



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

January 05, 2025

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

The **First Reading** is from *Isaiah 60:1-6*. 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. Jerusalem was in no sense an attraction for the nations in the intervening centuries. But the Magi at Bethlehem were the first-fruits of the thousands and millions of Gentiles who have since then seen the glory of God in the Babe in Bethlehem and who had figuratively come to Jerusalem from the West and from the East to form the new Chosen People, the new kingdom of God.

The **Second Reading** from *Ephesians 3:2-3; 5-6* has St. Paul thinking 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, they are now guaranteed heaven if they appreciate and live up to their vocation. Today, on the feast of the Epiphany, we are celebrating the coming of the first Gentiles to the feet of Christ. They were the first of the long stream of Gentile peoples and nations that flowed steadily toward Christ's mystical body, the Church, down through the years.

The **Gospel** is *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 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 the 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.

We too know the true facts concerning Christ, his mission, and his present and future kingdom. Like the leaders of the Jews of his day, we also could become absorbed in the affairs of this life and the quest for wealth, pleasure and power. We could become so totally absorbed in such things as to have neither the interest nor the time to pay our respects to Christ or to welcome him into our homes and our hearts, as our true Lord. God forbid it should ever be thus with us. Rather let us resolve this morning to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer him all that we have and are. He will accept our offering and we will return by another way, wiser and better men.

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

Collection:
December 29, 2024

Envelopes	\$810.00
Loose	\$25.00
Christmas	\$30.00
	\$865.00

News Year Day
January 01, 2025

Envelopes	\$155.00
Loose	\$20.00
	\$175.00

Notices:

1: Envelopes for 2025: Due to a computer email glitch our order for the 2025 envelopes was not received in time for the envelopes to be delivered in 2024. We will receive them early in January. You can just use a regular envelope with your number on until we receive the new ones or use an unused one from 2024.

2: Church DeDecorating: Following Mass we will be taking down the Christmas decorations and moving into the Guadalupe Chapel (Vestry) for the winter. All who can help are asked to stay after mass.

3: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet again starting on Thursday January 9th, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

4: Richmond County Programs: Registering & Payment Options Class sizes vary resulting in classes filling up prior to start date. Pre-registration is recommended Register online by visiting <http://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

- Chair Yoga 55+
United Church Hall, St. Peter's Wednesdays, for 6 weeks, beginning January 8 10:30 am - 11:45 am,
Fee: \$20 Instructor: Lynne Doucette
- Gentle Yoga 55+
Red Islands Fire Hall, Fridays, for 6 weeks, beginning January 10 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Fee: \$25
Instructor: Lynne Doucette

5: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee get togethers will resume on Wednesday January 8th, 9:00 – 11:30 am, at the District 10, Red Islands Fire Hall. Drop in and visit with your friends and neighbours. Cards, games and puzzles are available. Everyone is welcome.