

Christmas Flower Donations - Sacred Heart

Donation Given By:

**Christmas Flower Donations were made in
Loving memory of :**

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The Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord – Some Musings
“... they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

There are many songs and stories surrounding the visit of the Magi to the manger in Bethlehem; stories of gifts being brought to the new born King. Some of my favourites are those of the young people bringing gifts to Him. There's The Little Drummer Boy and possibly my favourite, Garth Brooks' song The Gift. These songs tell of these children thinking how unworthy the gift they bring is and yet in the eyes of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, these are gifts beyond price. Then of course, there are the poems and stories that surround this event. The Story of the Other Wise Man is one of my favourites.

It tells of Artaban, the Magi who was to meet the others but is waylaid by a number of trials. His gift was a number of precious gems. On his travels, Artaban comes to the aid of a very ill Hebrew living just outside the walls of Babylon. As he continues his travels he assists others in need and gives away most of the precious gifts. His quest comes to an end in Jerusalem where Jesus is being crucified. His gifts had eased the pain and sorrow of many people. His final gift to the Lord is the last of his gems, a pearl of great value which he uses to save the life of a young woman about to be sold into slavery.

So what gift do we bring to the King of Kings? It's easy to think that those gifts we lay at the feet of the Lord are unworthy. Yet these stories and poems remind us that whatever we do to the least of these His brother or sister, we do to Him. We can think that the gift we have is meant for someone else and we keep it for that person, or we think our gift is too small to honour our Lord and Saviour and we don't give it to Him. Or we can think that we're not worthy to kneel at His feet and pay Him homage. However, we need to remember that the Giver of the gifts to each of us, had a purpose for the receiver of that gift in mind.

As I watch the beauty of the natural world that we're blessed with, I see those natural beauties returning their gifts to Him each in its own way. We're meant to do the very same thing. No matter what our gift may be it's meant to be used by us to help spread His good news to all we meet. Imagine what our world would be like if all the creatures created by Him hoarded their gifts, never allowing us to see the beauty of sunrise or sunset, of sun and rain. It certainly isn't a very happy thought is it? Perhaps our gifts aren't what we consider "rich" but we've got them and we'd best use them.

The other day I watched the rain as it pelted down on my windows and while I wasn't happy about the rain I knew that the world needed to be watered and washed. The gift of rain allows us to appreciate more fully the gift of sun. I hear the geese as they honk overhead, flying from one pond to another and I'm sure that raucous sound is not less loved by the Father than the sweet song of the gold finch. Growing up, I heard the hoarse sound of the magpie set in juxtaposition with the beauty of the sound of the meadowlark and I know that those sounds were appreciated equally by their Maker.

As we ease back into our usual routine we need to take stock of our gifts and find ways to use them to help others, to build a better, kinder world, and to ensure that we don't sadden the Giver of the gifts by letting them lay idle and unused. Let's make sure that the gifts we have are well used remembering that no gift is too small or too large to lay at the feet of our crucified Saviour. Wishing you a week of many blessings many small miracles.

Betty Bruch

JANUARY 5, 2020

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart Church
24 Albert St.
Langton, ON



St. Michael's Church
978 St. John's Road
Walsh, ON



Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:00 pm
Sunday – 8:30 am (St. Michael's)
Sunday – 10:30 am

Daily Mass

Tues. – 5:00 pm
Wed. to Fri. – 9:30 am

Reconciliation

20 min. prior to weekday mass
Sat. 4-4:45 pm
Sun. 8-8:20 am, or by appt.(St. Michael's)

Mailing address

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Fr. Thomas e-mail: tckuriacko@dol.ca

Parish Clergy

Rev. Thomas Kuriacko, Pastor
Jack Grim, Deacon
Brian Hanley, Deacon

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 9 am – 4 pm;

Baptisms – Contact Rev. Thomas—6 months notice **Marriages** – Contact Rev. Thomas— one year notice required
Schools – Sacred Heart, Langton - St. Michael's, Walsh - Our Lady of Fatima, Courtland

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Today we celebrate the feast of Epiphany. The Magi not only observed the signs of the time- they followed the star – but also drew conclusions from them. Whoever they may be, God touched these “wise men from the East.” They readily responded to God's call and set out without fear though the way was unknown and dangerous. A glimpse of the Lord, and presenting of gifts to Him- that was their aim, and no hazards, however great, could stop them.

