

# St. Louis Catholic Church

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Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1890.

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**Custodian:** Doug Lichty

## Epiphany of the Lord



*We have come to Homage Him.*

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS

<b>Monday, January 6 – No Mass</b>		
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
<b>Tuesday, January 7 – St. André Bessette, Religious</b>		
9:00 AM	† Epemaca Luzana Sulay – Sulay Family	
<b>Wednesday, January 8</b>		
9:00 AM	† Norma Topsy Luftus – Larry Ertel	
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
9 AM – 5 PM	Cake Baking for OOTC	Kitchen
7:00 PM	SVDP Exec Meeting	L. Hall
<b>Thursday, January 9</b>		
9:00 AM	† Vi Horton – Cecilia Beechey	
<b>Friday, January 10</b>		
9:00 AM	† Anthony Yolkowski – Krause Family	
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
5:30 – 9 PM	Making decorations for Feb 8 Medieval Ceili	L. Hall
<b>Saturday, January 11</b>		
9 AM – NOON	Sandwich project SVDP	Kitchen
<b>Vigil of Baptism of the Lord</b>		
5:00 PM	† Walter & Kaye Hartman – Children	
	† Victoria Korte – Delattre Family	
	† Catherine Forde – Pat & Joan Forde	
	† Deceased Members of Estrada Family – Estrada Family	
<b>Sunday, January 11 – Baptism of the Lord</b>		
9:30 AM	† Rose Marie Gross – Delattre Family	
	† Tony Yolkowski – Delattre Family	
	† Patrick Blanke– Richard & Claire Armitage	
	† Phyllis Ertel – Larry Ertel	
	10:30 AM Coffee Time	L. Hall
11:30 AM	People of St. Louis Parish	
	4:30 PM OOTC Community Supper	Gym

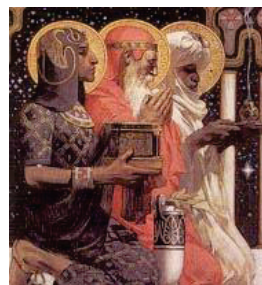
### Reflection on the First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

As part of Christmas Time, the Epiphany of the Lord conjures up images of the Magi visiting Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, but the significance of this solemnity goes far beyond that event. Rather, Epiphany (from the Greek word meaning “manifestation”) celebrates God’s vision of salvation for all of creation that was made manifest in Christ. Today’s readings portray this vision that includes the ingathering of all peoples into God’s embrace, thus eliminating racial, ethnic, religious, social, and national divisions.

Third Isaiah (Isaiah 56-66), produced by the Isaiah school, is written for the humbled exilic community who is now back in the land of Israel (circa 520 BC). Israel’s task is to rebuild its city, its Temple, and its Torah-guided society. Isaiah’s vision guides the community to expand its scope beyond national, religious, and ethnic boundaries.

Speaking through the Prophet’s words, the Lord directs Israel with two messages. First, through commands such as “Arise” and “Lift up your eyes and look around,” the Lord informs Israel that they, a rescued people, are a visible example of God’s work before the nations. Thus, because the Lord is powerful, they are powerful. The second message is that a great reversal has taken place, in that subjugated Jerusalem is now ascendant. All the nations and kings will walk by Israel’s light, and together with all Jews scattered among them, the nations will stream to Jerusalem. Furthermore, as Jerusalem once paid tribute to other nations, the wealth of those nations now pours into Jerusalem. Indeed, God’s restoration of Jerusalem is worthy of the best gifts of gold and frankincense.

This bulletin was sent to the printers on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>.



As the Christmas decorations come down some people write the following on their front doors with a chalk that was blessed for the occasion on the feast of the Epiphany.

**20 \* C † M † B † 25**

A key to the code:

— The ‘\*’ symbolizes the star that led the wise men to Jesus.

— The letters ‘C’, ‘M’, and ‘B’ signify the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first three letters of the Latin phrase ‘CHRISTUS MANSIONEM BENEDICAT’ which means ‘May Christ Bless the house’.

— The three crosses ‘†’ signify the Holy Trinity made known to us through the Incarnation.

— Encompassing them all is the year we have just entered into: ‘2025’. It is a nice devotion for Epiphany – great for families – and is an active reminder for us through the year of the wonder of Christmas.

(Pieces of the blessed chalk will be available at the back of the church.)

### Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar: Who were the three wise kings?

Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar have gone down in history as the Three Kings. They are an essential part of every Nativity set.

The three men came from the so-called East, now from the Middle East. Their costume, described as oriental, indicates that they came from Persia. There, the sages were probably astrologists. In this function they observed the rise of a new celestial star at Christmas.

This star appeared in the sky with a bright tail and, according to modern scientific studies, probably was not a comet, but a close encounter of the two planets Jupiter and Saturn.

