

# St. Louis Catholic Church

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Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1890.

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**Parish Secretary:** Anna Malton [stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com)

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**Custodian:** Doug Lichty



## Epiphany of the Lord

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## MASS INTENTIONS and EVENTS

<b>Monday, January 8 – Baptism of the Lord – No Mass</b>			
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball		Gym
<b>Tuesday, January 9</b>			
<b>9:00 AM To Bring your Loved Ones Home to the Church</b>			
9:30 AM	Book Group		L. Hall
7 PM	CWL Anniversary Planning Mtg.		L. Hall
<b>Wednesday, January 10 – No Mass</b>			
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball		Gym
7 PM	SVDP Meeting		L. Hall
<b>Thursday, January 11 – No Mass</b>			
<b>Friday, January 12 – No Mass</b>			
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball		Gym
<b>Saturday, January 13</b>			
<b>Vigil of The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>			
5:00 PM	† Eugene & Beatrice August – Krause Family		
	† Catherine Forde – Pat & Joan Forde		
	† Members of Estrada Family – Estrada Family		
	† Phyllis Ertel – Larry Ertel		
<b>Sunday, Jan. 14 – The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>			
9:30 AM	† David & Norma Kirby – Kirby Family		
	† Edna Ertel – Larry Ertel		
	† John Brattman	Carla McLennan	
	10:30 AM	Sunday Social	L. Hall
11:30 AM	People of St. Louis Parish		
	12:30 PM	Bible Timeline Study 1/12	L. Hall
	5:00 PM	OOTC Community Supper	Gym

### Reflection on the Gospel Mt 1:1-12

In today's Gospel, we encounter the wise men who come to pay homage to Jesus. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem evokes His Davidic kingship and messianic role. Traditionally, it was thought that the wise men were part of the Persian priestly class. Now, they are considered to be astrologers, or astronomers who charted major events based on their study of the stars and planetary movements. They could be Persian, but theologically what is most important is that they were Gentiles.

Their reference to the "child who has been born king of the Jews" clearly agitated Herod, who already bore the title "king of the Jews." Fearing the advent of a rival to his throne, the help Herod offered the wise men was insincere and a ploy to discover this rival and do away with him. Yet, we see God's hand guiding the wise men. God's plan of salvation cannot be thwarted by human endeavours to the contrary, and the Gentile wise men prove themselves attentive and open to God's guidance.

The gifts of gold, frankincense allude to today's first reading, wherein Gentile nations bring luxury goods and their worship to Jerusalem in recognition of God's universal kingship. The account of the wise men in Matthew's Gospel presents their meeting with the false king of the Jews, Herod, and their subsequent encounter with the true king of the Jews, Jesus. In finding the true king, they pay homage indicating their submission to Jesus' authority and the proper attitude towards God. The wise men are the first Gentiles to worship Christ, prefiguring the Gentiles in the second reading and fulfilling the prophecy in the first reading. (From Workbook for Lectors)

**Resurrectionist Vocation Minute** - St. Augustine of Hippo once wrote: "our heart is restless until it rests in you." We all have a star, that "something more" we're longing for - no matter how empty or fulfilled life may be for us right now. Do you believe God calls us through these longings? It's a risk to acknowledge and set out for that something more - but if we don't take the risk, how will we discover what God is calling you to through it? Read more at [www.resurrectionists.ca](http://www.resurrectionists.ca)



As the Christmas decorations come down some people write the following on their front doors with a chalk that was blessed for the occasion on the feast of the Epiphany.

**20 \* C † M † B † 24**

A key to the code:

- The '\*' symbolizes the star that led the wise men to Jesus.
- The letters 'C', 'M', and 'B' signify the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first three letters of the Latin phrase 'CHRISTUS MANSIONEM BENEDICAT' which means 'May Christ Bless the house'.
- The three crosses '†' signify the Holy Trinity made known to us through the Incarnation.
- Encompassing them all is the year we have just entered into: '2024'. It is a nice devotion for Epiphany – great for families – and is an active reminder for us through the year of the wonder of Christmas.



