

# The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

The Mother Church of the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Kingston  
The Most Reverend Michael Mulhall, Archbishop of Kingston



*The Adoration of the Magi by Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones, 1833-1898 AD*

## Mass Schedule:

St. James Chapel: Mon.-Sat. 7:45 am      Cathedral: Mon.-Fri. 12:10 pm  
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm (no incense)      Sunday Masses: 8:00 am (no incense),  
10:30 am (incense is used), 7:30 pm (incense is used)

## Opportunities for Confession:

One half hour before each Mass held in the Cathedral  
Additionally: Wednesdays 1 pm – 5 pm & Saturdays 4 pm – 4:50 pm

**Masses:**

**Monday January 6th**

7:45 am Maria Zuba

12:10 pm Vernon Mulhall

**Tuesday January 7th**

7:45 am Aurora & Jesus Bautista

12:10 pm Maria de Jesus & Antonio Bastos

**Wednesday January 8th**

7:45 am Aurora & Jesus Bautista

12:10 pm George Alexandrowicz

**Thursday January 9th**

7:45 am Catherine Edwards

12:10 pm Deceased members of North,

Poole & Whitelaw families

**Friday January 10th**

7:45 am Jack Edwards

12:10 pm João Pedro & Olivia Santos & families

**Saturday January 11th**

7:45 am Francisco & Sulpicia Alanano

5 pm Margaret Kavanagh

**Sunday January 12th**

8 am Jamie & Hortensia Melo's intentions

10:30 am For the People

7:30 pm Annette Parkham

**Ministries:**

**Saturday, January 11th, 5 pm**

Altar Servers	Barry M. Dianne I.	Lynn O.
Lectors	Elizabeth N.	Maureen J.
EM of the Eucharist	Mark M.	Marlene M.

**Sunday, January 12th, 8 am**

Altar Servers	Allan S.	Sharon M.
Lectors	Sharon M.	Sarah B.
EM of the Eucharist	Ann L.	Emily R.

**Sunday, January 12th, 10:30 am**

Altar Servers	Nick B. Simon B. Gavin T.	Dominic B. Doug S.
Lectors	Asher H.	Leonie H.
EM of the Eucharist	Chris L. Hailey McI. Janet W	Brandon McI. Marietta M. Bob C Connie A.

**Sunday, January 12th, 7:30 pm**

Altar Servers	Students	
Lector	Tephanie O.	Michelle S.
EM of the Eucharist	Maria M.	Mary R.

**Please pray for our Sick:** Kim Cabral, Ruth Caron, Adam Lachine, Janice Lumb, Maria Matias, Lynn Orellano, Donna Travis.

# EPIPHANY SUNDAY

**The coat drive** resumed Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Parish Centre: Monday to Friday 1-4 pm. It will end January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Family Picnic at the Parish Centre will not be held in January.** It will resume Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, after the 10:30 am

Mass, at St Mary's Parish Centre. There will be activities for children, and all are welcome. Suggested donation \$5 per family.

[ourladymission@gmail.com](mailto:ourladymission@gmail.com).

**St. Mary's Epiphany Christmas Carol Sing!** This Sunday afternoon, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30 pm. See poster.

**Matthew: The King and His Kingdom** will resume this Mon. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and repeated Wed., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. New members are welcome.

**RCIA resumes** this Tues., January 7<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm at the Parish Centre.

**Seniors' Lunch** This Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup>, following 12:10 pm Mass, Parish Centre.

**Parish Meeting, this Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in St. Mary's Parish Centre:** to discuss all the projects which need to be undertaken in the near and distant future. Exterior upkeep of the stonework of the cathedral and rectory; ii) Interior of the cathedral: painting, floors, and organ iii) new project idea for the development of the property where the Parish Centre sits.

## THE CHRISTMAS SEASON: Dec. 25 Marks the Beginning, Not the End

For Catholics, the Christmas season begins at midnight on December 24<sup>th</sup> and continues well into January. While the rest of the world is winding down their Christmas celebrations, we're just gearing up for ours.

Since the eighth century, the Church has observed octaves – eight days of celebration following a feast or solemnity. Christmas has its own octave, and so does Easter. For Christmas, the octave begins on Christmas Day and ends on January 1, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

Both during and after the Octave of Christmas, there are number of feasts to commemorate and celebrate:

- December 26 – St. Stephen (the first martyr)
- December 27 – The Holy Family
- December 28 – Holy Innocents (children murdered by Herod's soldiers in the effort to destroy the Christ Child)
- January 1 – Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God
- January 5 – The Epiphany of the Lord (visit of the Magi)
- January 12 – The Baptism of the Lord

Throughout these days, the Christmas season is filled with exciting scenes and happenings, all pointing to Jesus as the Christ. They all tell us about the magnificence and mission of the Infant born in Bethlehem that one day would be King.

The reason we celebrate Christmas at all is because we are grateful and filled with joy that the God-Man has come to earth to bring salvation to all of mankind. He is the Christ. That's worth celebrating for a good long time.

The Tradition in the Church is that the Christmas season officially ends with the Baptism of the Lord, observed this year on January 12<sup>th</sup>. This year that gives us 19 days to celebrate Christmas, and all of them begin and not end on Christmas Day, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Contacts

**Rector:** Father Shawn J. Hughes,  
[Rector.smc.279@gmail.com](mailto:Rector.smc.279@gmail.com)

**Associate-Pastor (Half-time)**  
Father Paul Mawalla  
[associatepastor.smc@gmail.com](mailto:associatepastor.smc@gmail.com)

**Deacon:** Deacon Blaine Barclay,  
[deacon.smc.279@gmail.com](mailto:deacon.smc.279@gmail.com)

### **In Residence:**

Father Dan Ryan  
Father Killian Eke  
Father Paul Finn

### **Parish Office Administrator:**

Suzanne,  
[secretary.smc.279@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.smc.279@gmail.com)

**Co-ordinator of Ministries,  
Pastoral Caring Coordinator, and  
Catholic Women's League**

**President:** Ann Lyng,  
[coordinatorministries.smc.279@gmail.com](mailto:coordinatorministries.smc.279@gmail.com)

### **Music Director and Organist:**

Jeff Moellman,  
[music.smc.279@gmail.com](mailto:music.smc.279@gmail.com)

**Children's Liturgy:** Laura Raycraft,  
613-328-0426,

[stmaryschildliturgyoftheword@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschildliturgyoftheword@gmail.com)

**Knights of Columbus Council  
#728, Grand knight:** Ian Moore

[imoore@arbormemorial.com](mailto:imoore@arbormemorial.com)

**Finance Committee Chair:** Mark  
Levac, [mark@levacsupply.com](mailto:mark@levacsupply.com)

### **University Chaplain:**

Fr. R. de Souza,  
[rjdesouza@cardus.ca](mailto:rjdesouza@cardus.ca)

### **Catholic Christian Outreach:**

Stephanie Dresch: Campus Leader  
[stephanie.dresch@cco.ca](mailto:stephanie.dresch@cco.ca)

### **Billings Method Natural Family**

**Planning:** Ann Murray,  
[kingston@naturalfamilyplanning.ca](mailto:kingston@naturalfamilyplanning.ca)

### **Creighton Model Fertility:**

Marianne Trevorrow MA ND  
[drmarianne@ionacare.ca](mailto:drmarianne@ionacare.ca)

### **Serena, Sympto-Thermal Method of Family Planning:**

[www.serena.ca](http://www.serena.ca)  
[serenakingston@gmail.com](mailto:serenakingston@gmail.com)

**Adoration:** Natalie Holland,  
[nholland@cogeco.ca](mailto:nholland@cogeco.ca)

613-876-1801

### **St. Mary's Refugee Sponsorship:**

Angela Gambin,  
[stmarysrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrefugee@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL THE EMAIL CHANGES AT THE SIDE.  
PLEASE START USING THE NEW EMAILS WHEN  
CONTACTING THE STAFF.**

# St. Mary's Epiphany Carol Sing!

## Sunday, January 5, 2:00-3:30pm

Led by the choir and sponsored by the Knights of  
Columbus, Council #728, who will also provide festive  
seasonal refreshments

Canned good donations will be accepted for the St. Vincent de  
Paul Food Bank, and free will monetary donations will be  
accepted to benefit the restoration of the organ of St. Mary's  
Cathedral. Tax receipts are available for any donations over  
\$25.

