

St. John Vianney Church

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Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, C.M.I., Pastor - 102

Fr. Joshy George, C.M.I., Associate Pastor - 106

Karen Price, Parish Secretary - 101

Bernadette Brock, Youth Minister - 103

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121



*We saw his star in the East
and have come to worship Him*



Epiphany of our Lord

The word 'Epiphany' means 'showing forth' or 'revelation'. On today's feast we celebrate God revealing himself, in the person of the baby Jesus, to the pagan wise men from the East. So, at the beginning of Christ's life God reached out to the pagan world and offered it his salvation.

Since those wise men from the East were astrologers, it's not surprising that God should have led them by a star to discover where the promised king of the Jews was to be born. God built on their natural curiosity about the heavens and their skill in interpreting them.

This was the starting-point for a journey, which led to faith in Jesus. Each of us will have our own starting-point, and a special kind of star to guide us in our search for the truth.

But the star did not guide the magi all the way to Christ. For the final stage of their journey they needed to consult the Jewish religious leaders, who said that the Scriptures foretold that the promised king would be born in Bethlehem. We, too, need God's revelation in the Scriptures to discover Christ.

When the wise men found Jesus they saw a normal looking baby. They had to make the leap of faith to recognize that he was not only the promised king of the Jews, but God himself. In Jesus, God revealed himself in human form, as a baby, and later as a child and grown man.

That revelation is what we mean by 'Epiphany'. In the person of Jesus, the almighty God expressed divine love in a human way, a way familiar to us all. He could be seen and heard, embraced with love, and, later, nailed to a cross.

The wise men brought Jesus the precious gifts of gold, acknowledging him as king, frankincense as God, and myrrh foreshadowing his death. In return for these material gifts, Jesus gave them something much more precious -- faith in him. Instinctively they adored him.

This exchange of gifts is reflected in the Mass. As we offer the work of human hands -- bread and wine -- God welcomes our gifts and transforms them into the very person of our

crucified and risen Lord. He then gives himself to us as nourishment to strengthen us in our life as Christians.

The feast of the Epiphany is all about call, revelation and mission. God called the pagan wise men to welcome his salvation. He revealed himself to them in the person of the baby Jesus. And when they returned home, they would have told others about the wonders they had seen. If so, they would have been the first missionaries to the pagan world. Like the magi, we are called to welcome Jesus with faith, and to be epiphanies, proclaiming the Good News.

Today's feast celebrates God revealing himself in the person of Jesus. This he continues to do in other ways -- in the sacraments, and in the people we meet, especially those in need. We need the God-given sensitivity of the magi to recognize and welcome Jesus in the different ways he manifests himself to us.

Like the pagan wise men we are all called to worship Jesus, as we welcome the salvation he offers to each one of us. Then we must become epiphanies, proclaiming Christ in the way we live and in what we say.



THANK YOU TO THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY

Today, the solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord, marks the end of Christmas season. As we begin another year, I would like to thank you for all you do and the many ways you help to make our parish great.

Many thanks to those who contributed to our wonderful Christmas celebrations: decorators, floral arrangers, altar servers, readers, ushers, Knights of Columbus, Music Ministry, Youth Ministry, and all who helped in any way.

Thank you also for your kind greetings, cards and gifts.

Your continued support both financially and through your active involvement is truly appreciated.

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, Pastor



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday
Jan. 5th

5:00 pm For the special intentions of
Mary Kominek
Requested by: Mary-Jane White

8:00 am † **Joen da Costa**
Requested by: Russell Family

9:30 am † **Leverne Jones**
Requested by: Knights of Columbus 10370

9:30 am † **Tina Rashid**
Requested by: Paul Rashid & Family

9:30 am † **Anna Stumpo, † Ada Guzzo**
† **Pasquale Stumpo, & † Generoso Pizzari**
Requested by: Assunta Stumpo

9:30 am For the special intentions of
Marjorie Oliveira
Requested by: Family

Wednesday
Jan. 9th

7:00 pm For the special intentions of
Dolores Finnigan
Requested by: Larry White Family

Friday
Jan. 11th

8:30 am † **Peter & Dorothy Prior**
Requested by: Suzanne Prior



Rite of Christian Initiation for Children

Baptism is a prerequisite for other Sacraments such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation. If you wish your child in Grade 2 or older to be baptized or to be welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church (when baptized in another Christian church) please call the parish office to make an appointment to meet with Fr. Biju. The program begins on **Sunday, January 13th**.

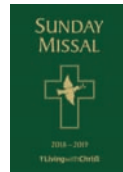


SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

It's not too late to register for First Communion and Confirmation. You can download the registration forms from our parish website or pick them up at the parish office. Please complete the form and bring it to the parish office along with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate and a \$75 registration fee to cover the costs of materials.

Pastoral Letters of Reference

If you foresee that you will require a pastoral letter of reference from the Pastor for the purpose of applying for a position within the Catholic School Board or to become a Confirmation sponsor or Godparent, it is essential that you introduce yourself to the priest well in advance so that he can get to know you. A letter of reference is meant to attest that a person is a "practicing Catholic", one who regularly attends Sunday Mass with the Parish Community and is actively involved in the parish. A priest who does not have some acquaintance with a person cannot satisfy such a request. Another means to attest to your attendance at Mass is by the use of Offertory envelopes and regular contributions to the Sunday collection.



The **2018-2019 SUNDAY MISSALS** are available at the Welcome Committee table in the hall following Mass at a cost of \$5.00.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

St. Mary's Church is offering a Marriage Preparation Course for engaged couples in preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. Beginning Tuesday March 5 to April 23, on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm for 8 weeks. To register or for more information, please call St. Mary's parish office at (705) 728-2985.



Please pray for those who are sick:

Kevin Rector, Len Smyth, Rosa Alfonso, Martin Matchett, William Kerr, Jake Cooper, Monica Freer, Jennifer Durst, Mary Dickson, Shirley Richard, Francois Pelletier, Barbara Nadon, Nadia Allesio, Sherry Wyman, Graeme Sutherland, Ted Huston, Rigo Ongaro, Jean Boileau, ***And for those who have died recently:*** † Jo-Anne Ransome, † John Bradbury, and † Orlando Zullo

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