

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

We are just a few short days into our new calendar year, and perhaps already any resolutions we might have made have already fallen by the wayside. We may have realised that it takes more than a solemn pre-midnight declaration to change the course of our lives. Yet, our desire for change and a better future, as we leave one year behind and start a new one, is perfectly understandable. What would we be without goals and ambitions to pursue?

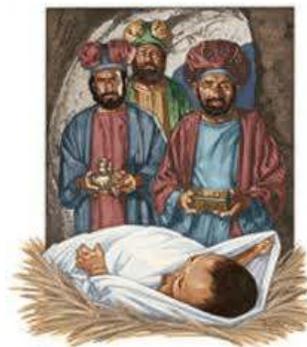
The story of the Magi, the wise men, which is at the heart of this great solemnity of the Epiphany is a story of a life changing revelation and encounter with the Word Incarnate, the Christ child. The word 'Epiphany' means 'showing forth' or 'revelation'. On today's feast we celebrate God revealing himself, in the person of the baby Jesus, to the pagan wise men from the East. It was a most significant encounter for the wise men. They, who lived their lives as men who sought the truth, find the very source of that truth in the Christ child. And having done him homage and offering him gifts they return to their place of origin by another route, transformed and changed by what they have seen, taking the message of salvation with them.

The story, itself, has an important message for our times. The need to set a different course in life, which so clearly manifests itself at this time of the year, is an expression of a deeply rooted desire to find fulfilment. For those who believe in God, this fulfilment is found in the Incarnate word, Jesus Christ. It is through this encounter and relationship with Christ that the human quest for happiness and fulfilment is given shape and direction, and by grace can be shaped towards the goal of human life, which is God himself.

But, somehow, we, who have heard the Good News of salvation, still get caught in the same kind of struggles as non-Christians, and we often show little or no sign that we have had that encounter with Christ, or any evidence that we are truly in relationship with him. Our lives, rather than heading in the direction shaped for us by grace, where our horizons are set by God, remain within the confines of our own attempts at self-improvement and rather shallow ambitions.

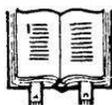
At the beginning of Christ's life, God reached out to the pagan world and offered it His salvation. God continues to reach out to us and reveal Himself to us. He also asks us to find Him in the business of our lives, and through this encounter with the Incarnate word, we would find fulfilment.

One key thing about our celebration of the Epiphany is that it should bring us back to an encounter with the Child in the manger - and so back to the object of our faith. And having encountered Him again, and worshipped Him, as the wise men did, we should go on our way by a different path, with lives lived in and through a growing relationship with Him.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Jan. 7th** -ST. ANDRE BESSETTE, memorial
1 John 3:22-4:6; Mat. 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tue. Jan. 8th** - 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44
- Wed. Jan. 9th** - 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52
- Thurs. Jan. 10th** - 1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22a
- Fri. Jan. 11th** - 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16
- Sat. Jan. 12th** - ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS, memorial
1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30
- Sun. Jan. 13th** - BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Is. 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



2nd COLLECTION next weekend, at all the Masses, for Notre Dame Loan reduction.

PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Have you picked up your new set of parish envelopes for 201 from the entrance of the church? Anyone wishing a set is asked to call the parish office.

IN MEMORIAM

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of two very long parishioners who have passed away.

Mrs. Ruth Goessaert: whose funeral will be held this coming Tuesday, January 8th at 11 am

Mr. Bill Salmon: Prayers, Friday, January 25th at 7 pm and funeral Mass Saturday, Jan. 26th at 1 pm.

May they rest in peace!



