

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE

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Pastor: Rev. Thomas Riopelle

Deacons: Deacon Greg Vaughn

Deacon Fred ("RICK") Jardine

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*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to  
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

**Epiphany of the Lord  
(Jan. 5)**

**THE LIGHT OF FAITH**

The first reading today is charged with the glory of the Lord. Everyone who can come to the holy city does come—whole caravans of people of all ages on foot and on dromedaries and camels.

This description of an irresistible light-filled city prepares us for the story of the magi. They are guided by their own lights—their study of astronomy and astrology—and by the light of a peculiar star. Their study tells them that an unusual event in the heavens is a sign of an extraordinary birth on earth. They mean to find out about this, and they set out with gifts worthy of a king. They are welcomed into an insignificant house in Bethlehem, offer gifts befitting a king, and receive the gift of faith.

Paul reinforces the great gift of faith available to the Gentiles, whom the magi represent. What they have seen has changed them, just as it changed Paul and all who heeded his proclamation. Like the magi and like Paul, we are invited to receive this life that is filled with the light of faith.



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Isaiah 60:1-6; Ps. 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Tuesdays:** *Legion of Mary - after 9:00 am Mass in the Small Assembly Room*
- Wednesdays:** *Liturgy of the Word or Mass at Redwoods - 2:00 pm*  
*RCIA - 9:15 am in the Pastoral Office*  
*Euchre - 1:00 pm in the Small Assembly Room*
- Fridays:** *Liturgy of the Word or Mass at West End Villa - 2:00 pm*
- Saturdays:** *Communion & Liberation Group - Board Rm 5:00 pm*
- Sundays:** *Children's Liturgy - at 10:30 am Mass*  
*Mass at Valley Stream Manor - 11:00 am*  
*Vespers - 4:30 pm in the Church*

<b>Sat, Jan 4</b>	Cursillo	9:30 am	Small Assembly Rm
<b>Sun, Jan 5</b>	<b>Building Mortgage Collection</b> all Masses		
<b>Mon, Jan 6</b>	Children's Religion	6:30 pm	Small Assembly Rm
<b>Tues, Jan 7</b>	Epiphany Mass at Our Lady of Victory	10:45 am	At school
	Liturgy Committee	5:00 pm	Board Room
	K of C Executive	6:00 pm	Small Assembly Rm
	K of C General	7:00 pm	Small Assembly Rm
<b>Wed, Jan 8</b>	Private Rental	6:00 pm	Small Assembly Rm
	Choir Practice (Divina's Group)	7:15 pm	Church
<b>Thurs, Jan 9</b>	Private Rental	6:00 pm	Small Assembly Rm
	Social Outreach Meeting	7:00 pm	Board Room
<b>Sat, Jan 11</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Enrolment	<b>All Masses</b>	
<b>Sun, Jan 12</b>			

Attention:  
The Small Assembly Room is in use every Wednesday & Thursday evening from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm during January and February.  
Access is not allowed during these times.

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Life hands us many epiphanies or “wake-up calls.” A few years ago, a young couple adopted a two-year-old child in a morass of red tape, complications, and court hearings. At the baby’s baptism, the priest suggested appending an “adoption blessing,” wherein the new relationship was expressed and affirmed. There is a place in that rite for the child to speak, and instead the priest said, “Can you give Daddy a kiss?” Standing in the midst of his church, the young adoptive father suddenly welled up with tears as he embraced the child. Afterward, he explained that through all the hassles and legal struggles he never until that moment in church understood that he was the parent of this child. The ritual claimed them for each other, gave expression to their relationship that the legal documents never could, and firmly cemented this child into the heart of a community as everyone erupted into heartfelt applause. This assembly witnessed in a powerful way what happens in every baptism: the mystery of adoption, the free flow of grace, the overwhelming sense of God’s presence at the heart of our life’s journey.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Rite of Enrolment

On the weekend of January 11/12, we will celebrate the Rite of Enrolment with the children and their families who are preparing for the sacraments of **Reconciliation and First Communion**.