Many legends intertwine around the lives of the three men, whose appearance is usually described as quite rich. One of them says that each of them was named bishop from Apostle Thomas. In addition, they are said to have worked as successful missionaries and died one after the other. According to another legend, the Magi were buried in a common tomb, which is said to have been found by St. Helena in 326. In July 1164 the bones arrived in the Cathedral of Cologne, where since then they rest and are venerated as relics in the sanctuary of the Magi.

**The three wise men: the meaning of names** - The name Gaspar comes from Persian and means “treasure keeper” or “treasurer”. Gaspar is often depicted in images as an African with dark skin colour and presents myrrh as a gift. Myrrh is a symbol for humanity and is in some interpretations also associated with the later suffering of Jesus.

Melchiorre is a Jewish name and stands for “King of Light”. He has European characteristics and brings gift of gold. Gold is considered the most precious commodity worthy of a king, the Son of God.

The name Balthasar also comes from Hebrew and means “God save his life” or “God will help”. Translations of the name from Ancient Syrian also read “God save the king”. It is associated with an Asian origin. He carries incense, which is considered a divine symbol.

**Epiphany cake** - The Dreikönigskuchen (Three-Kings-Cake) is a popular sweet cake made for the Epiphany day. It is known in England as “King’s Cake”, in France as “Galette des Rois” and in Spain as “Roscón de Reyes”. Although the recipes are very different, all cakes have one thing in common: a good luck charm in the shape of almond, coin, bean or porcelain figure is baked into the cake, making the person who finds it a family king for a day.

**Three Kings Parade** – In various European and South American cities there are parades on the day of this Feast. Each parade is unique, but all include three kings and a destination of a stable with Mary, Joseph and Jesus. (From lignoma.com)

**Saint André Bessette's Story** (August 9, 1845 – January 6, 1937) Br. André expressed a saint's faith by a lifelong devotion to Saint Joseph. Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War.



At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!"

When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread.

When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Br. André and others climbed the steep hill to plant medals of St. Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying St. Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92.

He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."

**Reflection** - Rubbing ailing limbs with oil or a medal? Planting a medal to buy land? Isn't this superstition? Aren't we long past that superstitious people rely only on the "magic" of a word or action. Brother André's oil and medals were authentic sacramentals of a simple, total faith in the Father who lets His saints help Him bless His children. (From franciscanmedia.org)

*Agnus Day comic appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)*



## Special Event coming up at St. Louis parish

**Saturday, February 8** – Potluck & Ceili Dance with a Medieval Theme – As part of our parish 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we will transform for one night our Gym into 13<sup>th</sup> century Hall (King Louis IX times were 1214 – 1270). Wear a medieval costume, if you wish.

### Come and help to make decorations for this event

– no special skills required! Dates: Fridays, January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup>. Time between 5:30 & 9 PM in the Large Hall (dinner provided).



### Coming up - Bible Study: The Book of Revelation

with Jeff Cavins. 11 part DVD course running concurrently on Sundays at 12:30 PM (lunch included), or on Mondays at 7:30 PM (with refreshments). This study program shows how the kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the Kingdom of Heaven. Jeff Cavins pulls back the veil on the rich symbolism present in Revelation. Discover what the mysterious figures and images of Revelation mean and see how Revelation is more than an apocalyptic vision of the "end times." Course is free. Handouts provided. If you wish to have your own workbook (\$38) please contact the office. **Start: Jan.19/20 in the Large Hall.** Full schedule on [saintlouisparish.ca](http://saintlouisparish.ca)



**Resurrectionist Vocation Minute** - ...and there have been people if we stop and think about it, who in one way or another, knowingly or unknowingly, have been stars which guided us to find the same child who was born for us at Christmas. If God can lead us through others, God can do the same through us, no matter what our vocation in life, and whatever may be happening right now. Fr. Pawel Szymanowski, CR; [resurrectionistvocation@gmail.com](mailto:resurrectionistvocation@gmail.com)

**JUBILEE OF HOPE 2025** - The Diocese of Hamilton joins the celebration of the Global Church in this Ordinary Jubilee Year, 2025, as "Pilgrims of Hope!" We are all invited to journey through this year drawing closer to God through prayer, service and experiences of renewal. Six churches (one in each Deanery) have been designated as pilgrimage sites across the Diocese, welcoming you as a visitor over the course of the Jubilee to come and pray. They are (in order of proximity): St. Mary's in Kitchener, Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, St. Basil's Church in Brantford, Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton, St. Andrew's Church in Oakville, Immaculate Conception Church in Formosa. Resources are all made available on the Diocesan Website: [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com).

### The Jubilee Year Prayer for January for Parish Ministries:

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism, you have given us new life in Christ and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope. We pray in thanksgiving for those who have responded to Your call to be leaders in our parish community and for the volunteers who dedicate their gifts for the building up of Your Church and the service of their sisters and brothers.

Through their varied ministries, may they touch the hearts of all in our community who long for the hope, born of our Christian faith, that never disappoints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas	Sunday	Loose	Initial	PAD
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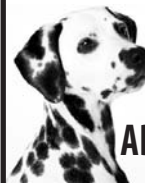
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