

EPIPHANY of the LORD

JANUARY 3, 2010



Epiphany of the Lord, January 3, 2010 By Father Greg Friedman, O.F.M

If one phenomenon marks our modern world, it's instant communication. The message you're listening to is just one way we interact at the speed of light. I sat at a computer to write this short reflection, and then someone took it—via the Internet—to edit and prepare so that it might be heard on our Web site or over the radio waves. If you wish, you could download the very text I originally typed. I still marvel at all the ways we can communicate today. Today's feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is a feast that celebrates communication. The Gospel we read today portrays Jesus, the Word Made Flesh, revealed to the nations, as the wise men arrive to pay him homage. Whatever the historical facts behind the story, the message of faith is that God is reaching out to us, communicating to us the Word Made Flesh. That's communication that has transformed human history. God's revelation in Jesus has a power surpassing all our modern technological "miracles," because it speaks to our hearts. Are we listening? Are we open to the Word? Let's become modern channels of God's communication to the world in this new year, using our gifts—whatever they may be—to pass on the message of the Good News, that Love is born in our midst.

SCHEDULE of MASSES

Monday, Jan. 4 th	Prescott	8:00 A.M.	Terry Murray ++++++ Beverley Toye
Tuesday, Jan. 5 th	Prescott	8:00 A.M.	In Thanksgiving ++++++ Jack & Sue Bradley
Wednesday, Jan. 6 th	Prescott	4:00 - 7:00 - ADORATION	
	Prescott	7:00 P.M.	Etta Whitney ++++++ Wayne & Lois Boisvenue
Thursday, Jan. 7 th	Prescott	8:00 A.M.	Vincent Bonneau ++++++ Gilles & Germaine Trudeau
Friday, Jan. 8 th	Cardinal	9:00 A.M.	VanDenDam & Degroot Families +++++ Mary VanDenDam
Saturday, Jan. 9 th	Prescott	5:15 P.M.	Veronica Regan ++++++ Don & Colleen Regan & Family
Sunday, Jan. 10 th	Cardinal	9:00 A.M.	Intentions of all St. Mark & Sacred Heart Parishioners
	Prescott	11:00 A.M.	David Garrah ++++++ His Wife, Mimi

Sunday Offertory : DECEMBER 27 - 09
 Christmas Offering:

St. Mark - \$1516.85
 St. Mark - \$3370.55

Sacred Heart - \$ 320.00
 Sacred Heart - \$1358.00



Thank you for your Generosity

PARISH MINISTRIES' SCHEDULE FOR MASSES ON JANUARY 10th & 11th, 2010 - (2nd Sunday)

MASS	USHERS	READERS	EUCCHARISTIC	GIFT BEARERS
Sat. 5:15 - Jan. 9 St. Mark	Clayt Paquette, Bob Wardrop Matt Leonard	Sue Daigle	Beth Gallagher John McAuley	Germaine & Gilles Trudeau
Sun. 9:00 -Jan. 10 Cardinal	"To be determined"	Ann Dunlop	Chritina Edge Toupin (C)	Joan "To be determined"
Sun. 11:00- Jan. 10 St. Mark	Tony Jozefowicz, Gerry Botting, Jessica Gillis	Alanna Whelan	Julie Coligan, Klaas deVries, Tom Whelan, (C)	The MacDonald Family
CHILDREN'S LITURGY - BAPTISM OF THE LORD			SUNDAY JANUARY 10 th - JULIE LaROSE	

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE BULLETIN EDITOR:

It's great to be back doing the Bulletin again after my 2 plus months of recovery. I'd like to sincerely thank Brent Laton for taking over from me and for doing such a super job in my absence. Sincere thanks go out to Fr. Appelman for looking after my spiritual needs and for his visits. Special thanks to all my fellow parishioners at St. Mark & Sacred Heart for their heartfelt prayers, cards, telephone calls & best wishes for my speedy recovery. I also would like to thank my own special 24 hour nurse , Beverley. Most of all, thanks to our Blessed Saviour for getting me through, what was the toughest time of my life.
 Praise be to God. Bernie Currier.

ENVELOPE USERS - Since envelope numbers may change from year to year, you are kindly asked not to use envelopes from previous years. If old envelopes are used, there is a risk that your donation will be credited to the wrong account if it goes unnoticed. Also, please check the information on the label and report any required changes to **Brent Laton, Financial Administrator** at 613-925-3313. Necessary changes will be reflected on your 2009 income tax receipts.

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USHERS NEEDED: St. Mark is in need of **Volunteers** for ushering especially on **Sunday at 11:00 AM**. Please spare 5 minutes of your time in service to the **Lord** by calling **925-4060**

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2010 will be held from **January 18th - 22nd**, 2010, at **St. John's United Church on Dundas Street**, in **Cardinal**. Once again each church will lead a short time of worship, reflection and song. It begins at **12:00 noon** each day. **Sacred Heart's day will be Tuesday, January 19th**. After the sermon, each church prepares a light lunch for the congregations afterwards, downstairs.

