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**HAVING AN EPIPHANY**

Have you ever experienced an epiphany – a moment of profound insight? This week we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, not a moment of profound insight for him, but a moment of profound insight about him. Specifically, we are celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi. To enter more fully into the significance of this event we must enter into the heart and mind of the Jewish faithful.

For thousands of years Israel had been set apart as God's special people, unique from all the other nations of the world. God chose to manifest himself in a unique way to Israel through both words and miraculous deeds of deliverance. It was with Israel that God established a special covenant, and to them that God promised a future, glorious Savior-King and an everlasting, glorious reign. What a wonderful heritage, one which left the Israelites with expectancy as they awaited its fulfillment.

And then it happened! The Savior-King is born, not in a regal setting but in humble surroundings. One would think that surely the renowned of Israel would be beckoned to welcome his arrival and pay him homage as Christ and King. But it wasn't so. Instead, the angels announced his arrival to the most lowly of Israel, common shepherds, and to the Magi, non-Jewish kings/wise men from the orient. Was this a mistake on the heralds' part? Obviously not, rather it was an epiphany, a moment of profound insight symbolically provided by a loving Father. When the Father chose to make Jesus, the Messiah-King's arrival known to these two groups, shepherds and kings, he symbolically included all humanity in this saving act, both Jews and Gentiles. That favorite verse many of us have memorized, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son," reminds us that he was a gift for the world's salvation. That Jesus is savior of all mankind and savior for all mankind is the profound insight, the epiphany, brought by the Magi's experience.

With hindsight we can now go back and reread the promises of God and see salted throughout the Old Testament, references to the "nations," the Gentiles. It was always God's intention to reach the nations through the covenant and promises given to Israel. God's intention always was to bring salvation to all mankind, and this profound insight is included in the Epiphany of the Lord. Will it also be an epiphany for you? Will it be a moment of profound insight wherein you realize that Jesus is not exclusively for you, but for all? His intentions remain the same, to bring salvation to all mankind, only now his plan includes us, the Church, as his primary messenger. Will this be a time of insight when you embrace your responsibility to help take the Good News to the nations? Paul grasped this profound insight in the second reading, and because of it says in the very next verse, "Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace." May God enable us to follow Paul's example by grasping this profound insight and making this profound commitment of surrender.

"The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning toward the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament." CCC 528

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese  
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.

Pastor  
Father Christopher Gerard Gillen

Sunday Masses  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses  
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m.  
Wed @ 6:30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
First Friday @ 8:00am

Reconciliation/Confessions  
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

Baptism  
Catechesis and appointment necessary

Marriage  
Contact the parish office

Sacrament of the Sick  
Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins  
Please call the office.

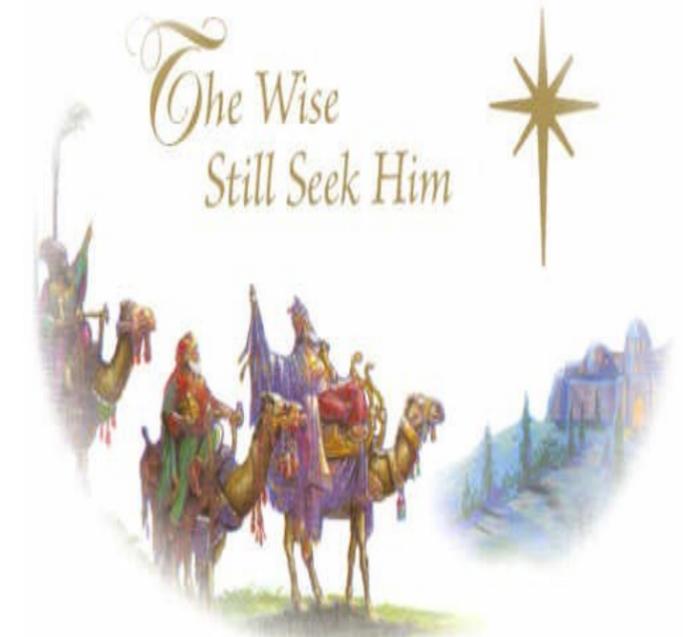
Secretary  
Sandy Johnson  
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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**Ministry Schedule - Jan 13/14**

