

Regular Mass Times

Saturdays 4:00 p.m. at Holy Ghost 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family Sundays 9:00 a.m. at St. Jude's 11:00 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary

To meet with Fr. Phil, please call the parish office at 386-6178.

We pray for those who are awaiting or recovering from surgery, those receiving treatment, those needing strength, including Kevin McKinley, Ernie Peters, Bill Connor, Bill Stafford, David Smith, Albert McEachern, Jacques Cormier, Barbara Delahunt, Paul Corbett (brother of Gerry Corbett), Lou Costello (brother-in-law of Mollie Legere), Mary Murphy (sister of Mollie Legere), Marie Bastarache, Dan Lunney, Judy Long (sister of Sheila McLean) and Shirley Daigle.

Epiphany of the Lord January 8th, 2023

We remember all those who have gone before us in faith, including Bernard Francis Desmond Jr. (cousin of Maureen Mills), Glenn Arsenault (brother of Dale Ronalds), Keith O'Toole (nephew of Mae Smith), Patrick Corbett (brother of Gerry Corbett), Lorry Belliveau (brother of Al Belliveau), Gerald (Gerry) Gauvin (brother of Norman Gauvin) and Doris Spencer (mother of Charlotte and grandmother of Jennifer Melanson).



Did You Know?

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord celebrates the astonishing mystery of God's manifestation to the very ends of the earth. The visitors from the East symbolize the extent of God's salvation as it unfolds for people of every land. As they offer gifts, as would be fitting for a king, they announce to the

world that an astonishing event has taken place; all peoples will know the glory of God.

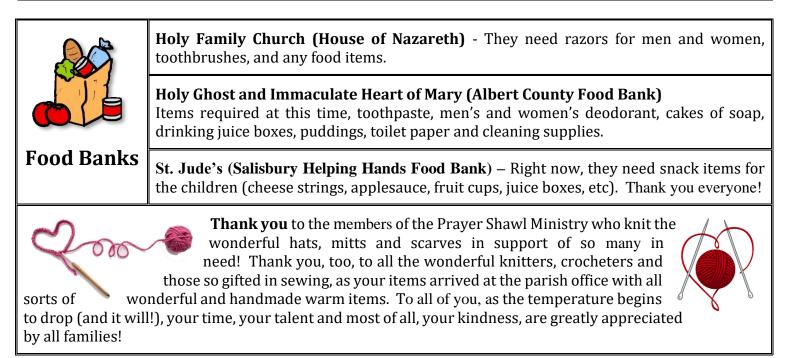
Page 48, Sourcebook 2022

Liturgies for Weeks – January 6th to 15th, 2023

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Peoples Park Tower Friday, January 6 th Friday, January 13 th	2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	In thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary – Raymond Cormier Linda Bourque – Roger and Judy Bourque
Holy Ghost Church Saturday, January 7 th Saturday, January 14 th	4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Evilena Kendrick – Beulah Morrissey Gerald Stuart and Scott Stuart – Donna Stuart
Holy Family Church Saturday, January 7 th Saturday, January 14 th	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Ellen and John Gill (Anniv) – Marie Gill-McGee and Dan McGee Emma Thompson – son, Eric and Vivian Thompson
St. Jude's Church Sunday, January 8 th Sunday, January 15 th	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	For the People Special Intention for encouragement -Ainsley Mongraw
Immaculate Heart of Mar Sunday, January 8 th Wednesday, January 11 th Sunday, January 15 th	y 11:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jean and Jeanne Caissie – Bob and Helena Vaughan In gratitude for prayers from the parish – Doris Arsenault Corinne Kavanaugh (Anniv) – Al and the girls

Daily Readings for the Week of January $9^{th} - 15^{th}$, 2023

Monday (The Baptism of the Lord) Tuesday	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Hebrews 2:5-12	Acts 10:34-38	Matthew 3:13-17 Mark 1:21-28
Wednesday	Hebrews 2:14-18		Mark 1:29-39
Thursday (St. Marguerite Bourgeoys)	Hebrews 3:7-14		Mark 1:40-45
Friday	Hebrews 4:1-5, 11		Mark 2:1-12
Saturday	Hebrews 4:12-16		Mark 2:13-17
Sunday (2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6	1 Corinthians 1:1-3	John 1:29-34