(Pieces of the blessed chalk will be available at the back of the church.)

### Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar: Who were the three wise kings?

Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar have gone down in history as the Three Kings. They are an essential part of every Nativity set.

The three men came from the so-called East, now from the Middle East. Their costume, described as oriental, indicates that they came from Persia. There, the sages were probably astrologists. In this function they observed the rise of a new celestial star at Christmas time.

This star appeared in the sky with a bright tail and, according to modern scientific studies, probably was not a comet, but a close encounter of the two planets Jupiter and Saturn.

Many legends intertwine around the lives of the three men, whose appearance is usually described as quite rich. One of them says that each of them was named bishop from Apostle Thomas. In addition, they are said to have worked as successful missionaries and died one after the other. According to another legend, the Magi were buried in a common tomb, which is said to have been found by St. Helena in 326. In July 1164 the bones arrived in the Cathedral of Cologne, where since then they rest and are venerated as relics in the sanctuary of the Magi.

**The three wise men: the meaning of names** - The name Gaspar comes from Persian and means "treasure keeper" or "treasurer". Gaspar is often depicted in images as an African with dark skin colour and presents myrrh as a gift. Myrrh is a symbol for humanity and is in some interpretations also associated with the later suffering of Jesus.

Melchiorre is a Jewish name and stands for "King of Light". He has European characteristics and brings gift of gold. Gold is considered the most precious commodity worthy of a king, the Son of God.

The name Balthasar also comes from Hebrew and means "God save his life" or "God will help". Translations of the name from Ancient Syrian also read "God save the king. It is associated with an Asian origin. He carries incense, which is considered a divine symbol.

**Epiphany cake** - The Dreikönigskuchen (Three-Kings-Cake) is a popular sweet cake made for the Epiphany day. It is known in England as "King's Cake", in France as "Galette des Rois" and in Spain as "Roscón de Reyes". Although the recipes are very different, all cakes have one thing in common: a good luck charm in the shape of almond, coin, bean or porcelain figure is baked into the cake, making the person who finds it a family king for a day.

**Three Kings Parade** – In various European (Spain, Poland, Czechia) and South American cities there are parades on the day of this Feast. Each parade is unique, but all include three kings and a destination of a stable with Mary, Joseph and Jesus. (From [lignoma.com](http://lignoma.com))



**First Communion** - Classes will begin Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:40 AM - 11:50 AM in the Nursery. If you have a child in gr. 2 and would like to have the Sacrament celebrated here at St. Louis parish please register with Kelly Krause either through email or at the parish office.

**Looking ahead to St. Louis Mid Winter Potluck Dinner and Ceili Dance** (Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>) – If interested in helping with set-up, decoration, or during the event (even for a short time) – please contact the office or come to the Planning Meeting on Sun. Jan 7 at 10:30 AM in the L. Hall.

**COMING UP IN 2024**

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD – THE MYSTERY OF JESUS' PASSION** – Study of Passion Narratives from St. John's Gospel with Bible scholar Frances Hogan. This 8 part study focuses on the second half of the Gospel of John, known as the Book of Glory, detailing how Christ prepared His disciples for the upcoming task of spreading His Gospel message. Thursdays at 1 PM, starting on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All welcome to attend any or all sessions.

**THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE TIMELINE STUDY – SALVATION STORY MADE CLEAR**

The Bible Timeline® Study Program is a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows how 14 of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives the keys to understand the amazing story woven through Scripture. Unique colour-coded chart, helps to learn about the people, places, and events of the Bible and reveals the remarkable story of our Faith. (The presentations have been updated since last studied in 2015.) Offered either on Monday nights at 7:30 PM starting Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 OR on Sundays at 12:30 PM (till 1:40 PM with substantial snacks provided.) starting on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>. (No sessions on long weekends etc.) 12 sessions during Winter/Spring 2024 & 12 sessions during the Fall of 2024. Contact parish office to sign up. Materials provided, or workbook can be purchased.