**All children who are registered to receive First Communion during the Easter season of 2014 are required to attend one of the three Masses this weekend.**

The following weekend, January 18/19, we will celebrate the Rite of Enrolment with the children and their families who are preparing for the sacrament of **Confirmation**.

**All children who are registered to be Confirmed in June 2014 are required to attend one of the three Masses this weekend.**

This is the first formal stage in the preparation of children for the sacraments of initiation. Parents bring their children to the Church and present them to the community. The faith community to which the child belongs has the duty and privilege of witnessing and supporting them in their journey towards full initiation in the Church. The children will express their desire to begin preparations for the sacraments and the parents accept the responsibility of supporting their children during the preparations. As well as accepting these candidates, the parish community promises to offer them support through their prayers and example. The Rite of Enrolment is not something nice we do for the candidates. The parish community is called not to be an observer of the rite but an active participant in it.

When we commit to supporting these candidates through our example, we need to consider how we as a faith community reflect the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Do we demonstrate that we live in a Spirit of unity and hospitality? Is love, encouragement, cooperation and self-giving alive in our community? As we publicly witness the journey of these children, we are reminded that our journey in the Holy Spirit is ongoing not only in our personal lives but in the life of our parish community of St. John the Apostle.

**Envelopes for 2014:** Every year, we have to reallocate numbers to take account of people who have left the parish. These numbers get reassigned to new parishioners. **Please do not assume that last year's number is still assigned to you and do not use envelopes issued to you in previous years. This could mean someone else will be getting credit for your donation.** Please help us by filling in your name and address on your envelopes for the first few weeks of 2014.

## Mass Intentions

- Sat, Jan 4 – 5:00 pm**  
✠ Sr. Nancy Wilson by the Dineen family
- Sun, Jan 5 – 8:00 am**  
The intentions of all our Parishioners
- Sun, Jan 5 – 10:30 am**  
✠ Gordon Henderson by Jackie Henderson  
Doris Whitney by the SJA Bereavement Team  
✠ Christopher Gleeson by Betty Gleeson & family
- Wed, Jan 8 – 9:00 am**  
Intentions of Fr. Geoff Kerslake by Mom and Dad
- Sun, Jan 12 – 10:30 am**  
The intentions of all our Parishioners  
✠ *indicates deceased*

**Please remember the sick and their families who journey with them:** Lloyd Weatherdon, Leslie Roche and all those who are suffering from long-term chronic disease or mental illness. **Prayers and sympathy for those who have died.**

## From the Friday Fax:

**ARCHBISHOP'S RECEPTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:** At the Archbishop's Residence. **Sunday, January 5, 3:00 p.m.** Families of all ages welcome!

**MINISTRY FOR SEPARATED & DIVORCED CATHOLICS:** The Journey of Hope is a 17-week program designed to foster healing and support for anyone experiencing the pain of a marriage breakdown. Course for women begins **Jan. 14.** Participation fee: \$25 (program workbook). Info/registration: Deacon Peter Laflour ([plafleur@archottawa.ca](mailto:plafleur@archottawa.ca)).

**GOODNESS & BEAUTY OF MAN: "Holy Manhood".** Welcome to all men wanting to be renewed in their Catholic faith and have fellowship with other men seeking to grow in their life as men, husbands, and fathers. **Fri., Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m. – Sun., Jan. 26, 2:00 p.m.** Cost: \$200 (retreat, room & meals). Marguerite Center, 700 Mackay St., Pembroke. Contact: Mark Reilander (613-735-3894); ([markreilander@alumni.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:markreilander@alumni.uwaterloo.ca)); ([www.MenoftheEucharist.com](http://www.MenoftheEucharist.com)).

**ANNUAL HOMELANDS MASS:** At Notre Dame Cathedral on **Sun., Jan. 26, 2:30 p.m.** Multicultural communities are invited to bring traditional food to the Cathedral Hall by 2:15 p.m. The flag bearer and those wearing national dress are asked to be in the Hall by 2:00 p.m. (communities RSVP to 613-738-5025 x238 by **Jan. 13**). All are most welcome.

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