

### **REFLECTION for Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**Fr. Don**

*"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?*

*For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."*

Only St. Matthew's Gospel tell us about the Magi coming from the East in search of a King. St. Luke tells us about shepherds coming to see the promised Messiah. The other two Gospels have no account of Jesus' birth or as they are popularly called 'the infancy narratives. These tell the story of Christmas.

It is important for us to share all the stories of Christmas- the shepherds, the star, the magi (wise men), Simeon and Anna, Herod, and the baby Jesus. In a world, which is no longer motivated by Christian revelation and where doubters and cynics abound, we need these stories in our proclamation of Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We are called to share: Jesus always was and always will be the Source of Life and the Light to the Nations. He loved us so much that He became like us to save us.

The Feast of the Epiphany is a celebration/ a manifestation/ a making-known of the universality of the People of God renewed in Jesus Christ; covering all of creation *without limit or exception*. It is our Lord and Saviour Jesus saying to all of humanity: *'Come one, come all, your salvation awaits.'*

If we are not among the People of God yet, then there is an open invitation to say YES. All humanity can claim God- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- as their own. Some say that this is why St Luke pays attention to the poor and powerless (represented by the shepherds) while St Matthew was drawn to how the educated and significant (represented by the Magi) might be led to Christ. Rich or poor, there are no barriers, no exclusions, no favorites; Jesus came to proclaim a world of peace, justice, and love, and ultimately to save all of humanity. Pray that today, our world accepts Jesus as the Light of All Nations.

Traditionally, we believe that there were three kings from far-off lands who followed the long-promised Star leading to a great Savior and King. They were Melchior, Balthazar and Caspar. Imagine the faith of these men who believed in the ancient prophesy of a King and who were wise enough to recognize that the STAR was the sign leading to the Truth. They found the Truth and brought gifts for: Christ the King who is represented by the gold, Christ the Priest who is represented by the incense, and Christ the Sacrificial Victim who is represented by the myrrh. This myrrh that would be used by the women at his burial. They truly believed in the magnificence and divine nature of this new-born child.

What can we learn from this journey of the Magi that might aid us in encouraging others to make their way to Jesus and find in Him their salvation? First, we are called to encourage everyone to enquire/ search for purpose and meaning in dealing with life's ups and downs. Point to Jesus. Secondly, we are called to present the truth of the Gospel faithfully in its entirety for the Good News we have received is not in our possession. We are its stewards and, like John the Baptist, should point others to the fulfilment of God's promises. Point to Jesus. And thirdly, we are called to be ready for those who come to Christ and to use our gifts to lead them to want the Gifts and fruits flowing from belief and faithfulness to Jesus. Point to Jesus.

At the heart of all this celebration is the One who needs no gifts from us but is Pure Gift.

Jesus' very being is given to Him by the Father from all eternity, and He comes to give Himself to us and for us. To receive this gift, requires an openness. We are called to recognise that God's fullness of life is what we yearn for and what we should accept, then we should create a space within to receive it.

# Sacred Heart Parish

## **A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ**



### **Parish Information**

**Parish Administrator:** Fr. Don Leonard

**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

465 Curling Street  
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8  
Tel: (709) 785-5025

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[www.sacredheartcparish.ca](http://www.sacredheartcparish.ca)  
Fax: (709) 785-5025

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 4:30 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m.

