One who fills us with Eternal Life. Myrrh means that He is going to die in the Cross to save us. Let us acknowledge in our lives the Savior who has come to share with us His divine life so that our lives will be fulfilled!.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Jan 6, 2018)

Three actions of the Magi guide our journey towards the Lord, who today is revealed as light and salvation for all peoples. The Magi see the star, they set out and they bring gifts.

Seeing the star. This is where it starts. But why, we might ask, did the Magi alone see the star? Perhaps because few people raised their eyes to heaven. We often make do with looking at the ground: it's enough to have our health, a little money and a bit of entertainment. I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky. Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind? The Magi were not content with just getting by, with keeping afloat. They understood that to truly live, we need a lofty goal and we need to keep looking up.

Yet we can also ask why, among all those who looked up at the heavens, so many others did not follow that star, "his star" (Mt 2:2). Perhaps because the star was not eye-

catching, did not shine any brighter than other stars. It was a star – so the Gospel tells us – that the Magi saw "at its rising" (vv. 2, 9). Jesus' star does not dazzle or overwhelm, but gently invites. We may ask ourselves what star we have chosen to follow in our lives. Some stars may be bright, but they do not point the way. So it is with success, money, career, honours and pleasures when these become our life. They are meteors: they blaze momentarily, but then quickly burn out and their brilliance fades. They are shooting stars that mislead rather than lead. The Lord's star, however, may not always overwhelm by its brightness, but it is always there, ever kindly: it takes you by the hand in life and accompanies you. It does not promise material reward, but ensures peace and grants, as it did to the Magi, "exceedingly great joy" (Mt 2:10). But it also tells us to set out.

Setting out, the second thing the Magi do, is essential if we are to find Jesus. His star demands a decision to take up the journey and to advance tirelessly on our way. It demands that we free ourselves from useless burdens and unnecessary extras that only prove a hindrance, and accept unforeseen obstacles along the map of life. Jesus allows himself to be found by those who seek him, but to find him we need to get up and go, not sit around but take risks, not stand still, but set out. Jesus makes demands: he tells those who seek him to leave behind the armchair of worldly comforts and the reassuring warmth of hearth and home. Following Jesus is not a polite etiquette to be observed, but a journey to be undertaken. God, who set his people free in the exodus and called new peoples to follow his star, grants freedom and joy always and only in the course of a journey. In other words, if we want to find Jesus, we have to overcome our fear of taking risks, our self-satisfaction and our indolent refusal to ask anything more of life. We need to take risks simply to meet a Child. Yet those risks are immensely worth the effort, since in finding that Child, in discovering his tenderness and love, we rediscover ourselves.

Bringing gifts. Having come to Jesus after a long journey, the Magi do as he does: they bring gifts. Jesus is there to give his life; they offer him their own costly gifts: gold, incense and myrrh. The Gospel becomes real when the journey of life ends in giving. To give freely, for the Lord's sake, without expecting anything in return: this is the sure sign that we have found Jesus. For he says: "The gift you have received, give freely as a gift" (Mt 10:8). To do good without counting the cost, even when unasked, even when you gain nothing thereby, even if it is unpleasant. That is what God wants. He, who become small for our sake, asks us to offer something for the least of his brothers and sisters. Who are they? They are those who have nothing to give in return, the needy, the hungry, the stranger, the prisoner, the poor (cf. Mt 25:31-46). We give a gift pleasing to Jesus

JANUARY 2, 2022

when we care for a sick person, spend time with a difficult person, help someone for the sake of helping, or forgive someone who has hurt us. These are gifts freely given, and they cannot be lacking in the lives of Christians. Jesus reminds us that if we only love those who love us, we do as the pagans do (cf. Mt 5:46-47). Today let us look at our hands, so often empty of love, and let us try to think of some free gift that we can give without expecting anything in return. That will please the Lord. And let us ask him: "Lord, let me rediscover the joy of giving".

Dear brothers and sisters, let us imitate the Magi: looking upwards, setting out, and freely offering our gifts.

ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES! MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES

Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will be held on 6 Thursday evenings from January 20 to February 24, 2022 at 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Parish Centre. Call 668-3676. Fee is \$200 per couple.



Office Hours

The parish office will reopen at 9am on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

CWL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

\$25.00

email lchilderhouse@hotmail.com



CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

Special envelopes are available at the back of the Church for donations to offset the cost of decorating at Christmas. We appreciate your support and assistance at this time of year!

IMPORTANT: Donations for the 2021 tax year must be received no later than January 2, 2022 for tax receipt purposes.

The Knights of Columbus next meeting is Wednesday January 4, 2022 at 8PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 133 Brock St North and on Zoom (details to follow by member email). Proof of double Covid vaccination and masking will be required. For further information assisting the St John's community and becoming a Knight through our online virtual application and exemplification process taking less than an hour, contact Grand Knight Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877



Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 1 – 9am, 11am, 2pm Spanish
NO INTENTIONS

Mon Jan 3 – 8:20am
+Deceased Members of the Coryat Family
req. by Mary Yearwood

Tues Jan 4 – 8:20am (TBA – 8:00am)
+Lily Lobo
req. by Melvin & Margaret D'Souza


Wed Jan 5 – 7:00pm
+Brian McMonagle
req. by Joanne & Dave Ellis
+Brian McMonagle
req. by Margaret Davidson
+Brian McMonagle
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Ivan Hrovat
req. by Stefani & Toni Savor
+Thomas Bulger
req. by Ann Johnston & Family

Thurs Jan 6 – 8:20am (TBA – 8:00am)
+Peter Cleary
req. by Catherine Ingram

Fri Jan 7 – 8:20am (TBA – 8:00am)
+Deceased Members of L'Estrange & Fernades Families
req. by Godfrey & Jenny Cunningham



Friday January 7 – First Friday Adoration for 1 hour following mass



EPIPHANY PRAYER

"Breathe upon us gracious God, I pray,
and show us this day Your Star which you
did once show to the Magi, that as it
formerly guided them to Christ, so, it may
lead us to the Mysteries of Christ."

Marsilio Ficino 1433-1499

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