

EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

Saturday, January 2, St. Basil & St. Gregory Nazianzen

8:30 am - St. John – Gerald & Nancy Willey by the Family
 9:00 am - 9:30 am – *Confessions at St. John*
 3:15 pm - 3:55 pm – *Confessions at St. John*
4:00 pm - St. John – Oney & Mary Jane Dumas by Joanne Weymouth

Sunday, January 3, Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 am - 7:55 am – *Confessions at St. John*
8:00 am - St. John – Barbara McKeon by her parents
9:35 am - St. Elizabeth – Raymond Belanger by his children
11:30 am - Queen of Peace – Mass for the people

Monday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30 am - St. Elizabeth – for those dying in Nursing Homes by Amy Marcinko

Tuesday, January 5, St. John Neumann

8:30 am - St. John – Conversion of John Doe by Amy Marcinko

Wednesday, January 6, St. Andre Bessette

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm – *Holy Hour of Adoration with Confessions at St. John*
5:15pm - St. John – Deceased Members of St. J K of C

Thursday, January 7, St. Raymond of Penafort

8:00 am - St. John -- Monica Karl by Amy Marcinko

Friday, January 8

8:30 am - St. Elizabeth – John Wall by the estate

Saturday, January 9,

8:30 am - St. John –
 9:00 am - 9:30 am – *Confessions at St. John*
 3:15 pm - 3:55 pm – *Confessions at St. John*
4:00 pm - St. John – Roger, Theresa & Reggie Bessette by Mr/Mrs Ed Zuccaro

Sunday, January 10, Baptism of the Lord

7:30 am - 7:55 am – *Confessions at St. John*
8:00 am - St. John – Barbara Caldbeck Lyons by her children
9:35 am - St. Elizabeth – Mass for the people
11:30 am - Queen of Peace – Betty Munson by Deacon/Mrs. David Baker
Confessions at QP before Mass (time permitting) or following Mass as needed

Please keep our parishioners in mind who are ill & in need of your prayers, especially: Pam Austin, Charlene Chase, Connie Lapage, Martin Fortin, Charlie Weis, & Randy Thomas, Dick and Anita Bedor

Jan. 3 2021	St. John	St. Elizabeth	Queen of Peace
LECTORS:	4pm 8:00am	9:35am	11:30am

The **FORMED** program is available to everyone in our parish. To start enjoying this free gift, please visit the FORMED website:

1. Go to: nekcatholic.formed.org
2. Click on REGISTER to create a personal account

Please consider using the Online Giving tool for your weekly donations. Visit our website at: nekcatholic.com and click "Give Online" to sign up!

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, Corpus Christi Conference offers assistance in name of Jesus to the needy in our community. To contact us call: Patrick McWilliams: 274-3542 Ann Lovett: 751-8187; or the Rectory: 748-8129 We will arrange a visit to see if we are able to serve you!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: 7/1/20-6/30/21 Budgeted Regular Collection: \$243,650
Reg. Collection Year-to-date: \$61,882.74+ **On-Line:** \$37,595.55
Collections & Receipts: December, 2021 Reg .Offeratory:\$3246.00

A big "Thank you" to all those who donated their time and talents to help us celebrate the Christmas Masses, and to all those who came out, and to those who participated remotely, thank you for your perseverance in these difficult times. On a personal note, I want to thank all those who sent me Christmas cards and gifts. Your many kindnesses are much appreciated. You all had a special remembrance in my prayers as I celebrated the Masses on Christmas Day. May the good God bring us all His peace and blessings in this New Year! May the Lord bless us all!
 ~ Fr. Hahr

January 6th: Feast of St. Andre Bessette

Alfred Bessette was born in Quebec on August 9, 1845, and he was orphaned by the time he was 12. He had to work to support himself and had little formal education, but from an early age he had a lively faith and a strong devotion to St. Joseph. After a few years trying to find work in the United States, he returned to Quebec. His pastor encouraged him to consider a vocation to religious life, sending him to the Congregation of Holy Cross with a note that said, "I am sending you a saint." Initially, Holy Cross did not accept Alfred because of his poor health. Alfred, however, was not discouraged; with the assistance of the Archbishop of Montreal, received entrance into the Holy Cross Novitiate on December 27, 1870.

Upon entering the Novitiate, Alfred took the name André, which was the name of his pastor. Given his frail health and lack of a formal education, Brother André was assigned as doorkeeper of Notre Dame College in Montreal. He continued this assignment as a professed brother. Among his many duties, he greeted visitors and tended to their needs. Many people began to experience physical healings after praying with Brother André, and his reputation as a healer began to spread. Through it all, Brother André remained humble, often seeming confused that people would lavish such praise on him. He knew that the real source of these miraculous cures was St. Joseph's intercession.

His desire to increase devotion to St. Joseph inspired him to found a shrine to him. He saved the money he earned from giving haircuts at five cents apiece; eventually earning the \$200 he needed to construct a simple structure. The Oratory attracted large numbers of pilgrims, and plans were made to construct a large basilica. Brother André's full-time ministry for the rest of his life was to receive the long lines of sick visitors who flocked to the Oratory to see him. He became known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal," and thousands of miraculous healings were attributed to his intercession over the following decades.

Brother André died on January 6, 1937 at the age of 91. An estimated one million people braved the bitter Montreal winter to pay their respects. St. Andre was canonized a Saint on October 17, 2010.