Exploring Our Faith A(NOTHER) CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

When I was a child our Christmas tree went up either on or just before December 24th, and came down January 6th, a day referred to by my parents as Old Christmas Day. Likely unbeknownst to them, my parents were in sync with the rhythm of the Church in their preparation for, and celebration of, Christmas. Despite the fact that the coloured lights that have graced our communities for most of December (or longer) have, mainly, been extinguished, for the Church, we are still in the Season of Christmas and will remain here until after the Baptism of the Lord. Another of the feasts of Christmas is the Epiphany of the Lord, that day when the Magi were led by the Star to the place where the Babe lay, which we celebrate today.



For the Bennett's this year, Christmas was a particularly special one - all 7 of us were together, a rarity when two of us live on the other side of the country. Added to that, with the usual complications of holiday travelling affecting so many and experienced by us also, to finally all be together, was, as our daughter-in-law said, a real Christmas miracle. We know there were many who spent their Christmas at an airport. Thinking about the difficult journey Jordan and Randi had to join us, I think of the wise men and expect their journey was as complex, maybe more so as camels don't get to their

destinations as quickly as planes. ;)

"Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice..." Isaiah says. What does it mean to gather together? When taken in the context of family and friends - Isaiah speaks about sons and daughters - we usually gather for one of two reasons, to celebrate or to mourn. The Magi have gathered because of an epiphany, an understanding which has come to them, that something quite significant is about to happen, significant enough to warrant travelling considerable distance to witness the event. Their awareness likely grew after much reflection.

Upon arrival at their destination, Matthew tells us, the wise men "were overwhelmed with joy." That's the way Wayne and I felt when we finally, after many delays, altered plans and adjusted routes had our son and daughter-in-law home. We had dealt with a late night long drive to Halifax in the midst of a wind and rainstorm. They were cranky having had to re-organize their schedules, arriving 3 days and many hours later than they were supposed to, with frequent stops and starts, minus their baggage which had been 'lost.' But we, tired though we were, had hearts that were rejoicing.

It was likely not what the Magi were expecting, a child who was "born king of the Jews" sharing the space of animals. Were they cranky I wonder? Disappointed? Disillusioned? Scripture indicates not. "They knelt ... and paid him homage" we hear. Often the way of life and the plans we make for it goes differently than we expect or prepare for. A deeper perspective brings insights, however. Regardless of how long it took, how different and difficult it was, how much we had to change our expectations, the memories of those days spent together will continue to sustain us, until we can all gather again. And having shared the treasures provided by that gathering, we too, with the wise men, will head down "another road" to whatever this Christmas experience will have given us. Let's continue to celebrate the Season, and the miracles it offers, if only we are open to them.

Ellen Bennett

Christmas Message from Fr. Phil



Christmas is more than a single day. It is a season, and the Christmas Season officially comes to an end this year on Monday, January 9th with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Whenever something comes to an end, it's almost always followed by a time of reflecting back on why I even had that time at all. Like a cow ruminating and regurgitating its food, I find myself asking these questions: what did this season offer me? And how am I better because of it?

At the end of this Christmas Season a line from Scripture is staying with me. It's a line from the Prophet Isaiah, and we heard it

proclaimed as part of the first reading at Christmas Eve Mass. It reads: **"For a child has been born to us, a** son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, *Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Wonderful Counsellor is the name resonating with me. This Jesus whose birth we mark every December 25th is like a **counsellor**, a wisdom figure, an elder, someone full of advice, a leader who blazes a path before us. Where he is leading us to is a **wonder-ful** place, a place full of wonder.

The last couple of months have been particularly challenging for me, but one monkey is finally off my back. We all experience struggles and times when the light at the end of the tunnel doesn't seem to be getting any closer. One of my saving graces in the last two months has been watching nature documentaries on Netflix, including ones narrated by David Attenborough. After watching a nature show, I would go to bed with a sense of wonder at this planet we live on and the complexity of life forms within it. Wonder, and not the anxiety and stress of the day, carried me into dream world. Despite our personal struggles and the struggle of the world, we continue to live in an astonishing, and dare I say "miraculous" world. Seeing both the fragility yet resilience of this planet, I feel the need for myself to recover a sense of awe, of wonder, of amazement, and of reverence both to form my heart and expand my soul. I need a wonderful counsellor. Here's a little story about the precious gift of wonder.

