

Epiphany



Collection December 23 & 24	Collections Required Per Week	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 5,107.30	\$ 3,465.00	+ \$ 1,642.30	+ \$ 2,228.60
Dec. 30 & 31			
\$ 5,492.30	\$ 3,465.00	+ \$ 2,027.30	+ \$ 4,255.90

Christmas Collection - \$ 6,504.00

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9:8-11



SHARING GOD'S GIFTS - will be the second collection on **January 6th & 7th.**

JANUARY

7	Catechism resumes	
7	Children's Liturgy	during mass
9	Lions Prairie Manor Service	2:00 pm
11	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:30 pm
13	Baptism Preparation	9:00 am - 1:30 pm
21	Community Breakfast after Mass	

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD - is an opportunity for children to gather during the celebration of Mass to hear God's word proclaimed at their level of understanding and reflect on the Word in their own way. This is not catechesis (religious instruction). This is liturgy and prayer for the children. It is an experience of prayer, of dialogue with God at their level. This is for children between the ages of 4-12 (approx.). This opportunity for the children will begin on **Sunday, January 7th** during Mass and continue for the first Sunday of each month. We are blessed to have Mary Hordeski lead the children during their time together.

BAPTISM PREPARATION - is planned for Saturday, January 13th from 9:00 am till 1:30 pm (lunch is provided). To register please call the parish office or Dawn at 204-872-2897.

Everything about the future is uncertain, but one thing is for sure that God had already planned all our tomorrows, we just have to trust him today.

Number of Parishioners Contributing to Sharing God's Gifts	Percentage of Parishioners Contributing to Sharing God's Gifts	Sharing God's Gifts Target
140/345	40%	\$ 18,910.00
Target Amount	Collected As of December 31st	Year to Date + / -
\$ 18,910.00	\$ 29,596.30	+ \$ 10,886.30

Celebration



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION SESSIONS
We have resumed our scripture reflection sessions on Wednesday. The afternoon session is at 2:00 pm and the evening session is at 7:00 pm. In addition to reading the scriptures for the coming Sunday, we use a commentary from "Celebrations" liturgy publication to assist our discussion. All are welcome



TUBING & PIZZA PARTY FOR CATECHISM - We have been given a gift from a parishioner of a pizza party and tubing at Rogers Hill. This will take place on Monday January 15th from 6:00 - 10:00 pm. I understand that it is a school night but the weather is supposed to be nice and will be a lot of fun even if you can only come for an hour or two. There is a sign up sheet in the greeting area for those that want to come and it would be great if we could arrange some car pooling as well.



COMMUNITY PARISH BREAKFAST - will be Sunday, **January 21st after mass**, in the parish hall, hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Menu will include **scrambled eggs, hash brown casserole, baked beans, baked ham & buns**. Suggested donation of \$7.00 per person or \$25.00 for family of 4 or more. Funds raised will go towards the building project. Everyone is invited! Please come and join us.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - thank you to everyone who made a donation towards our Christmas flowers.



THANK YOU - to everyone who contributed to the great Christmas tree. The tree will remain up until after the New Year. Your ornaments will be placed on a table in the storage room, for you to pick up. You can leave them, and they will be stored for next year.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - if you have moved and changed your address could you let the office know. I will be working on the receipts in the next couple of weeks and I would like to have your correct address. Thanks, Bernadette



EPIPHANY : To Find Our Meaning in Christ - On the weekend of January 6 and 7, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany! What a wonderful word. Even its secular definition is thrilling: "a sudden realization about the nature or meaning of something." It brings all sorts of images to mind: a light bulb suddenly turning on, shedding brilliant illumination; a revelation that brings a gasp; an idea so vivid we pause and give thanks; a truth so powerful we fall to our knees. The feast of the Epiphany is all of those things and more. We celebrate the mysterious appearance at Jesus' birthplace of three men from the East. They had set off on a most quixotic journey, seeking what they would find at the end of a star's dazzling rays. What, we wonder, did they make of the epiphany with which their journey ended? Did they spend the rest of their lives trying to discern what their discovery of the baby meant, or did the Christ Child gift them with "a sudden realization" of His nature? What more could they – or we – want of a life's journey, than to find, in our epiphany, the Christ waiting for us? The twelve days of Christmas have led us to this place, where Gentiles from afar have discovered Christ, thereby revealing that He came for everyone, for each one of us throughout history, and not just for the Jewish people to whom he was born. The feast of Epiphany brings us to the last week of our liturgical celebration of Christmas. But for the Christian steward, Epiphany is not an end but a beginning. This feast reminds us that the New Year beckons us to openness about the epiphanies to which God leads us if we but keep an open, prayerful heart, a heart full of deep, awed gratitude. Let us pray never to become too jaded, too full of certainty, too wrapped up in the routine of life to be asleep at the time of epiphany. If we could resolve to keep only one New Year's Resolution, let it be this: to pay attention to the epiphanies God places before us.



