

St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

January 8, 2023

Epiphany of the Lord

Today the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — Pius Parsch



The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaias which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the Magnificat at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.

Readings for the Solemnity of the Epiphany

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6*. The prophet is trying to cheer the exiles by foretelling the glorious future of the new Jerusalem which is not yet rebuilt. The special radiance of God will illuminate it. Gentiles will bring their riches to it. From East and West peoples will flock to it. The Feast of the Epiphany is the feast which commemorates the manifestation of God to the Gentiles. This manifestation began when the Wise Men from the East came to Bethlehem to pay their respects and offer their gifts to the newly born king

of the Jews. Though the words of Isaiah were not understood by his hearers as referring to this event, it was only in the coming of the Magi, to welcome Christ, that they were really fulfilled.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3; 5-6*. St. Paul's thoughts in his prison in Rome are not for himself nor for the fate that awaits him. He is thinking instead of the mission Christ gave him, to evangelize the Gentile nations. He has done much already, and even in prison he does all he can to continue the good work. He writes to his Gentile converts from Rome, to remind them of their great privilege in being called to the Christian faith. They are now God's new Chosen People, they are now members of Christ's mystical body.

The **Gospel of today's feast**, is from the *Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12*. The Magi are the central personages in today's feast of Epiphany. They were pagans who did not know the true God of the Jews. Yet that true God revealed to them that the King he had promised to the Jews had come. The expected Prince was born. They came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king—a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their past history, but utter indifference as regards the present and the future. These leaders knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; they must have realized that the Magi were very sure of the truth revealed to them—they would not have come such a long journey on a "fool's errand." In spite of that, the thought of going to Bethlehem with the Magi never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to Christ and in spite of his miracles refused to admit his claim that he was not only the promised Messiah, but the true Son of God. These were men who rejected him because he had mercy on sinners, and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their Messiah was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like Herod they ended with murder—the crucifixion of the "King of the Jews." The pagan king was not much worse than the indifferent leaders of God's Chosen People. Let us resolve to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer Christ all that we have and are.

—Adapted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Please call the office:

902-535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for Baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB (902) 535-2699

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA. (902) 785-4018

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, January 13, 2023

HGA 11:00 AM
+ Gerry Sampson

Weekend Masses

Saturday, January 14, 2023

SH 3:00 PM
HGA 5:30 PM
+ Charles Leo Sampson

Sunday, January 15, 2023

SJB 9:00 AM
+ Jeanette Landry
SP 10:30 PM

Receipts

Holy Guardian Angels
December 25, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 2,035.10
Candles	26.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$2,061.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels
January 1, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 488.00
Candles	10.75
Initial Offering	71.50
Christmas Offering	170.00
Solemnity of Mary	95.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 846.00</u>

St. John the Baptist
December 25, 2022 & January 1, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 2145.00
Memory Tree	273.00
Advent Folder	160.00
Donation	200.00
Cemetery	60.00
Initial Offering	145.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 2,983.00</u>

St. Peter's
December 25, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,970.00
Candles	11.00
Memory Tree	200.00
Cemetery	20.00
Christmas Offering	890.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 3,091.00</u>

St. Peter's
January 1, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 430.00
Candles	8.00
Initial Offering	112.00
Christmas Offering	150.00
Memory Tree	40.00
New Year's Day	305.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,045.00</u>

COMMUNITY NEWS

SJB: St John the Baptist CWL would like to thank you to those who contributed to the flowers that decorated the church this Christmas season. Thank you for your generosity.

SP: The Memory Tree has had its most successful year to date. A total of **\$2,435.00** was raised! Thank you to all who contributed!! A special thank you to Fonda Stone for her help with the decorations, to Doris Carter and her team for their help with set up and storage of the tree, Danny Madden for reciting of names weekly and to Laura Larade and Richard Landry for processing the donations.

2023 Richmond RTO - Breakfast & Meeting will be held at Louie's Cozy Corner in St. Peter's, January 10th, 9:00 AM. Weather permitting. Storm alternate date is January 17th Thank you

HGA: Thank you to all who helped in any way to prepare our church for Christmas. Also, for our 4 pm Family Mass, three families played significant roles: the Bona girls led the music and the awesome choir, the Martell family, Shelley, Madison, and Leah, directed the beautiful pageant, and the Jennifer & Scott Mombourquette family helped with Mass and participated in several other ways. Thank you to Raymonde Burke for the overall organization of these celebrations and thank you for the good attendance. God bless you all with continued good health and faith-filled times throughout 2023, the 200th Anniversary of our Holy Guardian Angels Parish.

Bonnie Brae: Tea & Tunes Sunday January 15 Bonnie Brae Club St. Peters 2-4 PM Evelyn MacRae ad Friends Admission 5 Dollars Half and Half tickets will be sold. Light Lunch will be Served.

Information Available for World Youth Day 2023

World Youth Day takes place in Lisbon August 1-6. Activities are open to youth ages 18 years and older. More information is available at <https://www.lisboa2023.org/en/> "City of Joy - Vocational Exhibition"

The Vocational Exhibition is part of the "City of Joy" initiative of the WYD in Lisbon. It is a space where WYD participants can live a synodal and fraternal encounter with different movements, associations, communities, religious orders, and other initiatives in the Church. The deadline for registration is 31 March 2023.

For more information:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O5iBwzZyPS1zdiqLZ1ywrWwQmTBzndf/view>

Participation in the Youth Festival (August 1-6, 2023)

This festival will be an opportunity for them to express and share their faith through cultural, artistic, sports and religious events. The recommended deadline for registration is 31 December 2022.

To learn more:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10KcHMLw07Fa9z1_pa5IRzqRsFbA-juF0/view



Burying the Dead and Grieving Well:

The new practices concerning the treatment of the bodies of the departed have direct consequences on the way we live out our grief. They also influence our ability to embark upon a path of healing after the loss we have experienced. The Catholic Bishops of Canada offer this guide to dealing with death and the various forms of bodily disposition, as well as the Catholic liturgical and pastoral practices that accompany the grieving process. It is hoped to be useful for families and friends dealing with the loss of a loved one, for pastors and those who welcome and accompany the bereaved, as well as for those in the funeral industry who take the religious dimension into account.

The full document can be accessed on the CCCB website at bit.ly/cccb_buryingthedead.

Pilgrimage Tour to Poland May 27- June 10, 2023

A tour is being organized and escorted by Father Richard Philiposki SChr, visiting sites connected with the lives of Saints John Paul II, Faustina & Maximillian Kolbe. 15 Day Tour price \$3,949.

Informational tour meeting will be Sunday, January 8, 11 a.m. in Sala 1050 (parish hall) at St. Mary's Polish Church, Whitney Pier.

For information call 902-564-4847.