

Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

January 07, 2024

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6.* The prophet is trying to cheer the exiles by foretelling the glorious future of the new Jerusalem which is not yet rebuilt. The special radiance of God will illuminate it. Gentiles will bring their riches to it. From East and West peoples will flock to it. The Feast of the Epiphany is the feast which commemorates the manifestation of God to the Gentiles. This manifestation began when the Wise Men from the East came to Bethlehem to pay their respects and offer their gifts to the newly-born king of the Jews. Though the words of Isaiah were not understood by his hearers as referring to this event, it was only in the coming of the Magi, to welcome Christ, that they were really fulfilled.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3; 5-6. St. Paul's thoughts in his prison in Rome are not for himself nor for the fate that awaits him. He is thinking instead of the mission Christ gave him, to evangelize the Gentile nations. He has done much already, and even in prison he does all he can to continue the good work. He writes to his Gentile converts from Rome, to remind them of their great privilege in being called to the Christian faith. They are now God's new Chosen People, they are now members of Christ's mystical body.

The **Gospel of today's feast,** is from the *Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12*. The Magi are the central personages in today's feast of Epiphany. They were pagans who did not know the true God of the Jews. Yet that true God revealed to them that the King he had promised to the Jews had come. The expected Prince was born. They came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king—a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their past history, but utter indifference as regards the present and the future. These leaders knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; they must have realized that the Magi were very sure of the truth revealed to them—they would not have come such a long journey on a "fool's errand." In spite of that, the thought of going to Bethlehem with the Magi never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to Christ and in spite of his miracles refused to admit his claim that he was not only the promised Messiah, but the true Son of God. These were men who rejected him because he had mercy on sinners, and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their Messiah was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like Herod they ended with murder—the crucifixion of the "King of the Jews." The pagan king was not much worse than the indifferent leaders of God's Chosen People. Let us resolve to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer Christ all that we have and are.

—Adapted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Today the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. —Pius Parsch

Support: If you want to support Sacred Heart Parish, through your envelopes or just a donation, we are now set up for e-transfer: Please e-transfer to sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. Please include your envelope number. If you do not currently have a church envelope, please include your civic address. Receipts will be issued.

Bulletin: If you want to add a notice to the bulletin, please send an email to louisecampbel@gmail.com

Collection
December 31, 2023

Envelopes	**$935.00**
Christmas	**$70.00**
	$1,005.00

January 01, 2024

Envelopes	**$115.00**
Loose	**$20.00**
Initial Offering	**$40.00**
	$175.00

Notices:

1: Moving into the Gudalupe Chapel (Vestry): Today will be the last day in the main church, we will be moving into the Guadalupe Chapel for the winter. People are asked to stay for a few minutes after mass to help with the move.

2: Removing the decorations: People are asked to stay after mass today to help with removing the Christmas decorations from the church.

3: Water in the church: The water has been turned off, in the church, for the winter.

4: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This weekly group will run from January 11 to April 4, 2024. It meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm at the District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands. This is an informal group where everyone brings their projects and creates with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. For further information: Rita Campbell, 902-631-0209.

5: Community Drop-in All are welcome on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am - 11:30 am at the District 10 Volunteer Fire Department for a social gathering. The coffee pots will be hot and the conversation will be flowing. Sponsored by the Bras d'Or Lakers Club. The Drop-in's will start again on Wednesday January 10th.

6: Beginner Gaelic Lessons Learn Gaelic in a relaxed environment through story and song-like lessons. These lessons are supported by the Office of Gaelic Affairs. All are welcome! Red Island Fire Hall, Red Islands Tuesdays, for 8 weeks beginning January 16 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Fee: $40 and Big Pond Fire Hall Starting: Thursday, January 11 6:30 - 9pm $40 Contact Cathy for more info at 902-217-2088.

7: Gentle Yoga 55+ For seniors who are looking for a safe, effective way to enhance their physical health and overall wellness, the stretching, breathing, and meditation practices of yoga can be a great solution. In fact, as you will see, doing yoga regularly can result in a host of benefits for older adults, from greater flexibility and improved balance to lower stress and better sleep. * There will be no class February 6 United Church Hall, St. Peter's Mondays for 8 weeks, beginning January 15 10:00 am – 11:15 am, Fee: $30 Instructor: Katie LeBlanc

WINTER ONLINE REGISTRATION for the Gaelic or Yoga classes. Registering & Payment Options Equipment Rentals → Register online by visiting www.richmondcounty.ca → Register by phoning 902-226-0663 → Pay online via credit card or hybrid card → Pay by cash/cheque/debit at the municipal administration office → Pay via credit card over the phone QUICK AND EASY ACCESS TO ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT! 902-226-0663