**Another Virtual Yard Sale:** Items can be dropped off at St. Mary's  
Parish Centre from 2 to 4 pm January 6 to January 17. Contact  
Natalie Holland 613-876-1801. Once items are collected the website  
will be uploaded so you can shop and bid on the item you wish to give  
a new home. If you have good used items that someone else might  
like please considered donating them to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Yard Sale. All  
projects go to support projects of The Catholic Women's' League.

### **HDH/ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL WINTER COAT DRIVE: HELPING THOSE IN NEED STAY WARM THIS WINTER!**

No one in our community should go cold in the winter! Everyone needs  
warm winter clothing! The Winter Coat Drive fulfills this need by serving  
those who might be out on our street in bone-chilling weather during the  
winter months. For some people, having warm clothing means reduced  
exposure to hypothermia, frostbite and related illnesses. The Coat Drive also  
serves the working poor; those who are struggling to make ends meet  
because they don't have a lot to begin with. From November 12 to  
December 20, 2019 a total of 827 people visited the Coat Drive taking a  
total of 721 winter coats and 1570 accessories such as toques, mitts, scarves,  
socks, blankets and winter boots. *These numbers have increased from the  
same time period in 2018.* Once again this year visitors were treated to hot  
coffee and snacks provided by members of St. Mary's Catholic Women's  
League. The Coat Drive closed over the Christmas break but has reopened  
as of January 2<sup>nd</sup> and will remain open until January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. More winter  
coats, especially the larger sizes for both men and women as well as winter  
boots are desperately needed. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish  
Centre, Monday to Friday from 1 to 4 pm beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. *A  
very special thank you to all those who donated winter  
coats to help those in need!*

# THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

*To the Staff of the Cathedral whose ongoing dedication to their work makes a great deal of all of this possible: Suzanne Brown-Stevenson, the Parish Office Administrator; Ann Lyng, Coordinator of Ministries; Jeffery Moellman, our Cathedral Organist and Music Director; Bernadette Egan, our Sacristan; Doug Snider, the Custodian and Anjelina Howell, the rectory's Chef. Thank you one and all for often going above and beyond your job's duties.*

**To those Who Helped Decorate the Cathedral.** Thank you to Janice Lumb for her leadership and organization of this. Robin & Marla Cases, Nancy & Brian Cosgrove, Mary & Richard VanLaren, Anne & Greg Hogarth & Vaida, Amy Doux Nyranzobe, Mark Levac, Sharon Musgrave, Leonie Herx, Natalie Holland, Karla Garcia, Peter Wadeck, Lola Hulton, Marian Meagher, Peter Draper, Domenica Bracciodiate, Betty Graham, Pat Brady, Wilma Saccon, Marietta Tamondong, Janice & Richard Lumb, Monica Zuiker, and Don Zuiker

**The Children's Pageant** Thank you to Laura and Joel Raycraft for leading this amazing presentation once again. For all the time spent in rehearsal, costume creation and planning. A huge thank you to our puppeteer, Annie Milne, who created the camel puppets and who spent a great deal of time training the puppeteers. To our puppeteers and all involved with their training: David Jaldo-Peinado, Leonie Herx, Chris Laird, Elim Herx, Niriah Herx, Asher Herx, Ephraim Herx, Giovannie Herx, Erin Levac, Mark Levac, Noah Levac, Ethan Levac and Adam Levac.

**And to all the little ones who were involved in the pageant:**

Narrator: Jack Raycraft, Mary: Monica Zuiker, Joseph: Matteo Fazari, Angel Gabriel: Ariella Fazari, Messenger: Faustine Zuiker, Kings: Adam Levac, Giovanni and Ephraim Herx. Angels: Mauve Ford, Bridget Deasy, Anne Yakimowski, Ramona Bakewell, Rachel and Mariam Gambin, Clare Levac, Lily Quigley, Annika Moln.