BAPTISM OF THE LORD - January 8th - The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us. At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the 'Christification' of that humanity that he had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate. In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child. Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him. The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of 'Christification', Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One per excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the 'Christification' of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. *'And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men'* (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ. The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation. (Gen 1:2) Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. *'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realised what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners.'*

The rosary is recited before every Saturday evening mass starting at 6:20 pm

Epiphany of the Lord Saturday, January 6th Sunday, January 7th	7:00 pm 10:30 am 1:00 pm	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd St. Ambrose	†Caroline Loucks by the Family †Caron Jeppesen by Bryan & Family †Myrtle Charbonneau by the Family
Tuesday, January 9th	2:00 pm	Lions Manor	Celebration of the Word with Communion
Thursday, January 11th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	†Jeannette Houle by Ruth Mulligan
Friday, January 12th	9:00 am	Good Shepherd	†Michelle Lalancette by Denise & Dana Payment
2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time Saturday, January 13th Sunday, January 14th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Andy Loucks by Bill & Florence Zettler †Sam Zdan by the Catholic Women's League

Friendly Reminders

Saturday, January 13th

Greeters - Denys Marion, Estelle Sinclair
Ushers - Paul Seguin, Bob Dionne
Karl & Jo-ann Voeselek
Gift Bearers - Reinhard & Adrianna Kirchner
Lectors - Helena Kot, Jim Ross
Eucharist Ministers - John & Doris Nichol,
Luc & Donna Gamache, Denise Payment

Friendly Reminders

Sunday, January 14th

Greeters - Linda Podruchny, Mary Kohut
Ushers - Terry Giercke, Karen McLeod
Mary Hordeski, Cheryl Nickels
Gift Bearers - Linda Podruchny, Mary Kohut
Lectors - Marie Hinagpis, Gayly Reniedo
Eucharist Ministers - Guy & Sylvia Gauthier,
Neenu Shibu, Kerry McGowan, Gary van der Zweep,
Arthur Rey, Suzanne Borisenko



OF CARAVANS AND KINGS - The caravans of camels captivate us in Isaiah's lovely prophecy. Those wonderful exotic animals take slow majestic steps across the desert, padding softly toward Jerusalem. They bear on their backs kings and valuable gifts. The scene is so remarkable, it winds up in every Christmas pageant, on a good many Christmas cards, and even in Matthew's narrative about the birth of Jesus. Or does it? If you go back and reread it, Matthew makes no mention of caravans

or camels. He doesn't even use the word kings! But he does borrow the gold and frankincense from Isaiah, embellishing them with myrrh. We're within our rights, therefore, to return the favor and go back for the delightful caravans ourselves. Movement is the common thread in these readings today. Prophecy kick-starts the motion of whole nations, awakened by the light of the world dawning after so much darkness. Bright enough for all to see, this light makes those who pursue it radiant with hope and possibility. August representatives from every nation are drawn to Jerusalem in awe. The psalm underscores the universality of this vision. Kings and gifts are reprised, and justice and peace are added to the wealth in this exchange. So much is in motion here: camels and kings, tangible gifts and priceless divine promises! Then Paul adds his piece. A mystery now revealed sets tradition itself in motion. Outsiders are now insiders. Gentiles are welcomed into the promises once reserved for Abraham's children. For many, that's a bit much. While we're glad when gifts and promises are moving—especially when they're headed in our direction—we're not always happy when traditions start to shift or are transformed in radical ways. Perhaps this divine caravan isn't such a good idea. Some things should be fixed and immutable. When everything's in motion, we risk the security of stable truths. Surely, Paul's fellow Jews felt the same way we do. "Progress" is sometimes a mistake! When Jesus is born, the heavens themselves are in motion in a way that could lead some people to vertigo. But not the Magi of the East. They're unruffled by the movement of a star across the sky and set their hearts on following it. They take a long mysterious journey (with or without caravans and camels) because truth itself appears to be in motion, and wise folk always want to know where it's going. In our generation, when Pope Francis is asking all of us to take the journey of faith courageously, to follow the light wherever it leads us, how many will remain behind like Herod in his palace, unwilling to take the short trip outside the walls to see God's new incarnation? – *Alice Camille* Reprinted with permission from PrepareTheWord.com (©2017)

Through sleepless nights of mulling over who I was and if my passions were worth what I had invested in them, I realized that I don't need anyone's permission to be proud of myself. In fact, life would be pretty miserable if I went around asking everyone for permission to value myself.

"From the Eucharist, this sacrament of love, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness." (Pope Francis)