A free will offering is usually made by the participants.

ST. MARK CATHOLIC GIRLS' LEAGUE will meet **Sunday, January 3rd** for a **Pizza/Movie** night beginning at **5:00 pm** and ending at **8:30pm**.

This meeting will be held at the home of **Diane Jozefowicz, 101 Sophia St. S., Prescott. (613-925-5133)** Go all the way to the school bus and you'll find us.

Please use the RIVERSIDE entrance to the house. Girls, remember to wear your bracelets!

SPECIAL WELCOME: As you probably know almost every country around the world has what we call an **Apostolic Nuncio** that means a representative or Ambassador from the Vatican; since 2001 the one in Canada has been Archbishop Luigi Ventura. The Nuncio always lives in Ottawa and is the direct link between the Catholic Church in the country and the Vatican. As you can imagine he is very much involved whenever bishops are appointed or when they come up for retirement. **Archbishop Luigi Ventura** was transferred to France last September. And just a few weeks ago a new Nuncio was appointed by **Benedict XVI** and his name is **Archbishop Pedro Lopez Quintana**. He was born in Barbastro Spain and was Nuncio in Madagascar, the Philippines and India. He comes well qualified and speaks English, French, Italian and Portuguese apart from his native Spanish. We welcome him and pray that he may have a good influence on the catholic Church in Canada....In the same way almost every country has an Ambassador or representative at the Vatican.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK: (ALL NORTH AMERICAN).

****January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, (1774-1821)**, the first native born American Saint, foundress of the American Sisters of Charity; she died in Maryland, and was canonized in 1975.

****January 5: St. John Neumann**, of the Redemptorist Order, born in Bohemia, bishop of Philadelphia, great in starting parochial catholic schools. He was canonized in 1977.

****January 6: Blessed Brother Andre** of Montreal, born in Quebec in 1845, and died in 1937; worker of many miracles through his devotion to St. Joseph; founder of St. Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal, beatified in 1982; he will probably be canonized in 2010.

An Angel Says..... " live your life so that there will be those that will thank God that you lived."

Pastor's Message

January 3, 2010

To begin with I wish all of you a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2010**. And together we pray that it may be a good year for all us in many ways. We pray for good health, for our daily bread, for peace in our small and big world, and for God's graces and support on our way to Heaven; for we know that all of us will again be one year closer to that day when he Lord will call us and invite us. May we all grow in holiness through the graces of the Sacraments and through our living of both the corporal and the spiritual Works of Mercy.

And then for today a very special word of **THANKS** now that we have completed another Season of grace, the Season of Advent and of Christmas. In this word of thanks I wish to include both our parishes because mutatis mutandis it refers to people and events in both parishes. First of all a thank you to all people who came to the sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation and came to attend the many Masses of the Christmas days; they were for all of us days of grace and a renewal of our faith and love of the Lord, who has come to us in our days of joy and in our days of anxiety or sorrow. We may at times be tired of the many preparations and being caught up in the pre-Christmas rush, but we never get tired of celebrating the **Birthday of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. I thank all who participated in the many different ways; the lovely Nativity play before the Christmas Eve Mass at 5 PM., all the players and the organizers. Then a special thank you to all who participated at the many Masses: **the readers and Eucharistic ministers, the ushers and collectors, the Knights of Columbus and in particular the choirs** in both churches with well prepared singing at all the Masses, and in particular **the organists** in our parishes and don't forget the **faithful altar servers**. Thank you to all who did their best to participate in the singing of the familiar Christmas carols and the chants of the Mass.

A special word of thanks for your many offerings in the collections on these days. See the numbers in another column of this bulletin. And as a general word of thanks we greatly appreciate all who use their Sunday envelopes all the time. (Make sure the last few envelopes at our entrances are picked up, and become a regular donor; the church cannot live on thin air; expenses are constant) As an addition to this I like to thank all the many people, both in the parishes, and also from outside who have sent me personal gifts and so many Christmas cards, together with some e-mails adding up to some 135. I am always struck by the little notes that people write inside their cards words of thanks and encouragement. May God love and bless you for all your kindness and generosity.

Not to forget: a special thank you to all who helped to decorate the two churches so beautifully for the Christmas season; it looked really great and especially visitors make good comments on this. One Up! Sad to say, the day will soon come to take down the decorations and store them safely for the next Christmas.

I wish you all God's choicest blessings for the New Year.

Father J. Appelman, M.F.M., Your Pastor

The Epiphany

Our word "**Epiphany**" is derived from a Greek one meaning "manifestation" or "apparition" and applies the appearance of God on earth in some distinctive manner. One of the greatest of these was the apparition of God in three Persons at the baptism of Jesus Christ in the river Jordan. This is why we call this feast commemorating the baptism of our Lord, "the Theophany." While it is true that in the early history of the church, a number of Christ's manifestations were celebrated under this title – especially His baptism, His first miracle at Cana, His Nativity and the coming of the Magi – it is fairly clear that His baptism was the principal event commemorated in this feast.

