



"For we have observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage"

The **Feast of Epiphany** of Our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the oldest Christian feasts, though, throughout the centuries, it has been celebrated in a variety of ways. *Epiphany* comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to all people.

Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East, where it has been held from the beginning, almost universally, on January 6. Today, among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as *Theophany*—the revelation of God to man.

Eventually, the celebration of the Nativity was separated out in the Western countries into Christmas; and shortly thereafter, Western Christians adopted the Eastern feast of the Epiphany, still celebrating the Baptism, the first miracle, and the visit from the Wise Men.

Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmastide - the Twelve Days of Christmas, which began with the revelation of Christ by His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles at Epiphany.

Over the centuries, the various celebrations were further separated in the West, and now the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Sunday *after* January 6, and the wedding at Cana is commemorated on the Sunday *after* the Baptism of the Lord.

In many parts of Europe, the celebration of Epiphany is often as important as the celebration of Christmas. In Italy and other Mediterranean countries, Christians exchange gifts on Epiphany—the day on which the Wise Men brought their gifts to the Christ Child—while in Northern Europe, it's not unusual to give gifts on both Christmas and Epiphany (often with smaller gifts on each of the twelve days of Christmas in between).

Why did they bring gold, frankincense and myrrh?

Many believe these three "gifts" foretold the life of Christ: **Gold** was, and still is, a precious metal. In ancient times it was reserved only for royalty. The gift of gold to the Christ child was symbolic of His divinity and kingship.

Frankincense comes from tree resin. Frankincense was once greatly valued throughout the Middle East. It was very expensive and a gift having a wonderful fragrance. It was used for a variety of purposes such as incense and in religious worship, symbolizing Jesus' priestly ministry.

Myrrh was also an expensive gift, and came from tree resin. It was used for its aroma and medicinal value but as mentioned in John's gospel it was used to prepare Jesus' body for burial.



NO Mass on Mondays

Please consider joining fellow parishioners, and of course myself, for daily Mass as we journey through the year by reflecting on a different saint of the day. ~ Fr. Irek

Tuesday, January 8 - Christmas Weekday

8:00 am + BETTY HORVATH - St. Ambrose Ladies' Group
+ MURIEL HERTNER - Jack and Marilyn Good year

Wednesday, January 9 - Christmas Weekday

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 pm and concludes with Benediction at 7:00 pm
7:15 pm + CARMELO CAMPIONE - his wife and family
+ MANUEL CANTO - Maria Isabel Canto and family
Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 10 - Christmas Weekday

8:00 am + PAT BENHAM - Myra and Paul
+ MARIA AMALIA JOVIANO & FERNANDES, JR & SR. -
From their family

Friday, January 11 - Christmas Weekday

8:00 am + DORVALINA ARAUJO - Myra Klaassen
+ JOSE DeOLIVEIRA - Nick and Teresa Cherri

Saturday, January 12 - Christmas Weekday

8:00 am + DECEASED WALKER FAMILY - Margaret
5:00 pm + BILL WYNEN - Les & Gert Gueth
+ PATRICIA WHALEN - Theresa Clemens
+ CAMILLE CHABOT - Maria

Sunday, January 13 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

9:00 am - for the intentions of all parishioners
11:00 am + JOHN McDONALD - Arthur and Harrington families

The new year, like a new born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God's blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year that passed is that all that was good in it remain with us, and all that was harmful be left behind.



REMINDER - Please pick-up your 2019 box of church envelopes from the back of the Church!

From our Pastor's desk...

As we begin another year, I wish to thank our parish volunteers and parish staff for making the celebration of our Lord's birth so wonderful. I would like to thank our Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers who assist with our Liturgical celebrations.

A special thank you to our choir directors and choir members who spent so much extra time preparing for, and singing, at our Masses. Our parish is truly blessed to have you enhance our liturgical celebrations with beautiful music.

Thank you to our St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers who give so much personal time throughout the year. The generosity of parishioners enables the Society to assist many individuals and families in our community not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

Thank you so much for the gifts, Christmas cards, and food given at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is always much appreciated!

May God bless you and your families with His love and grace during 2019 and always.

Fr. Irek Koziak, SAC



Our monthly **bridge/euchre card party** will be held **Saturday January 12, 2019 at 6:30 pm**. Cost is \$6.00 at the door.

Thank you from Pallottine Fathers of Burkina Faso, Africa



In November, our parish had a collection to provide financial assistance to the parish of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles in Ouagadougou, in the country of Burkina Faso, Africa.

They sent this photo, along with their prayers and heartfelt thanks for your donations!

Myra Klaassen - St. Ambrose Parish Nurse

Myra, our parish nurse, works with Father Irek and the Pastoral Team as they minister to the needs of parishioners. This is a ministry that reaches out to all parishioners to promote the health of body, mind and spirit, which can lead to optimum health, healing and wholeness.

Contact Myra by Email myra@stambrosecambridge.ca
Or phone 519-621-2013

Thank you on behalf of the Society St. Vincent de Paul

The Society St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone who donated gifts, money and food, so that the less fortunate in our community may receive assistance during Christmas and into the new year.

Thank you to the volunteers of our St. Vincent de Paul Society for their continued work serving those within our community who are in need. Society volunteers spend many hours of preparation collecting food, returning phone calls, filling and distributing the Christmas hampers.

The needs of the less fortunate in our community continue throughout the year. Every week the volunteers of our St. Vincent de Paul Society deliver food and store vouchers to those who need emergency assistance.

Jesus said, in the Gospel of Luke,..."Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise".

SPECIAL THANK YOU...to the parishioners who responded to the request for help to deliver the Christmas hampers. **Twenty-one teams/couples assisted to deliver 94 hampers.** It was very generous of you to offer assistance at such a busy time of the year.

Annual Protest Walk

Each year Cambridge Right to Life organizes an Annual Protest Walk and visit with a government representative. This year we will be visiting our new MPP, Belinda Karahalios on Friday, January 25, 2019 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

By our presence in a peaceful picket on that day, we will be commemorating the anniversary of the day the Supreme Court of Canada struck down Canada's abortion law (January 28, 1988). Since that time, almost 5 million pre-born children's lives have been lost to abortion, leaving countless wounded mothers, fathers and family members.

This lack of respect for human life has ushered in the acceptance of doctors killing their patients and the unconstitutional censorship law, Bill 163, which criminalized peaceful pro-life expression – even silent prayer - on public property.

While some of these issues are federally mandated, regulatory measures fall under provincial jurisdiction. We believe there is much the provincial government can do to restore a respect for human life and bring dignity to all.