

The Epiphany of the Lord

Parish Update: January 4, 2026



*"We observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay homage to the Lord."
(Matthew 2.2)*

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK JANUARY 5TH TO JANUARY 11TH

Monday, 5th	<i>Ferial</i>	
Office Closed		No Mass
Tuesday, 6th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	+Victoria Raco	(M Pakyanayagam)
	+Dianne Kowalchuk	
Wednesday, 7th	<i>St. André Bessette – Memorial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	All Souls in Purgatory	(T Miketic)
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday, 8th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	+Karin Cooksey	(Dn M&F Prindiville)
6:45-8:15 p.m.	Choir Practice, Church	
Friday, 9th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	Holy Souls	(N Vendittelli)
	+Joseph Vendittelli	(N Vendittelli)
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday, 10th		
3:30-4:30 p.m.	<i>Confession</i>	
5:00 p.m.	+Catherine & +Ron Winterbottom	(Serwatiak Family)
Sunday, 11th		
9:00 a.m.	The Baptism of the Lordi	
11:00 a.m.	+Dave Cole	(T&K Gerden)
	Sp. Int. of Fr. Peter Walton C Morawek)	

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends: It is my sincere hope that the Christmas season has brought you great joy, sharing time with family and friends, reflecting upon the hope and peace won for us by Christ. While most of us has not hesitated to say, "Merry Christmas" to our family and friends who are fellow Christians, each of us is aware of the possibility of pushback from others

whose faith life is not known to us. We may even have been challenged by an individual who reports being "offended" by this expression. It has long been my belief that non-Christians are the least likely to be bothered by a warm seasonal greeting of this nature and that it is rather those who may well share our faith but believe that all expressions of faith are to be kept out of the public sphere, who would frown at its use. There are also those who seem to feel that they need to apologize for the fact that Christianity has been the dominant and foundational religion in North America and that we are somehow diminishing those who do not share this faith. My basis for this supposition is in large part due to corporate decisions and public policies made by those with a Christian background in the belief that this is what the majority wish to see. Yet, when polled, most are perfectly fine with this annual celebration of Christmas and all that goes with it. I wish to share with you a column by Lorrie Goldstein of the Sun Newspaper chain back in 2011 speaking on this subject. I would be surprised if she were a lone voice.

"Being Jewish never interfered with my enjoyment of Christmas or my love for this time of year... Indeed, I cannot remember one time growing up –or any incident to this day— where I found anything about the Christmas season offensive, or to interfere with my own celebration of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, at this time of year... I've never understood buy-body bureaucrats and officious officials who want to ban the symbols of Christmas at this time of year for the sake of not offending "religious minorities". Um! Which religious minorities? Be specific and don't presume to speak for me and all sorts of other folks who are not Christian. You know, for a member of a religious minority like myself, Canada is a pretty cool place. It provided a safe haven to my late father and his family after they were smuggled out of Russia in the early 20th Century during an anti-Semitic pogrom, which, trust me on this, were a lot more dangerous to Jews than Christmas trees or carols. Indeed, as one of the relatively few countries on Earth that guarantees religious freedom and uses the power of the state to protect minorities from religious persecution, Canada is all right by me. And Christmas is part of Canada. So, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah, everyone!"

In our own day, major retailers have flip-flopped on this issue, to try to ensure that sales remain at a premium. For instance, early in the 2000's, Sears and Walmart altered their policies to re-introduce "Christmas" to their advertising slogans and in-store signage. You will notice that our own Canadian Tire also uses the term "Christmas". So, there is nothing new under the sun as we read in Ecclesiastes. But, for as long as you and I walk this earth, may our voices boldly proclaim that these days in late December and early January are ones in which the birth of our Saviour is highlighted –Merry Christmas everyone!!

Fr. Richard

Pope's Prayer Intention for the Month of January

For prayer with the Word of God:
Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

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2026 Offertory Envelopes – 2026 Offertory Envelopes are available at the main entrance of the church. **PLEASE recycle** any **OLD** contribution envelopes as that number maybe allocated to another member. If you did not use envelopes in 2025 and want to start, please contact the parish office to get a box. Clearly print your information on the first couple of envelopes used in 2026. Thank You!

Automated Fund Transfer (AFT) & E-Transfer Contributions – if you are interested in setting up setting up AFT contributions for the new year. Please see the office for the form. E-Transfers can be made to starofthesea@saintcd.com Please note all AFT and E-Transfer contribution are appreciated. We thank everyone for their continued support.

World Day of Marriage – Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 3:00pm. The Annual Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Gerard Bergie at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria (Corner of Church and Lyman Streets, St. Catharines, ON) Celebrating All Married Couples especially those with significant 2026 Anniversaries. Reception to Follow. No registration needed. All are welcome.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU), January 18-25, 2026. Every year, Christians from a different host country choose the theme and provide draft texts for the WPCU, with a final booklet being published in turn by an international writing team jointly appointed by the [Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity](#) and the [Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches](#). **This resource may be used to promote prayer for unity in your parish and is available on the WPCU website: - in English: [2026 WPCU Resources – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) - in French: [Ressources pour la SPUC 2026 – Semaine de prière pour l'unité des chrétiens](#)**

PRAYER ANGELS Our ministry is set up to pray for the parish's intentions. Please send by email or phone your concerns or cares and they will be passed on to the members of this group who will daily offer up your intentions to the Lord. Prayer is powerful. Let us help ease your troubles or shower the Lord with praises. Please call or email Marg 289-214-6679 mgmartin113@gmail.com

'He who prays most receives most.'
St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

CWL CORNER
(Catholic Women's League)
Here I am Lord, send me
(Isaiah 6.8)

E-transfer payments for CWL may be made to cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com. Please remember to indicate which event in the subject line.

Happy New Year to you all from the members of the Catholic Women's League, Star of the Sea Council! Won't you consider joining us in 2026? We have many worthwhile

activities planned for the coming months and all ladies are welcome to join us!

Membership dues of \$40 are being accepted via e-transfer at cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com or by placing a clearly marked envelope in the collection basket.

Our next **General Meeting** is Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m., in the church hall. Refreshments will be available!



Jan. 10 th / 11 th	5 P.M.	9 A.M.	11 A.M.
Ministers of Holy Communion	B / L MacNeil	Dn Maurice	R Eckstein
Lector	P Waters	A VanKralingen	A Piller
Hospitality Ministers	J & P Merritt C Tracey	W Riddle K Gilmore C DeLuca	Bott Family

WEEKLY COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:

December 21, Christmas & 28th, 2025

	Dec. 21	Christmas	Dec. 28
Parishioner Envelopes	\$15,014.00		\$ 2,986.00
Loose Collection CAD	\$ 652.00	\$ 1,236.00	\$ 308.00
USD	\$ 10.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 0.00
Christmas	\$ 5,995.00	\$ 9,370.00	\$ 330.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 155.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Diocesan Needs	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Deo Gratis	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 40.00
Initial Offering	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 135.00
Total Offertory	\$21,846.00	\$10,628.00	\$ 4,299.00
December E-Transfers			\$ 1,430.00
Our Special Needs	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 115.00

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU

