

January 6, 2019

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Matthew 2: 1-12

A dream, a star, a journey

It may begin with a vision, a question, an unwillingness to accept or be satisfied with, or even an outright refusal. *What would happen if . . . ? How come this is what it is . . . ? Is there a healthier, more constructive, more loving way to deal with . . . ? What would happen if I said no — and what would I do differently?*

And so, a **dream** takes shape.

And that dream compels the dreamer to look for a source of light, of direction, of insight: a **star**, a star that illuminates the dreamer's eyes to see both the possibilities for realizing the dream and the obstacles to its fulfillment. The "star" may be a sage or prophet who can point the way, a pilgrim who has already traveled that road, a saint who dreams the same dream.

And the star sets the dreamer on the **journey**: the road to fulfilling the dream, of making the hope a reality, of creating a new and better place for justice and peace and reconciliation to thrive. There will be discoveries along the way, changes in direction and understanding — even re-imagining the dream itself. Watch for unexpected turns and detours; steel yourself for confrontations with more than a few Herods: those who seek to derail the dreamer and destroy the dream for their own ends.

But, if the dreamer keeps faith with the dream, if the dreamer follows the right star, if the dreamer perseveres on the journey, the dreamer will eventually reach his or her Bethlehem.

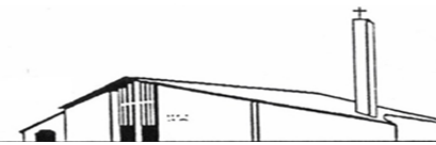
A dream, a star, a journey: the story of the magi's quest for the Christ Child mirrors our own constant search for meaning and purpose in our lives. Every human life is a journey through the time God has given us, a journey marked by signs of God's love in our midst. Mirroring our own journeys, the story of the magi challenges us to consider the "stars" we follow in the course of our lives: Do we navigate by the "stars" that lead us to wealth, to power, to prestige — stars that will eventually flame out of the sky altogether? Or do we fix our lives on the great "star" of God's Christ: peace, compassion, mercy, justice, forgiveness? On our journey through this New Year, may we recommit ourselves to following the "star" that leads us to a sense of meaning and hope as we seek to transform our own Bethlehems and Jerusalems in the dream of the kingdom of God.

January 6, 2019

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

St. Stephen's Parish

78 West Street, Stephenville, NL, A2N 1E4
Tel (709) 643-2523 - Fax (709) 643-9745
Email: st.stephens.parish@nf.sympatico.ca
Web: www.ststephensparish.com



BISHOP OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Peter Hundt

Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris)

Associate: Rev. A.H White

Email: fatherchrisstsp78@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Warren Quinton

Vacant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SECRETARY

Debbie Keough 643-6681

Carolyn O'Quinn

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Theresa Dollimont

LITURGY COORDINATOR: Bernice Maddock

Knights of Columbus - Grand Knight Bob Miller **4th Degree Assembly** - Faithful Navigator Clifford Osmond

St. Anne's Guild - President Millicent Penton

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE

<p align="center">SUNDAY MASSES Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p align="center">ROSARY Saturdays from 1:30 am until 2:30 pm. RECONCILIATION Saturdays at 3:00 P.M.; anytime by request</p>
<p align="center">MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE</p> <p align="center">SUNDAY MASSES Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</p>	<p align="center">REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:30 A.M. Thursday Adoration 10 A.M. - 12 NOON 1st Friday - Acadian Village - 2:00 P.M. 3rd Friday - Silverwood Manor - 2:30 P.M.</p>

MARRIAGES. Six months notice is required; a year's notice is recommended.

BAPTISM PREPARATION. Last Monday of every month from Sept - May *Please call to register*

MASS FOR THE SICK. Every First Friday of the month

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. The 3rd Sunday of the month beginning at 2:00 P.M. and ending with Benediction at 4:00 P.M.

PRAYER MEETINGS:

St. Stephen's Prayer Group — Wednesday at 7:45 P.M. in the Parish Meeting Room.

Word & Spirit Prayer Group — Tuesday at 8:00 P.M. in St. Anne's Hall.

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY - 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY 8:30 am - 4:30 pm,

FRIDAY - 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM **CLOSED DAILY 12:00 - 1:00 PM**

RECEIVED WITH THANKS Dec 29 & 30

Sunday Collection	\$ 2806.60
New Years	\$ 1479.45
Advent Folders	\$ 120.00
Christmas	\$ 270.00
Initial Offering	\$ 310.00
Flowers	\$ 40.00
Insurance	\$ 25.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 30.00

DUES: Gratefully received from Luke Alexander, Melinda Anderson, Robert Aucoin, Fran & Irving Campbell, Martina Cormier, Doreen Doucett, Ruth Doyle, Francis Gale, Bernice Gallant, Gwen Harnett, Francis Joy & Kathleen King, Sue Lambe, Wayne & Margaret Lee, Jacqueline LeGrow, Marie MacWhirter, Katherine O'Neil, Margaret O'Quinn, Carolyn Roberts, Gearld White, Margaret White, Terence White, Thomas & Margaret White and Ronald Young. Thank you for your continued support.

