

January 5, 2025: Epiphany of the Lord

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Matthew’s Gospel tells a version of Jesus’ birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . . ” The story of the census is found only in Luke’s Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew’s Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew’s Gospel, they represent the Gentiles’ search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus’ role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus’ kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus’ death.

The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ’s early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

www.loyolapress.com

PARKING LOT SIGNS:

Remember we have new parking lot signs, to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our parish. These signs clearly indicate the No Parking Fire Lane, the Handicapped parking area, as well as how to properly enter and exit the parking lot. Please obey all signs to ensure a safe parking environment.

January 5th, 2025
Epiphany of the Lord
Sacred Heart Parish
A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Fr. Lee Lainey
Office Administrator: Roseann Janes
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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Password "Church"
Note: include your envelope #

Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

<u>Weekend Masses:</u>	Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.
<u>Weekday Mass:</u>	Tuesday to Friday 10a.m.
	Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.
<u>Lohnes Complex*</u>	First Friday of each month - 2 pm
	*Note: No mass at the church on this day.
<u>Bible Study:</u>	To be determined at a later date.
<u>Holy Hour of Adoration:</u>	Postponed until further notice.
<u>Reconciliation:</u>	By request.
<u>Marriages:</u>	Six months’ notice required. A year’s notice is recommended.
<u>Baptisms:</u>	Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.
<u>Family Connections:</u>	At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.
<u>St. Vincent de Paul:</u>	To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

From: Dec. 21 to Jan. 1, 2025

Regular Sunday	4064.00
Loose Offering	692.15
Parish Dues	1230.00
Envelope Cost Contribution	205.00
Building Fund	215.00
New Years Day/Solemnity of Mary	757.00
Christmas	2213.00
Advent Folders	1235.00
Votive Candles	111.00
Sunday Missals	36.00
In Memory	50.00
Christmas Flowers – in Memory	405.00
Mass Stipends	70.00
Baptism Fees	50.00
Needs of the Canadian Church	5.00
World Mission Sunday	5.00
Shepherds Fund	50.00
Saint Vincent de Paul	30.00

Jan. 11	The Late Mary & Joe Gallant
Jan. 11	The Late Mercedes Wells

January 11	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Linda Tarbett	Elizabeth Carew
January 12	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Anna House	Brian Sparkes
Communion to the Sick – Joan Penney	

"Hope does not disappoint" (*Rom 5:5*). In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of this Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years. My thoughts turn to all those *pilgrims of hope* who will travel to Rome in order to experience the Holy Year and to all those others who, though unable to visit the City of the Apostles Peter and Paul, will celebrate it in their local Churches. For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door" (cf. *Jn 10:7.9*) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as "our hope" (*1 Tim 1:1*).

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often, we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope. Taking it as our guide, let us return to the message that the Apostle Paul wished to communicate to the Christians of Rome.

Donated in memory of the following:

– From: Veronica Hickey

Ed & Geraldine Bennett - From: Ken Bennett

John Joyce – From: Clara Joyce

Ed Dobin – From: Theresa Dobbin

We still have a few openings for Mass Intentions for January and plenty open spots for the rest of the year. Please put your intention in the collection plate or call the office to request a mass at 709-785-5025.

Please remember to pick up your envelopes at the back of the church if you haven't already done so. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive them, please call the office at 709-785-5025.



Our tentative date for the next parish council meeting will be January 28th, 2025, 6:30pm at the church.

The last two sessions for Symbolon will be Wednesday, January 15th and January 22nd at 7pm in the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Light of Christ

Christ's light was not lit once
in Bethlehem and then extinguished.

For two thousand years his light
has shone upon the world.

And it will continue to shine for all
who believe in him and follow him.

The light of Christ is a persistent light,
and has the power to draw people
to its shining.

It shines in the midst of
disasters and upheavals.

It is a defiant light, which
no darkness can overpower.

Its purpose is not to judge us,
but to show us the way
to the Father's kingdom.

God has called us out of darkness
into the wonderful light of his Son.
We must live as children of the light.

So, let us imitate the Magi,
and walk in the light of the Lord.