

JANUARY 5, 2020

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

As our celebration of Christmas continues, today we observe the great feast of The Epiphany of the Lord. The word “epiphany” comes from Greek and means manifestation or appearance. The stewardship way of life is one in which we live in grateful response to God’s countless manifestations in our lives.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, has much to teach us about stewardship, through the actions of the magi.



As good stewards, the magi were watching for manifestations of God’s presence in their lives. “We have seen the star at its rising,” they say. Good stewards are keenly aware of the “star” of God’s presence and His gifts in their lives. It is this awareness that fills them with gratitude and the desire to both worship God and share His gifts with others.

The magi, upon seeing the manifestation of God’s presence in their lives, “were overjoyed.” Good stewards, who live with the awareness of God’s presence and gifts to them, simply can’t help but be filled with joy. Not necessarily the fleeting and superficial kind of joy the world promises through wealth or power, but rather the deep, unalterable joy only God can give.

Finally, the magi were so filled with awe upon encountering the newborn Jesus, they prostrated themselves before him and “opened their treasures and offered him gifts.” This is precisely why good stewards generously share their material gifts — as a loving act of worship to an extravagantly loving God.

Let us rejoice in God’s manifestations in our lives and be watchful for the new ways He is calling us to share ourselves and our gifts in gratitude to our King in the year ahead.

CATHEDRAL APPEAL UPDATE

It’s a new year and the exciting restoration of the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria continues in preparation for its 175th Anniversary this November! As the first Catholic Church in St. Catharines, it was built to meet the spiritual needs of the Irish labourers who built the first Welland Canal which was opened in 1829. Well, it is now 2020, and this place of worship continues to meet the spiritual needs of many as the mother church of our great diocese. Play your part in this historic event — as we restore, revitalize, renew, and rejuvenate our Cathedral! Visit us on the web at www.saintcd.com/appeal or pick up a brochure and pledge form in your church today to make your donation. **Thank you and may God bless you!**

PARISH CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

MON, JAN 6	8:30 am	Kevin Canough † Thomas Longo †
TUES, JAN 7	8:30 am	Eugene Rudachuk † Nancy Barber †
WED, JAN 8	8:30 am	Ann Bialik †
THURS, JAN 9	8:30 am	No Mass
FRI, JAN 10	8:30 am	Patrick Warren †
SAT, JAN 11	5:00 pm	Giovanni & Irene D’Amore†
SUN, JAN 12	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	
	9:00 am	George Yoviene † Giovanni Passero † Vito Passero †
	11:00 am	Mass for the People

ONGOING FAITH FORMATION & CATECHESIS

We welcome you to join our RCIA session this week for
“The Sacrament of Baptism”
 at 7:00 pm, Monday, January 6th in our parish hall.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

St. Peter School, once again, contributed several car loads of food to the St. Mary food bank for Christmas baskets to boost our food drive for our neighbours in need. We were able to purchase one hundred \$25.00 gift cards to add a small gift. Twenty Christmas gift bags were distributed to clients in our own St. Julia area. Each year the need for help grows substantially. Each time we call to your attention the growing need, you offer with open hearts. For this we are truly grateful.

Liturgical Ministries

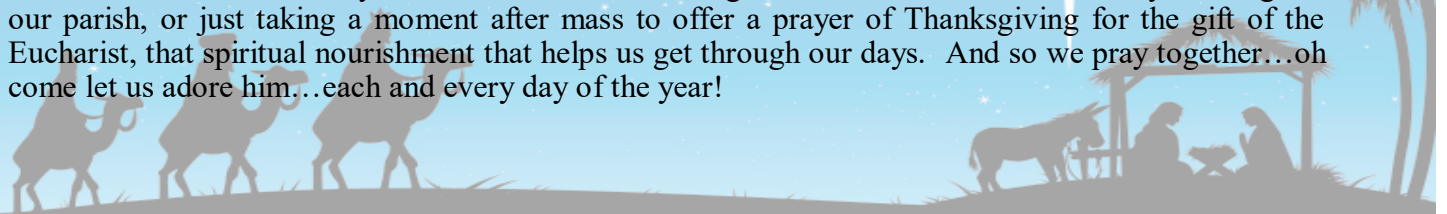
January 11—13, 2020

	5:00 pm	9:00 am	11:00 am
Eucharistic Ministers	L. Docherty P. Docherty R. McLean	J. Bonasheski D. White K. Wright	S. Pyper M. Dugo F. Mascia
Readers	N. Johnson K. Timmins	B. O'Reilly V. Giacomino	R. Piech D. MacLean

Counters: B. Abramek, W. Szymiski

DID YOU KNOW.....