"God chose the most ignorant one. If there was anyone more ignorant than I am, God would have chosen him instead of me." ~ St. Andre Bessette

"God is love and he loves us; that is the heart of the Christian faith. God gave us the commandments and it is in observing them that we show whether we love God. Pray that you may obtain a true love of God. God loves us so much. He wants us to love Him." ~ St. Andre Bessette

The Feast of the Epiphany

“Epiphany” is the “Christmas of the Gentiles,” a feast which popularly outranks Christmas in certain Catholic nations and predated it on the Church’s calendar. In Latin America and Europe gifts and sweets were given to children on this day not December 25, by the three kings. Traditionally, we remain in Epiphanytide until the feast of Candlemas, February 2.

Epiphany, which means “manifestation,” actually celebrates three mysteries of Our Lord’s life — in Roman liturgical order, they are: the adoration of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan, and the wedding feast at Cana. Each of these events is a public manifestation of Christ to the world.

The principal one of these mysteries commemorated in the Roman Rite is the visit of the Magi, the first gentiles to respond to the light of God’s revelation and follow His star. In the Eastern Rites, however, the Baptism of Christ is considered the greater Epiphany. The Roman Church summarizes these three mysteries thusly in her liturgy for the Epiphany: “We celebrate a holy day adorned with three mysteries: this day the star led the Magi to the manger; this day wine was made from water at the wedding; this day Christ willed to be baptized in the Jordan by John in order to save us, alleluia” (Antiphon for the *Magnificat*, Second Vespers). “Every Mystery of Christ,” wrote Blessed Abbot Marmion, “not only constitutes an historical fact that has occurred in time, but also contains its own special grace upon which souls ought to be nourished so as to live by it.”

The grace of Christmas is the grace of divine adoption, of spiritual childhood. It is the birth of Christ in our souls, made possible by the birth in time of Him who is eternally generated in the bosom of the Father. The grace of the Epiphany makes explicit what is implicit in Christmas. It proclaims to the nations what has occurred in Bethlehem, and what that divine occurrence has made possible, namely, the union of the Heavenly Bridegroom with His Bride, the Catholic Church, which, being *catholic* will embrace both Jews and Gentiles.

Just as we speak of the three births at Christmas (the Word’s birth in eternity, Jesus’ birth of Mary, and the birth of Christ in our souls by faith and baptism) we speak of a trinity of mysteries in the Epiphany. The first was a manifestation of the Savior of the world to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi. The second was a manifestation, via the descent of the Holy Ghost and the Voice of God the Father, of the Holy Trinity, and of Christ’s Divine Sonship. It was also a revelation of the means by which men might be united to God, as the sacrament of Baptism was instituted on this occasion. The third was a manifestation of Christ’s power in a public way, the miracle at Cana being the “beginning of miracles” that “manifested His glory” (John 2:11). It showed forth not only Christ’s power, but also His blessing of holy matrimony, which is itself a symbol of the union of Christ and the Church.

Being made living members of Christ’s Body, the Church, the faithful are assimilated into this great nuptial union with God. Harkening back to the mystery of Christ’s Baptism in the Jordan, Saint John the Baptist was the “Best Man” at Christ’s wedding with the Church. In a reference to Jewish marriage customs, he tells us as much when he describes himself as the “friend of the bridegroom,” who rejoices at the voice of the bridegroom singing to his spouse (John 3:29).

In the antiphon for the *Benedictus* in the feast’s office of Lauds the nuptial theme is woven into these three Mysteries: “Today the Church hath been joined to her heavenly Spouse, for Christ hath washed away her sins in the Jordan; the Magi hasten with gifts to the royal nuptials, and the guests are gladdened with wine made from water, alleluia” (Antiphon for the *Benedictus*, Lauds). This is none other than “the mystery which hath been hidden from eternity in God” (Eph. 3:9), namely, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and co-partners of his promise in Christ Jesus, by the gospel” (Eph. 3:6). It is the expression of the Father’s will to “recapitulate all things in Christ” (Eph. 1:10).

Quotes from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

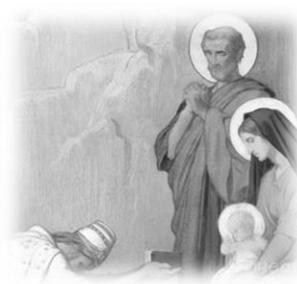
“If I had to advise parents, I should tell them to take great care about the people with whom their children associate ... Much harm may result from bad company, and we are inclined by nature to follow what is worse than what is better.” ~ Elizabeth Ann Seton

“The gate of heaven is very low; only the humble can enter it.” ~ Elizabeth Ann Seton

“I will go peaceably and firmly to the Catholic Church: for if Faith is so important to our salvation, I will seek it where true Faith first began, seek it among those who received it from God Himself.” ~ Elizabeth Ann Seton

“What was the first rule of our dear Savior’s life? You know if was to do His Father’s will. Well, then, the first purpose of our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner He wills; and thirdly, to do it because it is His will.” ~ Elizabeth Ann Seton

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was a wife and mother of five children, who was widowed at a young age. She was given by God a deep longing for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, which led her to convert to Catholicism from Episcopalian faith. After her husband’s death she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph’s Academy and Free School, planting the seeds of Catholic education in the United States. She died on January 4, 1821 and is the first native born American to be canonized a Saint. Her Feast day is on January 4th.



The Gifts of the Magi

When the Magi came to visit the newborn Christ Child, they did not come empty-handed. Saint Matthew narrates what happens when they first encounter the Holy Family: ... *they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.* (Matthew 2:11). Surprisingly, this type of gift-giving was a standard way to honor a king or god in the ancient world. According to historians, “these same three items were apparently among the gifts, recorded in ancient inscriptions, that King Seleucus II Callinicus offered to the god Apollo at the temple in Miletus in 243 B.C.E.”

Traditionally these gifts have also been interpreted to have a specific symbolism. The gold represents Christ’s kingship; frankincense, a sweet-smelling resin used in worship, his priesthood; and myrrh, an ointment used in burial, foreshadows his death.