**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?**

 **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, January 6, 5:00 p.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, January 7, 9:30 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**11:00 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Monday, January 8, No Mass - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

**Tuesday, January 9, No Mass – Start of Ordinary Time**

**Wednesday, January 10, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Thursday, January 11, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Friday, January 12, 8:30 a.m. Mass – Memorial of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Virgin**

**Saturday, January 13, 5:00 p.m. Mass**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, January 14, 9:30 a.m. Mass – Second Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**11:00 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD REFLECTION: The story of the magi carries with it an extraordinary richness. In it the evangelist teaches us about the mission of the Son of God. Jesus is 'made manifest' (epiphany = manifestation) as Messiah not only for his own people, but for those who come 'from the east', for all the peoples of the earth. At the same time this is the Messiah heralded by the prophets. The Scriptures are fulfilled. This Messiah is born into danger, as the cruel tyrant, known to history as 'Herod the Great', is the first to threaten his life. The gift of myrrh alludes to the death he is to suffer. The presentation of gifts from the peoples of the world completes the Christmas scene . The magi represent the nations, but also the age-old quest among the peoples of the earth for true wisdom. This wisdom is found in Christ. What lies at the heart of the epiphany story? How is Matthew preparing us for later events in the gospel story? Let us rejoice with the peoples of the whole world that God's love has been revealed in the birth of Jesus. We pray for a growing solidarity with those all over the world who suffer.**

**St Peter's clothing drive: Our Parish will be holding a winter clothing drive for those in need at all masses Dec 30/31, Jan 6/7 and 13/14. We are asking for gently used adult winter coats and scarves, children and adult hats and mitts.  Children's snowsuits are provided by the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund. Please drop off items in the gym.  Donations go to Society of St Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your ongoing support. Serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.**

**QUO VADIS?** **Where are you going? Is the Lord calling you to serve him as a priest? Join other men discerning the priesthood for monthly formation, fellowship, and Eucharistic Adoration. The next session will be held on Jan. 18 at the new Café des Tours, located in the basement of Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa. To join the Quo Vadis email list or for more information, contact Fr. Connor O’Hara, the Vocations Director for the diocese, at vocations@ottawacornwall.ca**

**Collection - December 23-24, 2023: Envelopes: $265.00; Loose: $356.80; Clergy Support: $80.00; St. Vincent de Paul: $128.00; Vigil Lights: $79.25**

**Collection - December 31 - January 1, 2024: Initial Offering: $20.00; Envelopes: $440.00; St. Vincent de Paul: $5.00; Loose Collection: $547.20**

**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD REFLECTION: Monday, January 8, 2024, The Christmas season concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is appropriate that this is so, for Jesus comes into the world not to live in obscurity but to perform the mission given him by the Father with the power of the Holy Spirit. His baptism comes at the start of his public life and heralds his ministry. The account of the work of John the Baptist in the Gospel of Mark is quite brief. He preaches 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. John urges people to change their hearts and lives in preparation for the Messiah. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke give far fuller accounts of the preaching of the Baptist, and add significantly to the brief account in the Gospel of Mark. In the passage for this feast John proclaims that the one who is to come will be 'more powerful than I am'. John's preaching attracted crowds of people and had a strong effect on them. When Jesus comes, John implies, he will confront evil in all its forms with the power of the Spirit. This 'more powerful' one will bring a baptism which will have a deeper and more lasting effect, for it will be baptism in the Holy Spirit. The evangelist does not dwell long on the actual baptism of Jesus, this clear demonstration of his solidarity with all those who need healing and forgiveness. Mark puts the emphasis on the vision Jesus sees and the voice he hears. The baptism story shows Jesus to be the Spirit-filled Servant of God. His mission reflects that of the servant described in those passages in the second part of the Book of Isaiah known as the 'servant songs', one of which is our first reading. Jesus is the beloved Son of God, who will always do what pleases the Father. How appropriate is it to conclude the Christmas celebration with the feast of the Baptism of Jesus? What was the purpose of Jesus' baptism by John? We pray for a deeper sense of awe at God's love for all creation, which is displayed at Christmas. We pray that in the coming year, we may grow in strength as servants of the Lord.**

**Thank you from Fr. Allan: Thank you to everyone for your faithful participation in our Advent and Christmas season liturgies and for all who help make them so inspiring.  Also, a special thanks for the many prayers, cards and gifts given to me at Christmas.  God bless you all! Fr. Allan MacDonald, CC**

**2024 Sunday Collection Envelopes: Sunday Collection Envelopes for 2024 are available at the back of the church.  To streamline our database EVERYONE has been given a new number for 2024, based on alphabetical order. Please put your full name and address on the first 3 envelopes you use.**

**DO NOT USE envelopes from previous years or even other parishes. If you would like to obtain a box of Sunday Collection Envelopes, please speak to Richard or Fr. Allan.**

**SACRAMENTS: REGISTRATION PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IS NOW OPEN. Parents who wish to have their child(ren) prepare for any of these Sacraments are asked to visit the parish office to pick up a registration form after Mass or call the parish. Please note that your child must be a Baptised Catholic in order to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It is important that you bring a copy (not original) of your child’s Catholic Baptismal certificate with you.**

**SUNDAY MORNING SMILE**: **One Sunday a pastor told his congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a $1,000 bill in offering. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate. And all the way in the back of the church a little lady shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns. Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the building and said… "I’ll take him and him and him and him!” …………………. *HAPPY NEW YEAR!***