To gain a deeper understanding of the word "**Epiphany**," it is necessary to consider its use in times past. When a ruler paid a visit to one of his cities he would be greeted with great pageantry. He appeared in full regal pomp and his visit was marked by feasting and colourful celebrations. Such a festive visitation came to be known as an epiphany, or even "**theophany – an appearance of God**," as if a divinity had come to earth. When the Son of God appeared in the river Jordan to be baptized there was indeed both an epiphany and theophany in the truest sense of the words.

Another name for the feast is the Enlightenment or Illumination. In the early centuries catechumens were baptized on the vigil of Epiphany or on the feast itself. Because baptism was often called enlightenment or illumination by the early Fathers, the feast on which it was administered acquired the same name. That catechumens were baptized on this day is evident from the fact that in the liturgy, the Trisagion is replaced on this day by the verse from Galatians 3:27: "**All you who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, alleluia.**" The name enlightenment can be applied to this feast for yet another reason. The Word made flesh appeared publicly in the river Jordan – "Today You have revealed Yourself to all the world" (kontakion) – and this day, therefore, marks the appearance of the Light of the world and the beginning of His teachings, miracles and graces – "and your light, O Lord, has sealed us: (kontakion). It is only proper, therefore, that this day be called the enlightenment (Mt. 4:16).

The Epiphany is indeed a great feast. Liturgically it renews the joy of Christmas, shows us the incarnate God in a new light, and deepens our appreciation of the Incarnation itself. It is, in fact, so much like another Christmas that even the services are similar. As Christmas is the manifestation of the boundless love of God for man, so the Epiphany is the great revelation of the divinity of our Lord. The two feasts thus supplement one another. The Epiphany proclaims that the little Child of Bethlehem is really God pointing from earth to heaven. Christmas, on the other hand, tells us that God became for us a little Child, tracing his descent from heaven to earth. Where at Christmas only shepherds saw that the Word was made flesh, at the Epiphany the voice of God the Father summons the whole world to adore Jesus.

For in celebrating the baptism of our Lord, the Church also intends to proclaim the mystery of the Holy Trinity against the heretics. This is why the appearance of the Holy Trinity

is repeatedly mentioned throughout the liturgy.

The liturgical unity between Christmas and the Epiphany is due to the fact that originally both the birth of Our Lord and His baptism were celebrated on the same day, January 6, under the name of "Theophania." After the introduction of Christmas as we know it, probably in the fourth century, the Epiphany lost its former significance as the day of Christ's birth; but traces of the simultaneous celebration of these two feasts remain in the liturgy to this day. The fourth century Fathers often felt compelled to explain the differences between them. St. Gregory of Nazianzus, preaching probably on December 25, 380 A.D., after referring to the birth of Christ assures his hearers that they shall shortly celebrate the baptism of Christ. Similarly, St. John Chrysostom says that Christ did not appear at His birth openly and to all, but only to a few persons. So little was His divinity known that John the Baptist was able to say: "There has stood one in the midst of you, whom you know not." (Jn 1:26). But from the moment of His baptism His divinity was evident to all, and consequently the feast kept in honor of Christ's baptism is called the Epiphany. Hence the complementary roles of both feasts. Yet Chrysostom, in a sermon preached in 386 A.D., calls the Nativity the parent festival; for had Christ not been born, neither could He have been baptized.

Among the various services connected with the feast, the solemn blessing of water is of special interest. This blessing customarily took place outdoors at a river or pond. Today, however, for practical reasons this solemn blessing takes place in church, usually before the dismissal at the end of the Divine Liturgy. The colorful and elaborate ceremony commemorates Christ's descent into the water of Jordan and begins with the reading of passages from the Prophet Isaias foreshadowing the baptism of Christ. After a short Epistle and Gospel, a long litany follows, in which the Church prays for the blessing of the Holy Spirit to descend upon the water and give it the power to cleanse those "who accept it with faith and drink it," preserve them from spiritual and corporal illness, enlighten their minds, bring God's blessing upon their minds, bring God's blessing upon their homes, assist their prayers and supplications and help them reach the heavenly kingdom.

After the litany, a lengthy prayer is recited by the priest. This prayer, composed by St. Sophronius, patriarch of Jerusalem, is interrupted three times: once when the celebrating priest blesses the water, with a three – branched burning candlestick; second time he breathes upon the water; and again when he blesses it with his hand. At the end of the ceremony he submerges the hand cross into the water, making the sign of the cross in it, and singing the troparion of the feast. The priest then sprinkles the church and the congregation with the just blessed water. Then the faithful come forward to receive the water to drink and to take home. During the days following the feast, the priest visits his parishioners and blesses their homes, a custom retained to this day.

The liturgy of the Epiphany expresses mysteries connected with Christ's baptism in basically simple language. It directs our attention to Christ's baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan.