

January 5, 2020 – 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

“The Messiah is among you . . . ”

There was once a monastery that had come upon hard times. Once it was filled with young monks and its great church resounded with the singing of God’s praise, but now it was almost deserted, with a handful of elderly brothers shuffling through the cloister struggling to pray and work.

On the edge of the monastery woods an old rabbi had built a little hut. He would go there from time to time to fast and pray. Whenever the venerable and wise rabbi was there, the monks felt blessed by his presence.

One day the abbot of the monastery went to visit the rabbi to seek his counsel. The rabbi welcomed him warmly. First, the two prayed silently together; then the rabbi made tea for his guest. As he set the cups on the table, the rabbi said to the abbot, “You and your brothers are serving God with heavy hearts. You have come to ask a teaching of me. Very well. I will give you a teaching — but you can only repeat it once. After that, no one must ever say it aloud again.”

The rabbi leaned in and looked straight into the eyes of the abbot. “The Messiah is among you,” the rabbi said. “He lives among you now.”

The abbot did not know what to say; he left the rabbi’s hut without a word. The next morning, the abbot called his brothers together. He told them he had received a teaching from the rabbi who walks in the woods — but warned that the teaching was to be spoken once and then never said again. The abbot then looked at each of his brothers and said, “The rabbi said that one of us is the Messiah.”

The monks were stunned by the abbot’s words. *What could this mean?* they asked themselves. *Is Brother John the Messiah? Or Father Matthew? Or Brother Thomas? Could I be the Messiah?*

They were all puzzled — and unsettled — by the rabbi’s teaching, but faithfully obeyed the abbot’s instructions that it never be mentioned again.

As time went by, the monks began to treat one another with a special reverence. There was a gentle, peaceful quality about them that was hard to describe but easy to notice. The few visitors to the monastery found themselves deeply moved by the life of the community. Before long, people were coming from miles around to be nourished by the prayer of the monks. More and more brothers joined the community. As the monastery began to rebuild, the joy of their prayer once again resounded through their church — and hearts.

The old rabbi was never seen again — but the old monks, who had taken his teaching to heart, forever felt his presence.

[Source unknown.]

“The Messiah lives among you” — Epiphany celebrates that reality in all our lives: that God’s Christ is present among us in our love for one another, in the mercy and justice we work for, in the forgiveness we extend and accept. Our lives are filled with “epiphanies”: moments of awareness and understanding, discoveries of abilities and potential, realizations of the love of God in our lives. In this New Year, may we seek to find the Messiah in our midst, following the star of God’s reconciliation and justice, enabling us to behold Emmanuel — “God with us”— in every experience of charity, consolation and forgiveness, whether given or received.

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January 5, 2020
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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 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8
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www.sacredheartrcparish.ca



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

Reconciliation: By request

Mass During the Week: Tues & Thurs at 7 p.m. and Wed & Fri at 10 a.m.
First Fridays - 2 p.m. at the Lohnes Complex

Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

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 29

Regular Sunday	\$1550.10
Initial Offering	30.00
Building Fund	25.00
New Years Day	5.00
Christmas	575.00
Advent Folders	125.00
Votive Candles	63.25

MASS INTENTIONS

Tues, 7 p.m.	Late Leah Peddle
Wed, 10 a.m.	Special Intention
Thur, 7 p.m.	Late Mary Park
Fri, 10 a.m.	Deceased Members of the Gallant Family
Sat, 4:30 p.m.	Late Jordan Blackwood
Sun, 11 a.m.	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS**January 11**

John Carroll Mary Gallant	Art Hall Marie Byrne Mona Specker
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January 12

Don Gallant Anna House	Ameila Dicks Patsy Payne Wayne Dicks
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Communion of the Sick

Eileen Moore

BIBLE STUDY: Our weekly Bible Study begins again this Thursday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Church meeting room.

EPIPHANY: This Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany. A study of the texts used in the Mass on this feast shows what we are celebrating. We are remembering the manifestation, unveiling, (epiphany) of part of God's plan of Salvation. The theme of light and glory is quite pronounced in the Mass. The second reading reminds us that God wants all people to be saved and to become one Holy People sharing one Faith and Baptism. In the Gospel the Saviour who was revealed to Joseph and to Jewish people at Christmas represented by the shepherds is now known to the Magi, the representatives of all nations.

4YOUTH: On the Feast of the Epiphany, which the Church celebrates today, we commemorate the visitation of the Magi to the Baby Jesus. These men travelled 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!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL: Holy Redeemer - \$1205.80; All Hallows - \$263.35; Sacred Heart - \$432.45 for a total of \$1901.60. We wish to thank you for your support. We hope that you will remain committed to supporting the work of the Society and with Mary's Kitchen which operates every Friday. God bless you and we wish everyone a healthy, safe and rewarding 2020.

HUMOUR: Why did the baby Strawberry cry? Because his parents were in a jam!

BINGO: There will be bingo at the Sacred Heart Elementary on Sunday, **January 5th, at 2 p.m.** Please support this fundraiser. There is a volunteer list on the bulletin board located at the back of the Church. All your donations are greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS:

Donations were made for Christmas flowers by the following: Carol Reid, David and Dorothy Brake. **Donations made in memory** by the following: Daniel O'Connor in memory of Dr. Tony O'Conner; Ed, Debbie and Marian in memory of William and Betty Dobbin; Jack Pennell in memory of Marie Pennell; Father Jim Robertson in memory of Dolph and Martha Robertson; Barbara Neville in memory of Jack Neville; Catherine Musseau in memory of the Musseau and Byrne Families; Jack and Clara Joyce in memory of John and Nora Griffin, George and Sarah Joyce; Tony Griffin in memory of Thomas Griffin (Sr) and Brian Griffin; the Hearn Family in memory of Jack and Joan Hearn; the Elkins families in memory of John McCarthy and deceased members of the Elkins family; Margaret McCarthy in memory of Bill and Betty McCarthy and deceased members of the McCarthy family; Gerard and Loretta Bennett in memory of the deceased members of the Samms and Bennett Families; Doug and Donna Beales in memory of Dana, Jerome and Elsie Beales; Doreen Jones in memory of David Jones; Don and Theresa George in memory of Michael and Ada George; Serenna Callahan in memory of Edward Callahan; Joan Hutchings in memory of Alex and Bride Hutchings, Ed Hutchings, Harry Rolls, Sister Josette, Barbara Smith, Michael Schulz, and Bill Boland.

A NEW YEARS PRAYER:

Lord, You make all things new,
You bring hope alive in our hearts
and cause our Spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
for all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us a mighty flame
so that in our time,
many will see the wonders of God
and live forever to praise Your glorious name.
Amen.

THE MAGI OR WISEMEN: in ancient Iran - also known as Persia - a priest was called a "magus". The plural is "magi". The word "magic" comes from the same root. Magi were experts in astronomy. This was useful in determining the calendar and the end of winter and the spring planting season. They believed that stars and other celestial objects actually influenced, rather than merely coincided with, earthly events. One, or possibly a series of omens, led them to believe that a royal prince had been born in Israel. They were sent as ambassadors to provide tribute to the newborn. The bible does not say how many Magi visited. It is assumed that there were three because of the number of gifts. The Holy Family welcomed the Magi on Epiphany. There is a beautiful tradition that has been inspired by this event. Take some chalk and either have it blessed by your pastor or say your own blessing over it with your family. Ask God to welcome strangers to your home during the coming year. Finally write these numbers and letters over the front door of your home: 20 + C + M + B + the last digits of the current year. The letters represent the traditional names of the Wise Men - Casper, Melchior and Balthasar.