

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

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Epiphany of the Lord – January 6, 2019

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)
Sunday – 9:00 AM

Confessions

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Always available upon request.

Please pray for our sick and shut in parishioners.

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Don Appel, Dolores Hampton, Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, George Stock, Jerzy and Irena Klimczek, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, David De Beer, Brian Lloyd, Jackie Belair

Last Sunday Offering

\$1,143 Envelopes Number of envelopes: 38 (48.7%)
\$ 176 Loose
\$1,473 Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

Reflection on Sunday's Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12

In continuing our Christmas celebration, today's Gospel tells one of the best-loved stories of Christmas. Almost everyone knows the story of the three Wise Men, the Magi, who come in search of the newborn King, Jesus. The Church calls the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus the *Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*.

The word "Epiphany" means *manifestation or revelation*. The dictionary defines the word *manifest* as "to be clear to the eye or to the mind; to prove beyond doubt." The first Epiphany is Christmas Day when Jesus is manifested to the shepherds. The shepherds at Jesus' birth see beyond a doubt that the Christ Child is the long awaited Messiah. *The shepherds represent the Jewish people or the Chosen People of God.*

The second Epiphany is when Jesus is manifested to the three Wise Men, the Magi, who travel to Bethlehem to visit the newborn King. As well, the Wise Men see beyond a doubt that the Christ Child is Saviour of the world. *The Wise Men represent the Gentile people of the world.*

The third Epiphany that closes our Christmas Season is celebrated next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. The heavens open up and the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus and a voice came from Heaven, "You are My Son, the Beloved, with You I am well pleased. *God the Father and the Holy Spirit represent the Divine that reveals the true identity of Jesus as the Son of God.* Thus, in our Christmas Season we have the shepherds, the Wise Men and God and the Holy Spirit who clearly states beyond doubt that Jesus is the Messiah, the Saviour, and the Son of God.

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, we celebrate a decisive moment in God's plan of salvation, the revelation of His Son to the Gentiles. St. Matthew contrasts the faith of the Gentile visitors and the unbelief of the Jewish leaders. The Gentiles have answered the call to faith in

Christ, whereas the Chosen people have for the most part rejected it. The Jews, the chosen people of God, missed what they had been anticipating for centuries. They were blind to the birth of the Saviour; foreigners though were not only aware but took action to honour Him.

We gather together at our Mass as a God's children in response to His calling to an ever-new and ever-fuller life in His Son, Jesus. Each and every Sunday liturgy is an invitation to kneel in thanksgiving, to pay Jesus homage, to encounter and receive Him in Word and in the Holy Eucharist, and to offer Him the gift of ourselves. Here in this Mass, within the Sacred Host, we encounter Jesus who is present before us and in our midst. Jesus is as present to us now as He was then in Bethlehem to the three Kings.

Fortified by Jesus' grace, after Mass we go back to our daily lives to live out and pass on the Good News of our salvation in His Son, Jesus, to all people. Within our faith community we come to experience the abundant life God desires for us, and together we shine as a bright light which, like the star of Bethlehem, leads others to Christ. Together let us resolve to ever more faithfully manifest Christ's presence in our family and in our world.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Why is it called the Mass? The word Mass is derived from the final words of dismissal in the Latin rite: "*Ita missa est.*" "Go, you are dismissed or sent out." In the first centuries of Catholicism, Latin became the universal language of the Roman Empire. The Latin "Missa" or Mass, means a "dismissal," or a "sending away." Thus, the whole Eucharistic celebration was known as the Mass, "Missa." At the dismissal, the priest says, "*Go forth, the Mass is ended.*"

A Canadian Saint – St. Andre Bessette – January 7, 2019

Brother Andre expressed a saint's faith by a lifelong devotion to St. Joseph. Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War.

At 25, he applied for entrance into the Congregation of the Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of St. Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, St. Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!" When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread.

When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "St. Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year. For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and planted medals of St. Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected 200 dollars to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying St. Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931 there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of St. Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92. He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that St. Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."