



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

January 04, 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6*. The prophet is trying to cheer the exiles by foretelling the glorious future of the new Jerusalem which is not yet rebuilt. The special radiance of God will illuminate it. Gentiles will bring their riches to it. From East and West peoples will flock to it. The Feast of the Epiphany is the feast which commemorates the manifestation of God to the Gentiles. This manifestation began when the Wise Men from the East came to Bethlehem to pay their respects and offer their gifts to the newly-born king of the Jews. Though the words of Isaiah were not understood by his hearers as referring to this event, it was only in the coming of the Magi, to welcome Christ, that they were really fulfilled.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3; 5-6*. St. Paul's thoughts in his prison in Rome are not for himself nor for the fate that awaits him. He is thinking instead of the mission Christ gave him, to evangelize the Gentile nations. He has done much already, and even in prison he does all he can to continue the good work. He writes to his Gentile converts from Rome, to remind them of their great privilege in being called to the Christian faith. They are now God's new Chosen People, they are now members of Christ's mystical body.

The **Gospel of today's feast**, is from the *Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12*. The Magi are the central personages in today's feast of Epiphany. They were pagans who did not know the true God of the Jews. Yet that true God revealed to them that the King he had promised to the Jews had come. The expected Prince was born. They came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king—a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their past history, but utter indifference as regards the present and the future. These leaders knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; they must have realized that the Magi were very sure of the truth revealed to them—they would not have come such a long journey on a "fool's errand." In spite of that, the thought of going to Bethlehem with the Magi never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to Christ and in spite of his miracles refused to admit his claim that he was not only the promised Messiah, but the true Son of God. These were men who rejected him because he had mercy on sinners, and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their Messiah was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like Herod they ended with murder—the crucifixion of the "King of the Jews." The pagan king was not much worse than the indifferent leaders of God's Chosen People. Let us resolve to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer Christ all that we have and are.

—Adapted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honor Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles (*Ceremonial of Bishops*). It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts.
—*Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year*, Msgr. Peter J. Elliott, Ignatius Press

Collection
December 28, 2025

Envelopes	\$575.00
Loose	\$5.00
Christmas	\$5.00
	\$585.00

New Years Day
January 01, 2026

Envelopes	\$135.00
Loose	\$20.00
Initial Offering	\$50.00
	\$205.00

Notices:

1: Church De-decorating: We will be removing the church decorations after mass today January 4th. If you can, please stay and help.

2: Move into the Guadalupe Chapel– This Sunday January 4th will be our last Sunday in the main church, following mass we will set up in the Vestry and move in there for the winter.

3: Calendars: There are a few Catholic Faith calendars, from T.W. Curry's, at the front of the church, free for the taking.

4: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet again starting on Thursday January 8th, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

5: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee get togethers will resume on Wednesday January 7th, 9:00 – 11:30 am, at the District 10, Red Islands Fire Hall. Drop in and visit with your friends and neighbours. Cards, games and puzzles are available. Everyone is welcome.

6: Richmond Recreation has launched an **new** online registration and payment system for recreation programming (including drop-in classes). Recreation staff are available to assist all participants with the registration process if required. We encourage participants to reach out for support and assistance with this process.

7: Combined Chair / Yoga will be on Wednesday's, Starting January 14th Time 1.30pm - 3pm 8 weeks , fee \$30. There will **not** be a floor yoga during the winter.

8: Bye Bye January (Bonfire, Hot Chocolate and Rummoli Game)

Red Islands Fire Hall Friday, January 30, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Sponsored by: District 10 Volunteer Fire Dept. Contact: Debbie Johnston, 902-304-0558

9: Cribbage Tournament L'Ardoise Community Centre

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 pm Sponsored by: L'Ardoise Recreation Club Contact: Andrée Sampson, 902-587-2201 andreesampson48@gmail.com