Shepherds: Benjamin and Jessie White, Cassius Bakewell, Arthur Yakimowski, Gerard Zuiker, Liam Lamoureux Alexander McAdoo. Thank you to those who sewed and repaired costumes: Patricia Murray, Sister Jane Wahleitner and Anna Inparajah. Thank you to the parents who helped: Donna Travis, Rick Fazari, Amy White, Wendy McAdoo. And to Laura's Main assistants Carolyn Positano, Karla Garcia and Joel Raycraft.

**The Christmas Choir: The music was very, very beautiful.**

Led by Jeffrey Moellman, the organist and music director here at St. Mary's Cathedral. To our cantors and soloists for the Masses: Ellen Hawman, Kathryn Johnston and Rebecca Millar. Our Christmas Cathedral Choir: Emma Battel, Sophia Battel, Taylor Burns, Eugene Bycok, Joel Cameron, Jess Chisholm, Adam Dashney, Michael Derynck, Margaret Hale, Ellen Hawman, Hugh Johnston, Kathryn Johnston, Sammy Johnston, Carol Ann Kasaboski, Elizabeth King, JoAnne MacDonald, Rebecca Millar, Brent Nuevo, Martin Ogwuru, Lisa Paszkowski, and Marianne Trevorrow

**Servers:** Thank you to our Servers several of whom served two or more Masses. God bless you for your extreme generosity. Led and coordinated by Nick Beadle. Ephraim Herx, Diane Irving, Adam Levac, Barry McKensie, Sharon Musgrave, Jack Raycraft, Douglas Snider, Gavin Thorp

**Greeters:** Marla Cases, Robin Cases, Grace Goncalves, Ellen Hawman, Mary Hitchcock, Mark Hitchcock, Lola Hulton, Wayne Hulton, Linda Kenney, Joe Kenney, Pene Lucas, Janice Lumb, Richard Lumb, Zofia Miksa and Donna North

**Lectors:** Pat Brady, Carmen Bycok, Leonie Herx, Maureen Jamieson, Mark Levac, Dan Kasaboski, Janice Lumb, Ann Lyng and Colby Pereira

**Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:** Connie Abella, Domenica Bracciodieta, Bob Cabral, Bernadette Egan, Grace Goncalves, Ellen Hawman, Adora Jackson, Chris Laird, Pene Lucas, Marietta Marcial, Mark Murphy and Marlene Musiol,

*Thank you to our watering crew who maintained our beautiful decorations:* Nancy & Brian Cosgrove, Mary & Richard VanLaren, Betty Graham, and Marla & Robin Cases and Bernadette Egan

## A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE CHRISTMAS DINNER POSSIBLE

THE PARISH PASTORAL CARING COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY ANN LYNG, WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION to all who participated in our seventh annual Christmas Day Dinner at St. Mary's Parish Centre so that a large number of people could enjoy a Christmas dinner and celebrate Christmas in a festive atmosphere.

Special thanks to the businesses and associations who provided financial donations and/or provisions for the dinner:

**Amey's Taxi, The Bread Man, Card's Bakery, Grant's No Frills, The Grocery Basket, Pig and Olive Meats, Semple Gooder Roofing, Starbuck's, Swiss Chalet, Tara Foods, and Union Gas. A very extra special thank you to COSTCO for the extremely generous donation of food. Please make an extra effort patronize these businesses who have been so very generous to us.**

**A very special thank you to the following parishioners for their most generous financial contributions:** Norah Ford in memory of her brother, the late Reverend Father Robert Flurey, Tadeusz & Zofia Miksa, Remi Sison, Margit and William Thompson, Mary and Richard Van Laren, Carolyn Wilkinson-Reid plus an anonymous donor.

**Many, many thanks also to those contributing goods in kind and /or home baked goods for the dinner:** John Baker, Terri Baxter, Kevin and Sylvia Blaney, Mary Pat Byrne, Marla and Robin Cases, Shirley Cooney, John Fisher, Grace Goncalves, Lois Halligan, Mary and Mark Hitchcock, Anne Hogarth, Jane Kaduck, Jurate and Justin Kaminskas, Linda King, Anne Marie Levac, Maryanne Murphy, Elizabeth Neeley, Donna North, Mary and Herman Overvelde, Bill Reason, Brenda and Chris Thurgood on behalf of Ginny Thurgood, Naomi Watson, Mallory Watson, Marika Wolfert and William. Special thanks to Alex Jansen for the generous donation of food in memory of his late father, Hans Jansen.