**Book Group** (meetings on Tuesday mornings after the daily Mass at 9:30 – 10:30 AM) will resume on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and we will continue with "My Sisters the Saints" spiritual memoir by Colleen Carroll Campbell.

**Baptism of the Lord – Reflection on the Gospel Mk 1:7-11**

The Gospel begins with a description of John the Baptist's proclamation of "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." John the Baptist calls the people to repent so that they might be forgiven; however, he immediately states that another is coming, more powerful than he is, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. It is God's power that effects holiness while the baptism of John the Baptist serves as preparation for a more profound renewal and change.

John the Baptist speaks with strong language that marks him as decidedly inferior to the one who is coming, Jesus. The untying of sandals emphasizes the servant/master relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus. This is reinforced by the lack of a detailed description in Mark's Gospel of Jesus' baptism by John. Instead, the emphasis is on the vision immediately following Jesus' baptism. The tearing open of heaven here foreshadows the tearing of the Temple veil at Jesus' death since the same Greek word is used in both verses.

Both verses also precede a description of Jesus as the Son of God. At Jesus' baptism, the heavens tear open to allow for this communication between heaven and earth and the descent of the Spirit upon Him. Jesus hears God' voice identifying Him as "my Son, the Beloved". God's acknowledgement of Jesus as His Son reveals Jesus' ultimate ministry: to bring salvation to all the world, including both Jews and Gentiles. (From *Workbook for Lectors*)

**Young Adults Night** - Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30-7:30 PM), social with food (7:30-8 PM), praise night and vocations testimony (8-9 PM), and Compline (9 PM) on Friday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Michael Catholic Church (80 University Ave. W.t, Waterloo). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more info., contact: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

**ALPHA 2024:** On Thursday evenings, February 22 to May 2 at St. Mark's Parish Hall (55 Driftwood Drive). Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. Plan to join us – all are welcome! To learn more, contact Denise Case at [stmarkalpha@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkalpha@gmail.com).

**Bible Sunday** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time is coming up (this year Jan. 21, 2024). As a preparation, we can ask ourselves a question: Are Catholics Bible Christians? As Catholics, we are 100 percent Bible Christians—that is to say, the Catholic Church believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God and, as such, according to the Second Vatican Council, the Bible "stands as the support and energy of the Church, the strength of faith for her sons, the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life" (Dei Verbum 21). Therefore, Catholics are indeed Bible Christians—and there is perhaps no other aspect of the Catholic faith that exemplifies this more than the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Familiarity with God's Word leads one to conclude that the Catholic Mass is not a foreign experience from the Bible. In fact, its structure, its words and gestures, and its built-in theology are embedded in the pages of sacred Scripture. An examination of this "Bible blueprint" leads to the discovery that Catholic worship is truly a biblical style of worship. In many of the bulletins in 2023 we included prayers taken directly from the Bible. Over the next few weeks (if space in the bulletins allows) we will look at Biblical quotations which correspond to the text of the Mass. Here is the basis of the gesture that starts all our prayers:

**Sign of the Cross:** "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt 28:19; cf. John 14:13-14; Acts 2:21)  
 Matt 28:19 *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.*  
 John 14:13-14 *And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.*

Acts 2:21 *and it shall be that everyone shall be saved who calls on the name of the Lord.*

(From [catholic-resources.org/Bible/Biblical-Mass-Texts](http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Biblical-Mass-Texts) and [catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/the-mass-is-profoundly-biblical](http://catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/the-mass-is-profoundly-biblical))



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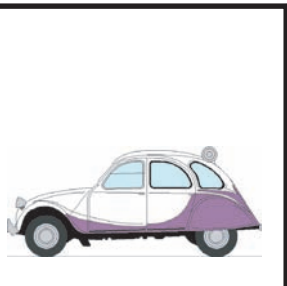
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