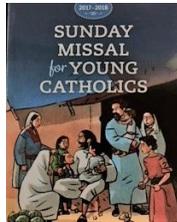


ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN:** *Journey to Communion* is beginning a new cycle for children in grade 2 and up. Your child will be prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion. **Registration is available online at stjohnthebaptistparish.ca/journeystocommunion.**



**SUNDAY MISSALS,
YOUTH MISSALS
&
CALENDARS
ARE FOR SALE
AT \$5.00 EACH.**

2019 DONATION ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE

**GET ONE SET AND REGISTER
YOUR NAME - ADDRESS - PHONE
NO. IN THE ENCLOSED INFO
SHEET AND DROP IT IN THE
COLLECTION BASKET OR AT THE
OFFICE**

ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH FORT McMURRAY

480 Signal Road, Fort McMurray, AB T9H 4R7

Ph. No.: 780-791-4305; Fax: 587-258-6898

Website : www.stpaulparishwb.com

Email: office@stpaulparishwb.com

January 6, 2019 – Epiphany of the Lord

Liturgy Schedule

Monday-Thursday

Rosary & Mass 8:40 am

Friday Adoration after Mass at 7:00pm

Weekend Masses

Saturday 7:00 pm

Sunday 9 am & 11 am

The *Sacrament of Confession* is available
30 minutes before the start of each Mass.

Parish Staff

Parish Priest

Fr. Francis Khai Phan
franciskhai@hotmail.com

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Jestoni Porras
jestoniporras0903@gmail.com

Bro. Jayson Durante
jvdurante@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Deacon Joe Simangan
office@stpaulparishwb.com

THE EPIPHANY



COLLECTIONS

(Weekly—December 30, 2018)

Loose Bills & Coins	\$ 855.60
Envelopes	2,287.00
PAP	2,156.00
Total	\$ 5,298.60



THANK YOU!



Friday Adoration January 11, 2019

Exposition at 9:00 AM

Holy Mass at 7:00 PM,
followed by Adoration
and Benediction

For more info, contact Syriac
@ 780-607-2889.



Baptism preparation course will be held on January 8 & 22, Tuesday at 7 PM.

The *Sacrament of Baptism* will be celebrated on January 13 & 27,

Prejudice

by **Deacon Raymond Chan**

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is a wonderful celebration with a main theme and many subordinate themes. The main theme is that the King of Kings is being manifested to all nations. This was shocking to the ancient Jews. They think Epiphany is for Jews only.

A week ago on Saturday 29 December, 2018, the second reading in the Office of Readings, part of the Liturgy of the Hours, is a sermon from St. Bernard, an 11th century Cistercian monk, about the birth of Christ. In the sermon, St. Bernard said that: "It is as if God the Father sent upon the earth a purse full of his mercy. This purse was burst open during the Lord's passion to pour forth its hidden contents – the price of our redemption. It was only a small purse, but it was very full. As the Scriptures tell us: A little child has been given to us, but in him dwells all the fullness of the divine nature. The fullness of time brought with it the fullness of divinity." I never thought of the infant Jesus as a little purse full with mercy, but it is a beautiful way of understanding the Gift of Christmas. We often refer to infants as bundles of joy or love. This infant, the baby Jesus, is a bundle of joy, a bundle of love and a bundle of mercy.

The second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians (3:2-3A, 5-6) stresses the theme of 'manifestation'. For Paul, God's dealings with the human family have come to a magnificent climax in what God has done for the world in Christ. In the opening lines of the letter to the Ephesians, Paul interprets Christ's saving work as the revelation of a great 'mystery', a mystery hidden for the ages but now revealed by the Holy Spirit. The gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same Body and co-partners in the promise of Jesus Christ. This mystery is revealed to all people. Yes, ALL. His mercy and salvation is extended to people everywhere. That is the mystery of the Epiphany yet so many people still have a difficult time comprehending. Many people think that they are the only ones chosen for mercy, while others are excluded. Even in this 21st century, there are still some Christian cults grouping people into saved and unsaved categories: all those who had not embraced Christ exactly as they did are excluded from God's love.

Grouping people into categories of any sort is prejudice. Prejudice is also a theme that the Epiphany confronts. People like me who were raised in the middle of the last century have to be very careful and have to fight against prejudice that was part of the times when we were children. People then often defined others according to nationalities, religions, classes, colour of the skin, even how they dress or look

One of my favourite Christmas song and cartoons is Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Rudolph, being different from other reindeers is being teased and isolated. "All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names. They never let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games." Rudolph is being prejudiced. Prejudice is a lazy and ignorant way of looking at the world because we don't take the time to learn an individual's particular characteristics or qualities. We think we know him or her already. "Then one foggy Christmas Eve Santa came to say, "Rudolph, with your nose so bright won't you guide my sleigh tonight?" Then how the reindeer loved him as they shouted out with glee "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer you'll go down in history!"

The Epiphany encourages us to be open to all people, and to see each person with his or her own particular qualities. God has extended his mercy and salvation to all people equally and individually; not as part of a specific group. We who have received mercy need to extend mercy to all, seeing each person as a child of God, not as a member of a group.

So, who were those wise men? Definitely not Jews. Pagans? From where? That wasn't important to God. Each one of them was an individual looking to worship the king. We too are called to search and discover the presence of Christ in our lives. It's an on-going relationship. We will find him if we set out on a journey to meet him everyday. Who is this person? Who is that person? He/she is person made in the image and likeness of God. He/she is a child of God. That is all that matters.

The Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.