

January 3, 2021 – Epiphany of the Lord

Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

Matthew 2: 1-12

Following the star

The journey begins with seeing the star: a light in the midst of darkness, a reason for hope in the wake of devastation, a realization that good is possible.

With courage, you follow that star wherever it leads. You'll have to negotiate dangerous terrain. You'll endure oppressive heat and numbing cold. You'll lose your way and have to recalibrate your route — if you're wise and humble enough, you'll seek the help of sage, more experienced travelers.

At more than one point, you'll give up. You'll want to turn around and go back to where you felt safe and comfortable – if unfulfilled. But, if the star is the right star, you'll keep going. You'll stay focused on the star.

And eventually the star will set over the place and time you are meant to be: the lost college student discovers his life's work, the discouraged medical worker finds the path of compassion and purpose that keeps her going, the terrified couple works through their fears and feelings of inadequacy to welcome their first child. Everyone has their own story of such a “star.”

The Spirit of God guides us, directs us, nudges us, picks us up, pushes us toward the star. And eventually, if we persevere with faith and trust in that Spirit, we come to Epiphany.

Life is filled with all kinds of “epiphanies” of finding God in our own Bethlehems and Jerusalems. The understanding and support of family and friends, the wisdom and insight of the prophets of justice and peace in our lives, the forgiveness and mercy we enable and accept are all “stars” God illuminates in our skies to discover his loving presence in our lives. The star of Epiphany challenges us to see our own lives in the “extraordinary” light of God. In the new year before us, may our hearts and spirits behold the “star” that leads us to the Epiphany of “Emmanuel” — God in our midst.

**January 3, 2021
Epiphany of the Lord**

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ

Parish Information

Pastor: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Administrator: Dianne Russell

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm.

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Password "**Church**"
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Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.

To Register, please call the office Monday to Friday between 9 am and 1 pm.

Reconciliation:

By request

Mass During the Week:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 pm
Friday at 10 am.

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Discontinued until further notice.

Marriages:

Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

St. Vincent de Paul:

To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

December 24th-25th, 2020

Regular Sunday	\$2682.70
Building Fund	5.00
Christmas	2280.00
Advent	350.00
Flowers	20.00
St. Vincent de Paul	40.00
Sunday Missals	55.00
In Memorium, (Stan Tompkins)	30.00
Shepherds Fund	40.00

December 26th-27th, 2020

Regular Sunday	\$1844.50
Building Fund	50.00
Christmas	207.60
Advent	20.00
Garden Party	25.00
St. Vincent de Paul	180.00
Sunday Missals	5.00
Bingo Proceeds	448.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. 7pm	Late Madeline Peddle
Wed. 7pm	Late Robert Moores
Thu. 7pm	Late Peter McHugh
Fri. 10am	Holy Souls
Sat. 4:30	Late Gus and Irene Rumboldt
Sun. 11 am	Parish Community

PARISH DUES: Received with thanks from: Camille Bruce, Denise Bruce, Jack and Clara Joyce, Joe and Margie Pennell, Mike and Linda Leonard, and Regina Brake.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a meeting on Monday, January 11th at 6:00 pm.



NEW YEAR'S GREETING: I would like to thank everyone for their perseverance and support through the difficulties of 2020. It is a year that we would like to forget but will always be remembered for the special challenges it brought to us individually and to the parish as a whole. Not only has Covid-19 changed our practices of personal protection, hand sanitizing, and social distancing, but has forced us to live a life in isolation. Thank God we can at least gather together in prayer again. We can look forward to a better tomorrow. We can give thanks for the energetic response of researchers and governments that have helped produce vaccines for Covid -19. We can prepare ourselves for vaccination knowing that a little pain will make us stronger and healthier for the future. So too, our faith has been renewed. In different formats we followed mass on TV, live streaming on the internet or have been fortunately able to come to church. Our faith has got us through this past year, our faith will help us grow in this new year and will help us have hope for the years to come. Stay safe. Stay strong. Stay faithful.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

SUNDAY MISSALS: are available at the back of the Church. \$5 each.

LADIES FUNDRAISING: Our Bingo Draw for December will include 3 Bonus draws. The draw will take place on December 27th. Good luck to everyone.

VOTIVE CANDLES: Candles are now available in the church. \$5 each.

FACE MASKS: These masks should be worn at all times. They may be removed if you are seated and able to maintain 2m distancing from others.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Thank you to everyone who contributed flower money or flowers at Christmas. Next week we will publish the full list of names of those who contributed to the purchasing of flowers. As well many people have donated flowers and or money in memory of deceased loved ones. The *in memorium* list will also be published next weekend.

4 YOUTH: On the Feast of the Epiphany, which the Church celebrates today, we commemorate the visitation of the Magi to the Baby Jesus. These men traveled a great distance guided only by a star and brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honour Jesus. This is a good time to think about our own journey of faith. How are we called to grow closer to Christ? What gifts do we have that we can bring to the Lord today to share with Him? Remember the best gifts come from the heart.

SUNDAY ENVELOPES FOR 2021: now available for pick up at the church.

WHAT IS AN EPIPHANY: The word 'epiphany' comes from the Greek word epiphaneia or theophaneia, meaning 'appearance' or 'manifestation'. After the festivities of Christmas, it is the time of the Christian year when we wonder at the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord - January 3rd, 2021 - revelation of God to the world in Jesus Christ. The feast of the Epiphany symbolizes the fact that the man born to be king will rule not by force but by love, reigning not from a throne but from a cross. God for a king, frankincense for a priest, and myrrh for the one who was to die: the gifts of the wise men foretell that (Jesus) will be the true king, perfect high priest and supreme savior. The unfolding season honours the public life and witness of Christ, including His baptism in the Jordan, the miracles He performs and His unfailing compassion for others. (Taken from: Michael Ford, *Eternal Seasons: A Liturgical Journey* with Henri J. Nouwen, Sorin Books, Notre Dame (Indiana USA), 2004, p61).