Today's feast reminds us that Christmas is something which happened long, long ago but is not all over: it's message is still alive and lasts for ever. The light that shone that day still shines, it is never extinguished. The message of 'great joy' proclaimed by the angel is still a reality. It says: God has appeared and remains with us for ever as Moses foresaw: “the whole world will be full of God's glory.” (Numb.14:21)

The Gospel speaks of human problems. We will not find our happiness in our homes, in our own narrow circles of family and friends. We have to go out of ourselves. Man must always be engaged in his quest till he realizes the ultimate goal: eternal life. On the road to life we have to face many troubles and many trials. Contrary to their expectations, the Magi had to meet with problems and difficulties on their journey. They naturally looked for the 'new-born king' in palaces, and their disappointments began there. But far from giving up, they continued their search. Finally, they arrived at their destination: in an insignificant place, in conditions unthinkable for a King. But their faith gave them assurance and they affirmed: “Yes, here is the King, the Saviour of mankind.” Their courage and wisdom had led them to the Lord.

The gospel narrates: “They bowed to the ground and adored him.” And they offered their gifts: Gold (the most noble and precious metal), frankincense (symbol of adoration, sacrifice), and myrrh (symbol of Christ's redeeming death on the cross). Faith is God's gift which reveals to us His salvific plan. The Magi labored hard and persisted in their search to find the new born babe, King of the universe, in Jerusalem, though no one else bothered about him. They remained steadfast to the end, faithful to the light and inspiration which had awakened them. And God fulfilled their dream, and they returned with great joy, having seen God Himself.

Epiphany took place especially for us. We must be touched by this saving act. On our part we too must respond to God's sign like the Magi and give ourselves as gifts to God as He gave Himself to us. As God's self-giving is an act of love for us, so too our offering must be a sign of our love for God.

Fr. Thomas

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON			
DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	BY
Tues Jan 7/20	5:00 pm	• Mariette Sinnesael	• Bernadette Couture
Wed Jan 8/20	9:30 am	• For a family member struggling with health	• Suzanne
Thurs Jan 9/20	9:30 am	• Stella Loncke	• Wilfreda Loncke
	1:45 pm	Epiphany of the Lord School Mass for STMS at STMC • Deceased members of the VanDyk-Deconinck Families • Jeanne DeLeebeek	• JoAnn Deconinck • Annie Racz
Fri Jan 10/20	9:30 am	Epiphany of the Lord School Mass for SHS at SHC • Elza Bolle	• Langton CWL
	1:45 pm	Epiphany of the Lord School Mass for OLFS at OLF Gym • Holy Souls in Purgatory	

DATES TO REMEMBER		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon Jan 6/20	7:00 pm	CWL Langton Meeting
Tues Jan 7/20	8:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Langton Meeting
Wed Jan 8/20	7:00 pm	CWL Walsh Meeting
Thurs Jan 9/20	1:45 pm	Epiphany School Mass for STMS at STMC
Fri Jan 10/20	9:30 am	Epiphany School Mass for SHS at SHC
Fri Jan 10/20	1:45 pm	Epiphany School Mass for OLFS at OLF Gym
Tues Jan 14/20	7:30 pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Wed Jan 15/20	7:00 pm	First Reconciliation

FOR SALE FARM DUTY 5HP 220 SINGLE PHASE MOTOR FOR SALE
At Sacred Heart Church, Langton, there is 1 5HP 220 single phase motor for sale, only used for a short time. Cost \$300. Anyone interested, please contact the Parish Office at 519-875-4438.

