

Holy Spirit Catholic Parish A Welcoming Community

1489 Shea Road, Stittsville, ON K2S 0G8

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PASTORAL TEAM

Father Geoffrey Kerslake, Pastor, pastor@holyspiritparish.ca
Alex Ducharme, Youth/Sacramental Coordinator, youth@holyspiritparish.ca
Administrative Assistant, admin@holyspiritparish.ca

Epiphany of the Lord



We have come to Homage Him.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



January 5 – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60.1-6
Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6
Matthew 2.1-12

January 12 – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42.1-4,6-7
Acts 10.34-38
Luke 3.15-16,21-22

Parish Calendar

Mon, Jan 6
Tue, Jan 7 St. André Bessette
7:00 pm Mass
Wed, Jan 8
9:00 am Mass
Thu, Jan 9
9:00 am Mass
Fri, Jan 10
9:00 am Mass
Sat, Jan 11
4:15-4:45 pm Reconciliation
5:00 pm Mass
Sun, Jan 12 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
*Confession available before morning Mass 8:30-8:50am

Beware of Suspicious Emails from the Priests!

Fr. Geoff will **never** ask parishioners for money, gift cards or favours by email. As Christmas approaches, Scammers are hard at work trying to fool us. If you receive an email supposedly from Fr. Geoff that looks suspicious, call the parish office. Do not respond to the email. Call anytime if you have questions! It's a sad reality that scammers use priests' names to prey on the generous good will of parishioners.



Offering A Mass

Parishioners are invited to have a Mass said for those who have passed away, or for anyone you know who could benefit from the spiritual graces that come with having a Mass said on their behalf. Have a Mass offered in thanksgiving or celebration, in memory of a loved one, or for special intentions for a friend who is suffering. There are many fruits and graces that result from having a Mass said. Don't miss out on these graces for yourself and those you love! Find a reason to have a Mass offered today. Remember to arrange your Mass requests well in advance as dates fill up quickly. For more information, visit the Parish Office, call 613-836-8881 or email admin@holyspiritparish.ca

Mass Intentions

Tue, Jan 7 – 7:00 pm
†Ray Mulvihill by Garvey Family
Wed, Jan 8 – 9:00 am
Intentions of Margaret Mulvihill by Marion & Patricia
Thu, Jan 9 – 9:00 am
Intentions of Colin Bahen by Dolores & Warren Bahen
Fri, Jan 10 – 9:00 am
Intentions of Fr. Geoff by Cenacle Marian Movement of Priests
Sat, Jan 11 – 5:00 pm
†Domenica Buglisi by Maria & Tony Mandolia
Sun, Jan 12 – 9:00 am
†Mary K. Bleskie by Bernard & Esther O'Malley
†Thérèse Boudreau
Sun, Jan 12 – 11:00 am
For the intentions of all parishioners



Please pray for those who are sick:

Please pray for those who have died: †

†Indicates Deceased.

Have You Moved in the past year?

Call or email the Parish Office to be sure we have your new mailing address before income tax receipts are printed and distributed. Please help us stay up to date!



See someone new at the church? Did you know we are all Ministers of Hospitality? Why not approach this person and say:

- ◆ Hi, my name is . . . I've been a parishioner for ___ years, I'm not sure if we have ever met.
- ◆ What is your name?
- ◆ Are you new here?
- ◆ Before you leave, let me introduce you to Fr. Geoff and some other parishioners (introduce them to your friends and/or ministers in the parish).
- ◆ I hope that I meet you again, I usually sit in this pew. If you are here again next week, please join me.
- ◆ Have a nice week!

*we HAVE seen
HIS STAR in the east
and have come to
WORSHIP HIM.*

Sunday Reflection:

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The origin of the Solemnity of the Epiphany is complicated. The short version goes something like this: from early in the Church's history, there has been a practice to celebrate in January three significant events in the life of Christ: the arrival of the Wise Men to adore the child Jesus, his baptism by John in the Jordan River, and his first public miracle (turning water into wine at Cana in Galilee). What these three events emphasize in different ways is the revelation of Christ's divinity and the foreshadow his mission.

Fr. Geoff

Significance of the Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh:

The gifts the Wise Men bring foreshadow the Messiah's role as a Redeemer-King: the gold is a gift appropriate for a king; myrrh was used as part of the preparations to anoint a body for burial (and this foreshadows his three days in the tomb after the crucifixion); and frankincense is used in religious ceremonies to make a sacrificial offering acceptable to God. Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed on the altar of the Cross for our sins and offered to God on our behalf. The gifts are appropriate for a king but they foreshadow a different crown and throne for him: a crown of thorns and a wooden Cross.

Fr. Geoff

Understanding the Mass – The Prefaces to the Eucharistic Prayer:

The Prayer immediately before the Eucharistic Prayer is called the "Preface". There are many different ones that reflect the special feasts during the liturgical year but the first part of all of the Prefaces is the same. It begins with "The Lord be with you" (and the people respond: "And with your spirit") and it continues with "Lift up your hearts". The people's response is: "We lift them up to the Lord". In the final part of the dialogue, the priest says: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God" and the response is: "It is right and just". This response reflects the fact that thanking God is not only the right thing for us to do, but considering everything that God has done for us, it is the just thing to do as well. We owe God our thanks for His goodness and blessings and this response highlights that reality. The rest of the Preface varies with each of the individual ones but we notice that the language in general follows the more formal and dignified way of speaking to God that we are now accustomed to using in the New Missal.

Fr. Geoff

SUNDAY MISSALS The 2024-2025 Sunday Missal, "Living with Christ" is available for purchase in the Parish Office at \$5.00 each. Please call the Parish Office for assistance. Limited supply – get yours early.

Help Needed Counting Parishioners at Weekend Mass: We are looking for volunteers to count parishioners at the weekend Masses. We have the handheld counters. It involves counting how many people come to a Mass and recording the number in a log sheet in the sacristy. We are hoping to collect some 'hard data' on attendance. If you can volunteer to count at a Mass on a rotating schedule, please contact Alex at youth@holyspiritparish.ca

Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care *Gathering together to share meaningful conversations to better understand palliative care so that our parishes and families become Compassionate communities, rooted in the mercy and tenderness of the living Christ.* Sundays: Feb 9 – Mar 2 from 2:15 - 4:15pm at Holy Redeemer Parish. Questions or to register: contact Michael at olsentsai@rogers.com or call Holy Redeemer: 613-836-1764

STITTSVILLE FOOD BANK

Thank you to all parishioners who share with those less fortunate in our community. Monetary donations are best right now but toiletries, toilet paper, tissue, juice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat, salmon and tuna, rice, cereal, cookies, crackers, coffee and tea are also needed. Please check expiry dates on donations. Please do not leave food outside, but bring your donations during office hours or when you come to Sunday Mass.

Ottawa Challenge Weekend Retreat The 176th Challenge Weekend takes place on **January 10-12, 2025** at Sacred Heart Catholic High School. The emphasis in the Challenge Weekend is a youth-to-youth approach, a live-in weekend environment, a group discussion format and a team approach. Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 25. The cost of the weekend is \$40.00 which includes all expenses (meals, accommodations, supplies, etc.) For those unable to cover the registration fee, assistance can be arranged. For more details and to register visit www.ottawachallenge.ca/signup-post/ Registration closes January 8, at 11:59pm.

For e-Transfer please send it to admin@holyspiritparish.ca and use the password: Holyspirit (all one word with a capital H).

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