**A very special thank you to those who provided physical assistance with the preparation of the meal:** Staff of Collins Bay Institution and Head Chef COREY BECKSTEAD for preparing the turkeys, potatoes and gravy, Swiss Chalet for providing the dressing and cranberry sauce and Starbucks for supplying coffee, cream and sugar.

A very special thank you to KEVIN J. BLANEY FLORIST for providing seven beautiful Christmas floral arrangements to adorn the dining tables and to MARSHALL'S LAWCARE AND GARDEN CENTRE for their generous donations of Christmas trees and wreaths to decorate the Parish Centre.

**Many thanks to the those students and staff of St. Thomas More School** involved in the handcrafting of the beautiful Christmas tree ornaments and for coming to the Parish Centre to decorate the Christmas trees.

**An extra special thank you to DAN, MICHELLE and PAIGE KASABOSKI** for providing beautiful musical entertainment so that guests could enjoy their Christmas dinner while listening to festive Christmas music.

**Also an extra special thank you to Peter Mayhew and Adam Bergeron of CORUS ENTERTAINMENT for promoting the Christmas Dinner by providing free advertising on Fresh Radio and Big-FM Radio from December 15 to December 24.**

**Special thanks to all the wonderful volunteers** who gave of their time and talents to make the dinner possible: Doug Barbour, Terri Baxter, Deacon Blaine and Lilli Barclay, Jacob Barclay, Jayla Barclay, Mary Clair and Lorne Bourdage, Denyse and Rodney Brown, Diane and Jerry Bruce, Mary Pat Byrne, Marla and Robin Cases, Jesse Chisholm, Rosarie Coughlan, Daphne and Matthew Denney, Walter Durante, John Fisher, Karla Garcia, Aaron Gifford, Justin Gifford, Maureen Gifford, Shane Gifford, Carla and Kyle Grace, Donna and Noel Guiney, Liz Guiney, Matt Guiney, Lorraine and Lorne Haley, Mary and Mark Hitchcock, Gordon Janzen, Carol Ann Kasaboski, Dan Kasaboski, Michelle Kasaboski, Paige Kasaboski, Adrian Kennedy, John Kennedy, Lori Keyes, Raymond T. Kiley, Fred Light, Pene Lucas, Christina Mabborang, Kevin Maloney, Andrea Malverti, Zofia Miksa, Josie Mitchell, Mallory Mitchell, Connie and Wayne Ocolisan, Lynn Orellano, Teresa Palosci, Vern Phillips, Bill Reason, Susan Rendell, Linda and Jurik Romaniec, Tom Truesdell and Sean Silva.

**Extra special thanks to Mary Hitchcock** for all her help with the dinner and to **Mark Hitchcock, Kevin Maloney, Walter Durante, Jerry Bruce and Fred Light** for picking up food donations and for transporting the turkeys to and from Collins Bay Institution.

**A very special thank you to His Grace, Archbishop Michael Mulhall** for taking time from his busy schedule to attend the dinner.

*With sincere apologies to anyone we may have missed!*

**Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time, talents and treasures to make our Christmas Day Dinner a truly joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord for all those in need. May God bless each and every one of you!!!**

*Father Shawn's Addition:*

**And finally, an extra special thank you to Ann Lyng.** Ann is the main driving force behind this dinner. With deep gratitude for her commitment, enthusiasm and sheer determined hard work. Without Ann's fabulous organizational skills and 'roll up your sleeves hard work', this wonderful, inspired enterprise would not be the grand success it is.

**When you look at the number involved in preparing for and celebrating this Sacred Season one's heart cannot help but sore in gratitude to Almighty God for the wonderful parish we have here at St. Mary's Cathedral including you, the parishioners, who came to worship. Many, many thanks. God Bless you all.**

*Father Shawn*



**LOOKING WAY AHEAD: SAVE THE DATE:  
Eight Doors to the Kingdom Parish Mission.**

The great French spiritual master, Father Jacques Philippe, is coming from France to the Cathedral from February 29th to March 3rd. He will preach at all the Sunday Masses the First Sunday of Lent, (5 pm Feb. 29 & March 1, 8 am, 10:30 am and 7 pm) and will lead a Parish Mission on the Eight Beatitudes at 7 pm on Monday, March 1, Tuesday, March 2nd and Wednesday, March 3rd. For further information please contact [smarys@cogeco.net](mailto:smarys@cogeco.net) or Ann Lyng at [coordinatorministries.smc.279@gmail.com](mailto:coordinatorministries.smc.279@gmail.com) or Father Shawn Hughes at [Rector.smc.279@gmail.com](mailto:Rector.smc.279@gmail.com)



## Epiphany Reflections

by Father Thomas Kocik

<https://onepeterfive.com/gorgeous-splash-oriental-color-epiphany-reflections/>

**The Feast of the Lord's Epiphany** is traditionally observed on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the day following the twelfth day of Christmas.<sup>1</sup> On that day, the Church recalls Jesus Christ's epiphany, or manifestation, to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi. God had been preparing the human race for this event ever since Adam's fall from grace. The Israelites had their sacred Scriptures and inspired Prophets to prepare them. Isaiah prophesied: *A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young*

*camels of Mid'ian and E'phah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord* (Is 60:6). The Psalmist prayed: *May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!* (Ps 72:10). Saint Matthew records that, in answer to Herod's question where the Christ was to be born, the chief priests and scribes replied: *In Bethlehem of Judea* (Mt 2:5), as the Lord had said through the prophet Micah.<sup>2</sup>

Although God had given the Jews the privilege of having "inside information," it seems He had also prepared the Gentile world for the coming of His Son. Pagan philosophers and historians, such as Cicero, Tacitus, and Suetonius, testified that the world was in expectation of a new Kingdom of peace and righteousness under the rule of a glorious Deliverer who would come, not only from the East, but from Judea. Plato and Socrates also spoke of the Universal Wise Man "yet to come." The Greeks had outgrown their gods and held empty niches ready for unknown gods. And in Rome, forty years before the birth of Jesus, the poet Virgil disturbed Caesar Augustus with his anticipation of the birth of a boy who will "receive the life of gods" and bring a Golden Age to the world.<sup>3</sup> The time was ripe for the coming of the Savior, and Jews and Gentiles alike sensed it.

A star appeared, and the wise men of the East—perhaps they were Persians or Arabs—were certain that it signaled the birth of the King of the Jews, so they went to Jerusalem to inquire where He had been born. After their audience with the scheming Herod, they made the five-mile journey to Bethlehem and, finding the Child, adored Him and offered Him the gifts most valued in the East: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold is offered in tribute to a king; incense, in sacrifice to a deity; and myrrh, a fragrant resin, is used to embalm or sprinkle on dead bodies—an odd present for a newborn baby, to be sure, but a clue to why He came into our world. Perhaps these pagan sages realized the Christ-child to be the fulfillment of the hope of Israel. Even so, why should *they* care?

The Magi probably belonged to the great astronomical tradition that had developed in Mesopotamia over the centuries. Most likely, they were aware of the prophecy of the Gentile prophet Balaam: *A star shall come forth out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel* (Num 24:17). They explored this promise.

The Epiphany hints at an important truth which Christ and the Apostles would later make explicit, namely, that salvation is from the Jews, but is not for the Jews only. God excludes no one from His plan of salvation. The risen Lord ordered the Apostles to go and "make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). And St. Paul declares that the Gentiles are "coheirs" (with the Jews), "members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (Eph 3:6). The family of Christ, the Church, takes in all people: it is, in a word, *catholic*, universal.

It took the Apostles and the earliest Christians some time for this truth to sink in. They were Jews who continued to practice Judaism after coming to believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the longed-awaited Messiah, God's anointed and

Suffering Servant whose life, death and resurrection fulfilled the ancient prophecies. On the Sabbath they would go to the synagogue or the Temple, and on Sunday celebrate the Eucharist. The first great crisis in the Church involved the question whether Gentile converts to Christianity first had to become Jews and observe the Law of Moses in its entirety (which, in the case of males, would include circumcision). Around the year 49, the Council of Jerusalem was convoked to resolve the case (see chapter 15 of the Acts of the Apostles). Under divine guidance, James, who with Peter led the Jerusalem Church, declared that the Old Law had passed, for the Church is now living Judaism's fulfillment. The Law given through Moses and explained by the Prophets was God's gift to His People, a kind of anticipation of the Gospel that brings the old covenants to their perfection. Anyone who would oblige Gentiles to become Jews, as a previous step to their becoming members of the Church, was erring against the Truth.