Several years before his death, a remarkable rabbi, Abraham Joshua Heschel, suffered a near-fatal heart attack. His closest male friend was at his bedside. Heschel was so weak he was only able to whisper. "Sam," he said, "I feel only gratitude for my life, for every moment that I have lived. I am ready to go. I have seen so many miracles during my lifetime." The old rabbi was exhausted by his effort to speak. After a long pause, he said, "Never, once in my life, did I ask God for success or wisdom or power or fame. I asked for wonder, and He gave it to me."

Apart from nature, children have the most to teach us about the world of wonder. Try going somewhere in a hurry with a four-year-old who is pausing to talk to butterflies and picking every dandelion in sight, and you will be re-introduced to the world of wonder. Perhaps that's why God needed to come to us in the form of a child.

Although we are at the end of the Christmas Season, my prayer and wish for you is that wonder, surprise, amazement, and reverence remain with you every day in 2023.

On behalf of myself and the other elves on staff, thank you for your cards and words of support. It is appreciated at this time and all year long. May the Wonderful Counsellor bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.



Thank you to each and every one of you who put such enormous effort into making the Advent and Christmas liturgies meaningful. The music ministries in each of the churches outdid themselves and our communion ministers, lectors, greeters, ushers, those who stacked chairs and vacuumed floors, we are grateful for all of you! And the pièce de résistance, the churches were soooooo beautifully decorated – the lights and candles, the flowers and fresh greenery, the decorations – all created a prayerful and beautiful atmosphere. We are blessed within this grouping, of that there is no doubt.



Throughout Advent, funds were raised across our parish grouping for various charities and organizations helping those in need.

To all who gave to **Nazareth House** - \$490.00 was raised!

To all who gave to **YMCA Reconnect** (for the homeless) – over \$1,050 was raised plus multiple deliveries of gloves, hats, scarves, blankets and more!

To all who gave to **Karing Kitchen** – over \$500 was raised through 'Let's Do Lunch'!

And we know that there were many other organizations and families who benefited from so many generous and caring people that we have in this grouping. Warms the heart!

Holy Ghost Church



To help create a wonderful and welcoming environment for the Christmas season at Holy Ghost Church, a donation was made in remembrance of Tracy and Ralph Dowe by Anne. We apologize that this memorial donation was missed in the list published in the last bulletin.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

The family of **Helen Vaughan** would like to invite you to an Open House to celebrate her fabulous, fantastic, and forever-loved-by-us **80th birthday** on Sunday afternoon, January 15th from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Dan Bohan Centre.

Best Wishes Only!

Although we're a bit late, we offer our congratulations to:

Dave and Pat Daigle on their 60th Wedding Anniversary (December 29th) Jim and Sylvia Young on their 62nd Wedding Anniversary (also, December 29th)

As these years have come and gone, these couples have cared for one another, supported one another, and loved one another and as their faith community, we are grateful for the loving example that they set. God bless each of you!

The Feast of Epiphany



The Magi travel towards Bethlehem and their pilgrimage speaks also to us, who are called to journey towards **Jesus**, for he is **the North Star that lights up the sky of life and guides our steps towards true joy**. What made these men of the East set out on such a journey? Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in his homily in 2013, "the Magi were 'men with a restless heart'. They were filled with expectation, not satisfied with their secure income and their respectable place in society. They were seekers after God."

The Magi teach us that we need to set out anew each day, in life as in faith, for faith is not a suit of armour that encases us; instead, it is

a fascinating journey, a constant and restless movement, ever in search of God, always discerning our way forward. As restless seekers, let us remain open to God's surprises. Brothers and sisters, let us dream, let us seek and let us adore. (vatican.va)

Happy Anniversary Holy Family Church!

