

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

We celebrate today the second of four great manifestations of God in our midst. The word 'epiphany' comes from Greek and it means a 'showing' or 'manifestation'. We call today's feast the Epiphany of our Lord. The first of these four manifestations we already celebrated on December 25, when God revealed, manifested Himself to us in the form of a helpless, newly-born infant. He is presented as born homeless and in poverty and surrounded by the poor and outcasts (that is what the shepherds represented).

In today's feast, we see the same recently born Baby in similar circumstances but the material and social surroundings are hardly touched on. The emphasis here, as we shall see, is different. Here are strangers, foreigners, total outsiders coming to give royal homage to this tiny child. Who were these "wise men" and where did they come from? In the Greek text they are called magoi (magoi) which is usually rendered in English as "Magi". We are not told what their names were or how many of them there were. Tradition settled on three, presumably because there were three kinds of gifts. And they were also given names – Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior. We are told, too, that they came "from the east". This could be Persia, East Syria or Arabia – or indeed any distant place. **We might ask ourselves, what are the stars in my life?** The wise men saw the star and followed it. The people in Jerusalem did not. How and to what is God calling me at this time? **Where does He want me to find Him, to serve and follow Him?**

An Epiphany House Blessing 2023

During our liturgy the chalk will be blessed. Using the blessed chalk write above the home's entrance, **20 + C + M + B + 23**. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2023 is the year.

"In this house all must be friends, all must be loved, all must be held dear, all must be helped!"

St. Teresa of Ávila

Parish statistics for 2022:

New families – 16
Baptisms – 11
First Communions – 17
Confirmations – 9
Marriages – 2
Funerals – 11
Visiting the sick - 20

Mass Intentions January 9, 2023 – January 15, 2023

Monday, January 9, 2023 – **No Mass**
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 – **No Mass**

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – **No Mass**

Thursday, January 12, 2023 – **No Mass**
Memorial of Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

Friday, January 13, 2023 – **No Mass**

Saturday, January 14, 2023 –

9:00 a.m. – + **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

5:00 p.m. – + **Pat Shields** – *Pat Wilkins*

Sunday, January 15, 2023 – **10:00 a.m.**

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

– **Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

Following the Diocesan Initiative to "Come Home for Christmas" we have suspended live-streaming from our church at this time.

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar

January 9 – **Baptism of the Lord**

January 10 – Rev. Fernando Ferreira Pinto, C.S.Sp.

January 11 – Sisters of St. John the Baptist (C.S.J.B.)

January 12 – Rev. Allen Varlaki

January 13 – Rev. Jerzy Tomon

January 14 – Rev. Aurimas Paulius Rudinskas

January 15 – **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Serra Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations

O God, You have constituted Your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind; grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Amen.

Vocations

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ's name? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin, contact:

Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations
(905-528-7988); vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

OR

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Vocation Office

71 Indian Trail, Toronto, ON M6R 2A1

vocations@omiap.org

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preparing For Confirmation & First Communion & Reconciliation

Gift Bearers: We welcome our Reconciliation/First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates and their families as they bring the offertory gifts to the altar on the following dates:
January 8 – 10 a.m. – Tanner Sereda and family

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - The Eucharist is the center and origin of the life of the Church. Therefore, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is taking place Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., in our church (Divine Mercy Chapel). We would like to invite our parishioners to sign up for adoration and dedicate at least one hour a week to be with Jesus and nourish your spiritual life. To sign up, please contact Elisabeth at 519-590-5348. **"If you are passing before a Church, enter to greet our Lord. Could you pass the door of a friend without saying hello?"** St. Jean-Marie Vianney

Mass Intentions for 2023 – In order to provide an equal opportunity to all members of our parish, who would like to request Mass intentions in 2023, I would propose the following: Each family may reserve 1 Saturday Mass and 1 weekday Mass. This is based on the number of registered families. Please make your requests over the next several weeks. After January 27, 2023, we will accommodate any available request, for as many Mass intentions as you wish. In 2020, I introduced a Mass with Multiple Intentions, in order to respond to the needs of our parishioners. These will continue, on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Stewardship Report December 25, 2022

Envelopes	\$ 2565.00
Loose	\$ 550.00
Votive Candles	\$ 124.15
Flowers	\$ 5.00
Building Fund	\$ 115.00
Building Fund – In Memory of	
L. O'Donnell	\$ 65.00
Christmas	\$ 3063.00
Initial Offering 2023	\$ 25.00

Thank you for your support of our parish.

Pierogies – Still Available

We still have about 2 to 3 boxes of pierogies available. If you are interested in purchasing some more pierogies, please call the parish office at 519-743-4525.

Euchre – The games are scheduled for every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and will take place in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. For information, call Chris - 519-575-1692.

Mental Wellness Support Group - Mental wellness is a challenge for many people. In addition, great pressure has also been placed on the people who care for and support their struggling loved ones. If you are having difficulty assisting a loved one with mental health issues please know you are not alone. **Every 1st Wednesday of each month**, there will be a support collective for those supporting loved ones afflicted with mental health issues. The group will meet in St. Teresa Parish Hall, at 7:00 p.m. **Please note:** This is a peer directed group and support comes from peers sharing lived experience, information and resources with each other. The discussion is not guided by a professional.

Canadian Food for Children - Thank you to all who donated to CFFC before Christmas. We received 37 boxes of cereal and baby food, 14 dry goods and 4 cans of soup. These items will be sent to poor countries where people are starving and in need of the daily necessities that we take for granted.

Catholic Women's League Nominations and Elections – all members who have paid their membership for 2023 are eligible to nominate a member and hold office. **Please prayerfully consider letting your name stand for a position on the executive.** An information letter and nomination form has been emailed or handed to or mailed to members who don't have email. (January 1 - 6). Return filled nomination forms in a sealed envelope marked 'CWL Nominations' and put in the collection basket on this weekend and January 14/15.

ALPHA 2023 ... Coming soon to St. Mark Parish

All are welcome to join this 11-week program, bringing people together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus; helping to answer questions like: Who is Jesus? Why and how do I pray? Does God heal today? Join us Thursday evenings, **February 16 to April 27**, from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m. at St. Mark Parish Hall (55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener). For more info, or to sign up, please contact Ron Denomme at rondenomme@gmail.com or 226-748-3210.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

BIBLE SUNDAY 2023:

The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time marks the celebration of Bible Sunday in the Diocese of Hamilton. At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how #TheBibleSpeaks in our hearts and within our communities of faith.

The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2023. Visit our website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks/> for more information.