The visitation of the Magi, then, is more than a quaint episode in Our Lord's infancy, "a gorgeous splash of oriental color in the dimness of the stable."<sup>4</sup> Its true significance—the journeying of humanity toward Christ, through whom and for whom all things were created (cf. Col 1:16)—should stir us to become more involved in leading others to the Lord. First, of course, we ourselves must believe that Jesus Christ is "the way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6). This has been the Church's faith from the start. To hear it and to accept it in faith is to be evangelized; to tell others about it is to evangelize. To evangelize is to open for others the way to a loving relationship with the Lord, a relationship lived out in the Church that He founded to dispense the grace by which alone that relationship is made workable.

While the Church will always need missionaries to proclaim the Gospel in faraway lands, evangelization begins at home. Materialism and hedonism attack the values of large, close-knit families. The contraceptive mentality treats children as an intrusion and fertility as a curse. Fundamental Christian beliefs about the sanctity of every human life and about the meaning and purposes of marriage no longer find broad cultural and institutional support. The media pander to our basest instincts. An aggressive form of secularism persists in eliminating all traces of our Judeo-Christian heritage, accommodating levels of brutality and vice reminiscent of the ancient barbarians. In many ways, we are back in the days of the Apostles.

With good reason, then, did Pope St. John Paul II call for a "New Evangelization." Does this mean that Catholics and other Christians should bring up Jesus in every conversation, or stand on the street corner preaching to all who pass by? Probably not. We have to watch for people when they are ready to hear the message. We must find ways of re-proposing the Gospel to the modern, post-Christian West.

Christianity is not made real on earth until it is embodied in the way Christians live and work. A deep piety and drive to personal holiness is important, to be sure. The Christian witness of our lives is critically important. But evangelization also aims at social holiness, the proper ordering of our civic life. Evangelization involves the law, for the law is a teacher. It will teach, for instance, that marriage is a reality whose contours people cannot make and remake at will, or it will teach that marriage is a mere convention, which individuals, couples, or, indeed, groups can choose to make of it whatever suits their desires. To adduce another example, the elevation of suicide and euthanasia to the status of a basic human right has convinced Dutch teenagers that suicide must be a reasonable, even admirable, solution to the problem of human suffering of whatever cause.

With this in mind, Catholics and other committed disciples should be determined to play their full role as citizens in all the legitimate avenues of social and cultural life, promoting civil legislation in harmony with divine law and human dignity. Of course, there will be those who accuse us of attempting to impose our religion on a pluralistic society, as if we were trying to force all Americans to abstain from meat on Fridays, and they would be mistaken.

As we celebrate Christ's Epiphany, let us beg the Holy Spirit to deepen our devotion to the Person and teachings of the universal Savior, who became man to show us in a human way how much God loves us. May we also confide ourselves to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, and of St. Paul, the great Apostle to the nations

#### Footnotes

1. In the universal law of the Latin Church, Epiphany is a holy day of obligation (can. 1246); the same law gives to conferences of bishops (with the approval of the Holy See) the right to abolish certain holy days or transfer their observance to a Sunday. In Canada, Epiphany is observed on the first Sunday following January 1st, which in 2020 falls on January 5th.
2. Micah 5:1: "But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days."  
Eclog. iv: "The last age foretold by the Cumean Sibyl, is at hand; a new and glorious era is coming: a new race is being sent down to earth from heaven. At the birth of this Child, the iron age will cease, and one of gold will rise upon the whole world. ... No remnants of our crimes will be left, and their removal will free the earth from its never-ending fear." As quoted in Prosper Guéranger, *The Liturgical Year*, Vol. 3: *Christmas—Book II*, 4th edition, trans. L. Shepherd (Westminster, MD: The Newman Press, 1948), p. 167.
3. Francis J. Sheed, *To Know Christ Jesus* (1962; repr. Ignatius Press, 1992), p. 57.



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