**Hospitality Ministers**

5:00 pm - Needed  
9:00 am - Needed  
11:00 am - Needed

**Altar Servers**

5:00 pm - Needed  
9:00 am - Needed  
11:00 am - Needed

**Children's Liturgy**

Needed

**Next Hospitality Sunday**

January 7

**Jan 7, 2018**  
**The Epiphany**  
**of the Lord**

**Lectors**

5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Ann  
#2 - Tom Shields  
9:00 am #1 - Andrew Steger  
#2 - Caroline Steger  
11:00 am #1 - Gemma Bose  
#2 - Deanne Long

**Ministers of Communion**

5:00 pm - Needed  
9:00 am - Needed  
11:00 am - Needed

**Counting**

Mary Anne Paradis & Jennifer Fife

# January 7, 2018

## The Epiphany of the Lord - Year B



*Lord, may the request of your people  
rise before you like a fragrant offering*

Monday	Jan 8	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b> 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Matthew Johnston	by Nancy Johnston
Tuesday	Jan 9	9:00 am For the special intentions of Patricia McFarlane	by Martha Devlin
Wednesday	Jan 10	6:30 pm For the health and healing of Joan Hignett	by Doug and Maeve Devlin
Thursday	Jan 11	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
Friday	Jan 12	<b>St. Marguerite Bourgeoys</b> 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Regina Newman	by the Newman family
Saturday	Jan 13	<b>The 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time</b> 5:00 pm For the health and healing of Barb Joyner	by Doug and Maeve Devlin
Sunday	Jan 14	9:00 am For the health and healing of Robert Schnaar 11:00 am For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	by John and Riky Mulder

### DIOCESAN PARISH DISCERNMENT

The Haldimand Deanery (7 parishes) will begin the Diocesan Parish Discernment Process April 1, 2018. An assessment of needs and future direction of our parish will be done, moving the parish from maintenance to mission. A team of at least eight/ten peoples are required for this process. Saturdays mornings at the Catholic Centre from 9:00am to 12:00 noon, beginning April First and continue until November 2018. A group meeting about one per month at the Catholic Centre. The rest of the meetings and the real work takes place in the parish.

Representatives from CWL, Knights, PEG, Lay Ministries will be helpful at this time. More detailed information coming. We need to begin the dialogue early and get organized. Thank you.

### SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

The January 2018 topics are:

***Welcoming the New Year - on January 8th***

***Who Am I Now - on January 22nd***

Kathryn McMorrow is the presenter for both sessions. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls.

Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 of 905-684-0154, or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)

### ZUMBA FITNESS

Are you ready to make:

A New Year's resolution?

New friends?

Get into shape/lose weight?

Well, the Knights of Columbus Council #16421 has a remedy for you!

Starting January 9, 2018, Zumba will be held in St. Martin's parish hall where you can fulfill those resolutions. The cost will be \$5.00. Bring you water bottle and 2 pound weight (optional) and some will power.

### PARISH PASTA DINNER

St. Martin's Parish Events Group (PEG) will be hosting their Annual Parish Pasta Dinner with light entertainment Saturday February 3rd. Tickets will go on sale starting January 7, after all masses until January 28th. There will be no tickets sold at the door the night of the event.

### WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD DINNER

Our parish is now hosting the weekly Thursday dinner in the parish hall for the month of January. 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Dinner served at 5:30pm. Please pass this invitation on to anyone you feel would enjoy the program. Free-will offerings will be accepted.

### BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

#### **Birthdays:**

Stephanie Gumieniak – Jan 7

Greg Noseworthy/Heather Varlow – Jan 8

Jacob Malevich – Jan 9

Ryan LeBlanc/Jacob Malaryk - Jan 11

Carlo Volpatti/Isabella Evans – Jan 11

Carol McNulty/Josephine Telford – Jan 12

Joseph Severino/Leone Saunders – Jan 13

Clair Perry/Mitchell Pogoda – Jan 14

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

**Sunday Offering (69 Envelopes): \$2,070.01**  
Loose: \$201.02

**New Years Offering (40 Envelopes): \$970.00**  
Loose: \$17.95

**Initial Offering (26 Envelopes): \$331.00**

**Facility Maintenance Offering (1 Envelope): \$1,500.00**

**Late Christmas Offering (6 Envelopes): \$670.00**

**Late Loaf of Bread (1 Envelope): \$100.00**

*Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.  
God Bless.*