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Jan. 5 th	5 pm Mass for parishioners
Sun. Jan. 6 th	9 am Mass for the int. of Vincent & Augustine Chu 11 am Mass for the int. of Robert Casanova 5 pm Mass for Emilia Manguiat, R.I.P.
Mon. Jan. 7 th	8 am Mass for D & D Alcanices Jr., R.I.P.
Tue. Jan. 8 th	8 am Mass for Giuseppina Misceo, R.I.P.
Wed. Jan. 9 th	9 am Mass for the int. of Fr. Guy Rivard 7:30 pm Novena Mass Novena
Thur. Jan. 10 th	8:00 am Mass for Macro C. Linsao, R.I.P.
Fri. Jan. 11 th	8:00 am Mass for Anthony & Rosa Choy, R.I.P.
Sat. Jan. 12 th	9:00 am Mass for Wilmore Arengo, R.I.P.



ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Jan. 9th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Jan. 12th - 5:00 PM - C & C Akol, M.Cabuhayan, J.Lanuza, J.Nguyen.

Sun. Jan. 13th - 9:00 AM - N.Chao, J & N Yuen,

C.Vu. **11:00 AM** - R.Bottin, S.Cho, W.Pharm, J.Roque.

5:00 PM - K.Alonzo, A.Babas, P.Casanova, T.Johnson, F & T Le, E.Nguyen, J.Plata.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

- **Friendship Day:** Please Join us this Sunday after the 9 & 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church.

- **Thank you** to all those who contributed goodies for our New Year's eve celebration. There were about 80 people who attended the reception after the Holy Hour and Mass.



PROJECT ADVANCE

"Live gratefully, give generously"

Many thanks to all who gave to our annual Project Advance appeal. We are deeply grateful for all your generosity and support. Your efforts have paid off big time, as this has been our best year ever. Thanks to your contributions we raised over \$82,000 for the diocese and our parish.

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Our RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) resumes this Thursday, Jan. 10th. Interested? Know someone who might be? Come or invite them to join our parish program. The program is suitable for all those interested in learning more about our faith and for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion



SCHOOL NEWS

- The school re-opens this Monday, Jan. 7th. We welcome back all our staff and students who have been away these past few weeks. We sincerely hope you had a good Christmas break and look forward to a happy New Year.
- School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM OUR PASTOR

Happy New Year to All!

I hope all of you have had a Christmas filled with peace and joy.

Fr. Joseph and I extend our heartfelt thanks for the many cards, prayers and gifts we received over the holidays. Please accept this note as an expression of our gratitude and appreciation, as we could never thank everyone individually.

We also thank all those who helped during our Christmas celebrations. Special thanks to the many parishioners who have been so generous with their time and efforts: Mr. Frank Esposito, Mr. Neo Regala, the Sacristans, the Choirs, Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, the Christmas trees, flowers and decorations, the beautiful manger scene, those who cleaned and prepared the church... All the celebrations were great, including the New Year's Eve Holy Hour, and Mass of Anticipation, followed by a wonderful reception.

This past year has been a good year. Together we have accomplished many things. Our church renovations, which were done on time and on budget, as well as we paid off one of our Notre Dame loans. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I look forward to another year, working along side all of you, as we continue to do our part building the Lord's vineyard at St. Jude's.

Fr. Jun.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Fiat: Women's Discernment Events – Snowshoe with the Sisters
Fiat, the women's vocation discernment group for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, is getting ready for another year of events. Our upcoming snowshoeing event on Jan. 12, is open to single, Catholic young women ages 18-35 who are open to discerning and responding to God's call in their life. Sign up now to receive emails of events throughout the year. E-mail womensvocations@rcav.org

Winter Institute

The Winter Institute is a day dedicated to ministry training and faith formation courses. Join us Saturday, Jan. 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Notre Dame Regional Secondary School, Vancouver. Registration is \$40 on or before Jan. 14. Course offerings for 2019: For course descriptions and registration, visit rcav.org/oc-winter-institute

Quo Vadis – Men’s Discernment Events

Join us for a Discernment Evening with Fr. Nick Meisl - Hearing God’s Call in the Bible on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick’s Parish, Vancouver. Open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? Please register at least one week in advance by contacting the Vocations Office at vocations@rcav.org or call 604-443-325

Stewardship Reflection

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