

January 6, 2019 – The Feast of the Epiphany

“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

“Pray for me — and tell God this . . .”

In her book *Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul*, Rabbi Naomi Levy shares this encounter with a congregant:

“‘Pray for me, Rabbi,’ is probably the most common request people have made of me over my years in the rabbinate. I am always honored to pray for people. But of course, I worry when people ask me to pray for them. Are they asking because they don’t think God will listen to them? Do they think prayer requires a correct formula and if they don’t know the magical incantation that their cries won’t be heard?

“Once, about twenty years ago, I went to visit a man in the hospital. He said, ‘Pray for me, Rabbi. I don’t know how to pray.’ I said, ‘Of course I will pray for you. But first, tell me, what is it you want me to say to God?’ He thought for a moment and then began trembling as he spoke: ‘God, I am Yours, I know that. But I belong here with my family. My heart is aching. I’ve never let myself love like this before. Give me time. I pray to You, God, give me time.’

“These words flowed from the soul of a man who felt he didn’t know how to pray. When he was done, he sighed deeply, and I could see the worry and tension depart from his face. A calm overtook him, a light, a grace. I witnessed with my own eyes how prayer heals.

“From that moment on, any time someone asks me to pray for them I always ask the same question, what do you want me to say to God? And it never fails. People astound themselves with words they didn’t know existed inside of them. The soul speaks of its own accord.”

Rabbi Levy’s question and the thoughtful answer it elicits is an experience of “epiphany”: the manifestation of God’s light and presence in our midst. As the magi undertake a long and arduous journey searching for the newborn king by the light of the mysterious star (encountering, among other things, a murderous tyrant along the way), a congregant in pain and despair finds the peace of God within himself, thanks to the sensitivity and wisdom of a wise rabbi. We all experience such “epiphanies” in our lives: moments of revelation and understanding, discoveries of possibility and potential, new appreciations of the love of God in our homes and hearts. In times of great joy and accomplishment and in times of turmoil and disappointment, the love of God is manifested to us in the most hidden kindnesses, in the barely visible light of everyday compassion. May we follow the star of God’s reconciliation and justice, enabling us to behold Emmanuel — “God in our midst” — in every experience of charity, consolation and forgiveness, whether given or received.

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Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ

Parish Information

Pastor: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Administrator: Robyn C. Gallant

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 pm-5:00 pm

Friday: 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

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

curlingparish@hotmail.com
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: By request

Mass During the Week: Tues & Thurs at 7:00 pm
Wed & Fri at 10:00 am
First Fridays - 2:00 pm 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 is 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

(Dec 29-30, 2018)

Regular Collection	1,348.45
Building Fund	45.00
Christmas	212.00
Advent Folders	25.00
Votive Candles	111.00
Sunday Missals	15.00
Shepherds Fund	20.00
St. Vincent de Paul	75.00

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

(Dec 31, 2018 - Jan 1, 2019)

New Years Day	773.50
Parish Dues	355.00
Building Fund	100.00
Envelope Cost Contribution	98.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, Jan 7	No Mass
Tues, Jan 8	Special Intention
Wed, Jan 9	Late Fr. Don Leonard
Thurs, Jan 10	Late Susan Canning
Fri, Jan 11	The Quigley Family
Sat, Jan 12	Late Theresa Hunt
Sun, Jan 13	Parish Community

FLOWER DONATIONS: Flower donations will be listed in next weeks Bulletin.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a parish council meeting on Monday, January 7 at 6:30 pm in the Church meeting room.

PARISH BINGO: Bingo will be held on **January 6th at 2:00 pm.** The list of donors is posted on the bulletin boards in the back of the church. It includes last names beginning with A-E. Please support this important fundraiser.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

January 12	
Joan Penney Janet Jackson	John Carroll Joe Byrne Art Hall
January 13	
Calvin Gillis Patsy Payne	Doreen Jones Margaret Dalley Elizabeth Carew
Communion to the Sick	
Joan Penney	

BIBLE STUDY: Our weekly Bible Study begins again this Sunday, January 6.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Evan Neilson and Jennifer White on their marriage celebrated on December 29th, 2018. May their lives be blessed with many years of love and happiness.

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: The regular meeting takes place **Tuesday, January 8th at 7:45 pm** at All Hallows. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 pm

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all parishioners for their support in 2018. Mary's Kitchen for January will be sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The next meeting will be held in the lower level of the Cathedral Residence on Wednesday, January 16th at 7:00 pm. New members welcomed. We are getting frequent requests for beds! The appeal is out - if you have one you might like to donate to a needy family, kindly call us at 638-9010.

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!

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 the winter and 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 has 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.

MYRRH AND FRANKINCENSE: The gifts brought by the Magi were both appropriate and expensive. The value of gold is obvious but what of the other presents? Myrrh is an aromatic substance made from the sap of Myrtle balsam trees found in India, Africa and Saudi Arabia. It is a natural antiseptic and useful as a medicine. Egyptians used myrrh for embalming mummies. It is now used for toothpaste and mouthwash. Incense is a hardened gum that also comes from trees found in the same area. The word "Frank" comes from an old French word that means "marked". It is a stamp that the incense is "free" from contaminants or "pure". Incense was used primarily to cover up the smells caused by animal sacrifices. Hence it was connected with worship.

INSTALLATION OF ARCHBISHOP

PETER HUNDT: The date for the installation of Archbishop Hundt has been set for **7:00pm Tuesday, January 29th** at the **Basilica of St. John the Baptist**, 200 Military Road, St. John's, NL. The people of the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador join in expressing their gratitude to Bishop Hundt for his ministry and offering prayers for God's continued blessings upon him as he assumes the responsibility of this new phase of his priesthood.

HUMOUR: If the Magi Were Women - You know what would have happened if there had been three wise WOMEN instead of three wise MEN, don't you? The three wise WOMEN would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the Baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given practical gifts.