SCENT-FREE : Please be aware that some people have allergic reactions to perfumes and other scents. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!

CHILDREN'S 2019 SUNDAY MISSALS:

Are now available at the office cost is \$10.00

2019 SUNDAY MISSALS : Are now available at the back of the Church or at the office cost is \$5.00.

4YOUTH: On the Feast of the Epiphany, which the Church celebrates today, we commemorate the visitation of the Magi to the Baby Jesus. These men travelled a great distance guided only by a star and brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honour Jesus. This is a good time to think about our own journey of faith. How are we called to grow closer to Christ? What gifts do we have that we can bring to the Lord today to share with him? Remember, the best gifts come from the heart!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**January 2019**

Kindergarten, **January 17th** at 6:00 pm
 Yr 1 **January 14th and 15th** at 6:00 pm
 Yr 2 **January 21st and 22th** at 6:00pm
 Yr 3 **January 28th** at 6:00 pm
 Yr 4 **January 24th** at 6:00 pm
 Yr 5 & 6 **January 31st** at 6:00 pm

Pre- Confirmation Schedule Yr 7
January 13th, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:00
 Confirmation Schedule Yr 8
January 16th, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:00

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: As we continue our celebration of the Christmas season, we observe today the great Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word "epiphany" means manifestation and throughout the Christmas readings we have seen that the newborn King is eager to reveal Himself to all those willing to accept His presence in their lives. From poor and humble shepherds to the international group of magi featured in today's Gospel passage, Jesus makes it clear that He offers Himself as a gift to everyone. We also see throughout the scriptures that God uses what is familiar to us to draw us to Himself. In the case of the magi – astrologers – He uses a star. Our Lord continues to speak to each one of us today. But we must be alert to "hear" and "see" Him in our daily lives. How can we become better attuned to the ways God is speaking to us? We must strengthen our spiritual "senses" by spending time with the Lord in prayer every single day. In the same way that we set professional goals or exercise goals, we can set spiritual goals to ensure that we are taking the time to listen intentionally to God daily. When we establish a regular, intentional time for prayer, we will find that the Lord continues to speak to us throughout the day. We will more easily recognize the "stars" He places before us to draw us into closer relationship with Him. We will begin to see that He is indeed present in our lives at every moment.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Have you considered assisting at your Parish before? Currently, we need **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** to help distribute the Eucharist, **Altar Servers** to assist at Mass, and **Sacristans** to help get things ready before Mass. All of these are excellent ways of serving the Lord, and your community. Please talk to a priest or contact the Parish office if you would be interested.

FROM FR. WHITE: I want to extend my thanks to Bishop Hundt, Fr. Chris, and the many peoples of the area for welcoming me so kindly. This is my return to ministry here after many years, and I'm pleased to come back to such excellent Parishes and peoples. Never hesitate to talk to me about anything, and know that you will be in my prayers each and every day. Please keep me in yours.

CANCELLATION OF DAILY MASS:

With the winter approaching us it is the practise throughout the diocese and in all parishes, including the cathedral parish, **daily Mass will be cancelled on days when schools are closed.** If school is closed for the morning and morning Mass has been scheduled, Mass too is cancelled. If schools are closed for the afternoon, any evening masses scheduled are also cancelled.

STEWARDSHIP COFFEE TIME:

Will take place on the following Sunday's after Mass in the downstairs meeting room of the Church. Please join us for a tea or coffee, a sandwich or a cookie as we gather together in Fellowship!
December 02, 2018

ST. ANNE'S GUILD:

Would like to extend congratulations to Hillary Jesso who won the \$500.00 Christmas ticket draw. Thanks to all who help support.

HUMOUR: *Safety First:* Dad's a safety-first kind of guy. But while vacationing with some buddies, he was talked into going parasailing. He was on the back of the boat getting hooked into the parachute when he nervously asked the pilot, "How often do you replace the rope?" The pilot replied. "Every time it breaks."

ASKED TO BE ANNOUNCED: OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

COUNCIL: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus would like to remind all Brother Knights that their regular monthly meeting will be taking place on Thursday January 10, 2019 at 8:00pm. Please note the date change. All Brother Knights are encouraged to attend. The meeting will take place at our Council home on West Street.

CHASE THE ACE: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus Chase the Ace will continue Sunday January 13, 2019 with ticket sales starting at 1:00 pm. The jackpot will be starting at \$1,500.00 and stay there until we reach that amount in sales.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: Meetings take place at St. Anne's Hall the first Wed of each month, at 7:30 p.m. For more info. call Joan at 643-3425 or Joyce at 643-3021.

Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.