**Reconciliation:** Wednesday after Mass, or by request

**Mass During the Week:** Wednesday, Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Friday 10 am

**Holy Hour of Adoration:** Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

**Marriages:** Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

**Baptisms:** Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

**January 8, 2017**

**The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**

<b><u>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</u></b> (Dec 31, Jan 1)	
Collection	\$1,763.25
Advent Folders	60.00
Bldg. Fund	135.00
Votive Candles	40.75
Dues	515.00
Mass Stipends	40.00
Cost of Envelopes	151.00
Word Among Us	5.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Jan 9	No Mass
Jan 10	No Mass
Jan 11	Dr. Dennis O'Connor
Jan 12	John & Veronica Pike
Jan 13	Brendan Pike
Jan 14	Bernadette & Anthony George
Jan 15	Parish Community

**MINISTERS** (Jan 14,15)

**READERS**                      **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Joan Penney	Art Hall, Joe Byrne
John Carroll	Marie Byrne
John Carroll- Communion to the Sick	

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Hedy Kenny	Wayne Dicks, Amelia Dicks
Gen Quigley	Calvin Gillis

**BIBLE STUDY**

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Sunday evening Jan. 8 at 7 pm**. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels. We also break open a fine lunch afterwards.

**PARISH COUNCIL**

All members are reminded of our meeting on **Monday, Jan 9, at 7 pm** in the parish house.

**PARISH SECRETARY.**

We are advertising for this position. There is a job description available on our website for anyone interested. It includes working 16 hours a week, data-entry skills, website management, familiarity with various office computer programs, and personal relationship skills. If interested, please contact the Parish Office.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

We wish to thank Gerard Deveaux for his many years of service in this position. He has now retired and Ken Hynes has agreed to assume the position as of Jan 1. We thank Ken for having volunteered for this vital position in our Parish.

**ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT**

Due to bad weather and personal commitments, these sessions have now been postponed until mid-January. Please watch for further details and come enrich your Catholic faith.

**CALLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

We are planning to offer a Youth Mass on the last weekend of February. To do this, we require our young people to participate. At this Mass, they will take the lead in the many ministry roles. *We have some more good news.* In March, NET Ministries will spend some time working with youth in our parish.

**WINDOWS PROJECT IS COMPLETE**

The name plates are now in place. Hopefully you agree with us and they look good. Again, we want to thank all of you for participating in this project. Our windows should be tight and sound for 35 more years.

**APPRECIATION SOCIALS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS**

We want to show our appreciation to our Parish Council and Finance Committee members, our

many Liturgical Ministers, our Choirs, and members of other Parish groups. One way to do this is to offer them an evening with a meal and a social gathering. It is planned to do this early in January. Next week we will announce the dates for these socials.

**CHURCH RENOVATIONS**

For the next few weeks you will be observing changes take place. For insurance reasons surrounding the requirement of *clear exits*, the choirs will now both be situated at the left of the sanctuary area. And, as we prepare for the tabernacle to be installed behind the main altar, you will notice the sanctuary lamp is in place. Soon, after a few parishioners help us with the design of this sacred space, the tabernacle will be in place and that work will be finished. Additionally, we are beginning work to change the former Chapel into a Parish Room- with some archival material on display.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

To assist those in need - 638-9010

**ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS**

Thursday **Jan 12** is her feast day. She ministered tirelessly and faithfully in the settling of New France (Quebec) in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. She founded the Congregation of Notre Dame Sisters. We are very familiar with their ministry as Sisters Donna and Mildred spent many years ministering in Benoit's Cove. We join in celebrating the life and work of their patroness.

**ORDINARY TIME BEGINS FOR THIS YEAR**

**Ordinary Time** refers to two periods of time in the Christian Liturgical Year that are found in the calendar of the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. It comprises two

periods: the first period begins on the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord- Jan 10- and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday- Feb 28. The second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost- June 5, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent-Dec 2.

**The BAPTISM of the LORD**

On Monday, January 9, the Church marks the end of the Christmas season with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During the season of Christmas, the Church celebrates three feasts which mark the revelation of God to humanity: **Christmas** as the Incarnation of God, **Epiphany** as the revelation of God to the Gentiles through the visitation of the Magi and the **Baptism of Jesus** as the revelation of the Trinity (Jesus Son of God present at the baptism, the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and the voice of God the Father announcing that this was His Son in whom He was well pleased).

**A THOUGHT for OUR 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 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!

**JESUS PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*