In 1963, the part of St. Bernard's Parish that was beyond Jones Lake was separated out to form

Holy Family Parish, with Fr. Angus MacDonald as the first pastor. (1963-1968)

During this time, Mass was being celebrated for these families in the chapel at Sainte Bernadette's School and although the parishioners moved out of Sainte Bernadette's in 1964,



Holy Family Church was officially blessed and dedicated on January 10th, 1965.

On Tuesday, Holy Family will celebrate its 58th anniversary!



Trevor 857-4879 or <i>trevord.diocese@gmail.com Karen LeBlanc - 387-4198 or <i>karen.diocese@gmail.com

Faith Experiments Express! Children in grades 1 through 6 are invited back to Faith Experiments Express where we use interactive science experiments to teach about God and Scripture. Sessions are conducted via Zoom and our next session will take place January 9th at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, Contact Karen at 387-4198 or <u>karen.diocese@gmail.com</u>. Register online at <u>www.diomoncton.ca</u> \rightarrow Pastoral Offices \rightarrow Youth Faith Development.

Formation for Parish R.C.I.A. Teams Mark the dates! We are pleased to offer a series of four virtual formation sessions led by Catherine Ecker, a lead Canadian voice in Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.). Each session will take place on Zoom and run from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The dates will be **January 30th**, **February 13th**, **March 6th**, and **March 20th** and upon the completion of four sessions each participant will receive a certificate from the Archdiocese. This formation is designed for Parish R.C.I.A. teams and others involved in sacramental initiation but is open to anyone interested and would like to learn more.

Contact Karen at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com.

Register online by <u>www.diomoncton.ca</u> \rightarrow Pastoral Offices \rightarrow Adult Faith \rightarrow Formation Opportunities.

Conversations Around Death and Dying (Rexton/Richibucto)



Since 2016, a diocesan committee has been offering formation and information sessions in response to the legalization of medical assistance in dying (MAiD). One theme arising from these sessions was that many of us are uncomfortable discussing the subject of death. However, honest conversations (about values, good palliative care, or advanced care planning) can help to improve the care we receive at the end of our lives. In response to this,

the diocesan Committee looking at End of Life Pastoral Care is planning a session for **Saturday, January 28th at Immaculate Conception Church in Rexton (10 School Street) from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** The session will be led by Pam Driedger, member of the Adult Faith Commission and a Director of Spiritual Care at the Moncton Hospital with Horizon Health Network. The aim of this session will be to help families start conversations about death and dying before circumstances force them to. How can families and loved ones accompany those who find themselves struggling with illness, pain and difficult medical circumstances?

Register with Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198, <u>karen.diocese@gmail.com</u> Online at www.diomoncton.ca \rightarrow Pastoral Offices \rightarrow Adult Faith \rightarrow Formation Opportunities

A few notes on donations.....



DONATE AND HELP

If you gave to any charitable organization through your church (cash or cheque made out to the church), your donation will be added to your church receipt for the year. All cheques written directly to any charitable organization were forwarded directly on

and you can expect an income tax receipt from them.



Using Your Envelopes - We ask that you use your **2023 envelopes** but, if you need to, and you do use an envelope from 2022 or earlier, please write you name on the envelope.

We want to make sure that you get credit for your donation/offering. Thank you!



Need Envelopes? - If you would like to have a box of 2023 envelopes, please just give Anne a call at the office and one will be prepared for you!

Thank you.

Weekly Offerings for all Churches (December 19th, 2022 – January 1st, 2023)

Holy Family & Peoples Park Tower (incl PADs)

Church Support \$5,990.50; Loose \$876.00 Maintenance Fund \$792.50 Christmas \$1,065.00; New Years \$526.00

St. Jude's Church (incl PADs)

Church Support \$1,922.00; Loose \$115.00 Christmas \$490.00; New Years \$185.00

Holy Ghost Church (incl PADs)

Church Support 1,532.00; Loose \$79.25 Christmas \$510.00; New Years \$135.00 Initial Offering \$45.00; Cemetery \$100.00 Fuel \$175.00

Immaculate Heart of Mary (incl PADs)

Church Support \$15,778.00; Loose \$2,643.00 Property Upkeep \$1,033.00 Youth \$76.00; Social Action \$475.00 Christmas \$4,730; New Years \$935.00