...that the Epiphany is the feast which celebrates the manifestation to the world of the newborn Christ as Messiah, Son of God, and Saviour of the world? We read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* that the feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast of Cana in Galilee. As we begin this new year, we (including me) must remind ourselves to slow down, and take the time to adore our Lord and savior Jesus. This may be in the form of attending our Benediction on Wednesday evenings in our parish, or just taking a moment after mass to offer a prayer of Thanksgiving for the gift of the Eucharist, that spiritual nourishment that helps us get through our days. And so we pray together...oh come let us adore him...each and every day of the year!



OFFERINGS FOR :

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Offertory:

205 Envelopes.....	\$5,245.10
Christmas	\$4,090.00
Loose	\$ 105.00
Total Offertory.....	\$9,440.10

Special Collections:

Development & Peace.....	\$ 100.00
Total to Date.....	\$ 480.00

Cathedral Restoration.....	\$2,050.00
Total to Date.....	\$33,881.50

CHRISTMAS—DECEMBER 25

Offertory:

267 Envelopes.....	\$12,714.00
Loose	\$2,815.78
Total Offertory.....	\$15,529.78

Cathedral Restoration.....	\$ 100.00
Total to Date.....	\$33,981.50

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Offertory:

190 Envelopes.....	\$4,510.80
Christmas.....	\$ 920.00
Loose	\$ 308.30
Total Offertory.....	\$5,739.10

Special Collections:

World Missions.....	\$ 25.00
---------------------	----------

Cathedral Restoration.....	\$ 500.00
Total to Date.....	\$34,481.50

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish

ST. JULIA CWL 2020 UPDATE

There will be a CWL Gathering Mass on January 12, 2020 at 11 am at which time the installation of the new executives for 2020-2021 will take place. There will also be a CWL Membership Drive after all the masses on Saturday and Sunday, January 11th and 12th.



WITH SINCERE THANKS FOR A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS

*As I pause to reflect on the beauty of our Christmas celebrations here at St. Julia there are so many people that I wish to thank: our director of music Dr. David Holler and our wonderful choir for drawing us into the mystery of Christ's birth through song; to Sophie Timmins, Bolu Fowler, Jennifer Enns Modolo, Brielle Kaminsky who shared with us their vocal gifts; Isabella Goveia on violin and Oreoluwa Fowler on piano; our decorating team, with special thanks to Rebecca Alfieri and Annette Mastracci for the sharing of their time and talents; Peter and Marianne Van Beurden of Westland Greenhouse for the donation of the gorgeous poinsettias; the Liturgy of the Word with Children team, with special thanks to Liz Wood and Margaret Ricciuto, and to our children who acted out the Christmas story of Jesus's birth; our ministers of the Word, ministers of the Eucharist, and ushers; our altar servers and in a special way the new servers who accepted the invitation to serve at the altar; our caretakers Mary McNamee and Jim Salmon for the preparing of our Church for our liturgies; to our office team, Chris Buckley and Cheryl Wood, for their dedication to our parish and for always going above and beyond; the collection counting team, for their time and accuracy; to Deacon George and Deacon Brian, for their commitment to our community and for assisting me. And most importantly, to each of you, the faithful family of St. Julia, for your presence, with your families and friends at our Christmas celebrations, and for the generosity extended to me, a big thank you for the many cards, gifts and goodies, I thank you for your kindness, love, and most importantly prayers. Thank you to all for making my first Christmas here at St. Julia a most memorable, joyous, and special occasion. It is my honour to serve here as your pastor. May God bless each of you and those that you love, today and always! **Fr. Greg***