LITURGY ASSIGNMENTS FOR SACRED HEART, LANGTON	
JANUARY 4/5	
<i>Saturday (5 pm)</i>	
Lector:	Rita Weiler
Eucharistic Minister:	Matthew Weiler
<i>Sunday (10:30 am)</i>	
Lector:	Godelieve Townsend
Eucharistic Ministers:	Mary Lamont, Juliet VanLeuvenhage
JANUARY 11/12	
<i>Saturday (5 pm)</i>	
Lector:	Marlene Vandewiele
Eucharistic Minister:	Deacon Brian
<i>Sunday (10:30 am)</i>	
Lector:	Bryan Cairns
Eucharistic Ministers:	Deacon Brian, Elaine Boyd

2020 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES BOXED SETS
The 2020 boxed sets of Offertory Envelopes are available for pickup at the back of the church before and after all weekend Masses.

SUNDAY MISSALS
The Living With Christ Sunday Missals for 2019 – 2020 are available for purchase at the back of the Church . The price is \$5.00 each. You may also purchase your copy at the Parish Office during Office Hours.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – DEC 21/22, 2019	
St. Michael's	
Regular Envelope	\$ 620.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
Loose	\$ 75.00
Sub-Total	\$ 715.00
Sacred Heart	
Regular Envelope	\$ 1,571.00
Thanksgiving Appeal	\$ 65.00
Christmas	\$ 420.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 10.00
Loose	\$ 125.00
Building Fund	\$ 30.00
Sub-Total	\$ 2,221.50
Total	\$ 2,936.50
WEEKLY OFFERTORY – DEC 24/25 & 28/29, 2019	
St. Michael's	
Regular Envelope	\$ 575.00
Christmas	\$ 572.25
Loose	\$ 60.00
Sub-Total	\$ 1,207.25
Sacred Heart	
Regular Envelope	\$ 1,904.00
Thanksgiving Appeal	\$ 1,120.00
Christmas	\$ 6,604.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 65.00
Loose	\$ 62.10
Building Fund	\$ 110.00
Sub-Total	\$ 9,865.10
Total	\$ 11,072.35

THE PORT DOVER/ WALSH ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
Would like to thank all of those who contributed in any way to our Christmas basket drive.
Thank you to all who brought in food items, gifts, or contributed a monetary donation; to all who came to help pack and carry boxes; and to the farmers for supplying the potatoes. With your generous donations, you helped to make Christmas a little bit merrier for families in our area who have fallen on hard times.
Thank you, God Bless and all the best to you and your family in 2020.

REMINDER: MOMENTS OF ENCOUNTER RETREAT
The retreat has been rescheduled to Saturday, January 18th, 2020 in the Parish Hall at St. Mary's. We will begin with Mass 9 am followed by the Moments of Encounter Retreat (with lunch at 12 noon) and ending at 1:30 pm. Please register with the Parish Office in Tillsonburg (519-842-3224) no later than January 11th.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER
The Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEC) provides quality preparation for marriage in a weekend retreat presented in a prayerful atmosphere. The weekend is truly a spiritual experience, enriched by the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the Eucharist. The CEC weekend is Catholic in thought, morality, ritual and expression. It gives couples the opportunity to discover the deep meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage within the Catholic Church and offer couples a unique experience which focuses strongly on fostering good communication in marriage and the importance of God in their relationship. The program solidly supports Church teaching in all areas. Available dates are March 6-8 and Oct. 17-19, 2020. Please contact Terry and JoAnne Burrell (St Thomas Aquinas Parish-Sarnia) 519 542-8826, jotab@cogeco.ca.

RETRouvaille
Retrouvaille ("retro-vi" with a long i) has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels of distress including disillusionment and deep misery. The program is designed to provide the tools to help get marriages back on track. The next Retrouvaille weekend is being planned for January 17 through 19, 2020. The weekend retreat will be held at the Michaelite House in Melrose, Ontario (just North of London) To register, please visit www.helpourmarriage.com or call Greg and Anita Turner at 519-243-0687. In Windsor/Essex, the next weekend will be Windsor/Essex Retrouvaille will be the weekend of Feb. 14 – 16, 2020, at Holy Family Retreat House. To register for the Windsor-area weekend, please call 1-800-705-6356 or email at 1015@retrouvaille.org
Retrouvaille is a non-profit organization and the presenting teams are made up of people who have gone through the program themselves and overcome significant obstacles in their own marriages. Everyone involved in organizing and presenting the program are unpaid volunteers.