

## Epiphany: To Find Our Meaning in Christ

On January 3, 2021 we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany! What a wonderful word. Even its secular definition is thrilling: “a sudden realization about the nature or meaning of something.” It brings all sorts of images to mind: a light bulb suddenly turning on, shedding brilliant illumination; a revelation that brings a gasp; an idea so vivid we pause and give thanks; a truth so powerful we fall to our knees.



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The feast of the Epiphany is all of those things and more. We celebrate the mysterious appearance at Jesus' birthplace of three men from the East. They had set off on a most quixotic journey, seeking what they would find at the end of a star's dazzling rays. What, we wonder, did they make of the epiphany with which their journey ended? Did they spend the rest of their lives trying to discern what their discovery of the baby meant, or did the Christ Child gift them with “a sudden realization” of His nature?

What more could they – or we – want of a life's journey, than to find, in our epiphany, the Christ waiting for us?

The Christmas season has now led us to this place, where Gentiles from afar have discovered Christ, thereby revealing that He came for everyone, for each one of us throughout history, and not just for the Jewish people to whom he was born. The feast of Epiphany brings us to the last week of our liturgical celebration of Christmas. But for the Christian steward, Epiphany is not an end but a beginning. This feast reminds us that the New Year beckons us to openness about the epiphanies to which God leads us if we but keep an open, prayerful heart, a heart full of deep, awed gratitude.

The year ahead brings promise of an eventual “post-pandemic” season. Let us pray not to become numbed by our experiences of 2020 that we cannot see new epiphanies of Christ working in our lives. If we could resolve to keep only one New Year's resolution, let it be this: to pay attention to the epiphanies God places before us.

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Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. - Psalm 72



## ST. MONICA PARISH

12011 Woodhead Road, Richmond, BC V6V 1G2

Tel. 604.278.0844 Fax. 604.279.0334

Website: [stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca) Email: [parish.smon@rcav.org](mailto:parish.smon@rcav.org)

January 3, 2021

### Epiphany of the Lord

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*The eternal gifts of joy, hope and peace are bestowed on those who choose to live in the light of Christ.*

The voices of the prophet Isaiah, the Apostle Paul, and the three kings – Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior – resound in one joyful chorus. They are reminding us that Christ, our Light, has come to dispel the darkness of sin and death and to remain with us forever.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah joyfully foretells of the light that emerges from darkness at the coming of Christ. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds his listeners that, whether Gentile or Jew, they are all a part of the one body of Christ, the Church. In the Gospel, the three wise men visit the Christ-child, bearing gifts to pay him homage.

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#### Today's Readings:

1st: **Isaiah 60.1-6**

*Psalm: 72*

2nd: **Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6**

*Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12*



### Distribution of Holy Communion on New Year Day

Trusting you will have a chance to follow one of the online Masses on Jan. 1. **Holy Communion will be given out at 10:30am, inside our Church**, while observing social distancing and wearing a mask. Please follow the direction of the volunteers. No congregating in the church or foyer, please.

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### Project Advance 2020

THANK YOU for your support and generous response of our parish commitment to this year's appeal of the Archdiocese, by your giving either online via RCAF website or by a personal cheque. May the Lord bless you always!

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### 2021 Donation Envelopes

No doubt the pandemic has brought many challenges and anxiety to everyone of us, including our parish financial commitments. Thank you for making any sacrifices to support St. Monica Parish. The new envelopes package is available for you in the church foyer. If you find your package, please let us know and you'll be given one for your perusal. May the Lord bless your generosity always!

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### Sunday Missal 2020 - 2021

We have begun a new liturgical year. You are encouraged to own a copy of the Missal for your perusal at home. \$5 a copy is a great investment for your faith life all year round. You can get your copy at the Office or in the church foyer. Thank you for keeping up your spiritual life with the Word of God.

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### How Can We Hear Christ's Voice More Clearly in Our Lives?

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God— 1 John 4:1. In our lives there are many voices; family, co-workers, society, or our own inner voice. Of all these voices, how do we know what is coming from God and what is not? Is there a way to know Christ's desire and invitation for my life? How can I make daily life decisions together with Jesus? In the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius of Loyola gives us guidelines for discerning Christ's voice in our lives. During this session we will explore together with Fr. Elton Fernandes, SJ. Join us online on Saturday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 pm. Register for free at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

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### The Gospel of Matthew: A New Exodus

In this webinar, we will investigate the brilliant way in which the Gospel of Matthew describes the person and mission of Jesus. In particular, we will see how Matthew portrays Jesus as a new Moses working a new Exodus of liberation. In this way, Matthew's Gospel continues to provide hope to all, especially the oppressed. Join us online on Saturday, Jan. 9 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Register for free at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

### A Stewardship Moment

#### The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1, 2021

In today's Gospel we again hear the story of the nativity from Saint Luke; of the motherhood of Mary, the vessel who brought forth our savior in a dark corner of the world and reflected on this sacred revelation in her heart. Christian stewards are also the vessels by which Christ is carried out into the world. They continually seek ways to reveal Jesus in the world's dark corners. In this new year, let us ask God to give us the courage to bring forth Christ to those who are strangers to us, who think differently than we do or who may not believe that Christ can make a difference in their lives.

#### Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, January 3, 2021

Today's Gospel reading reveals the story of the magi who come from the east to pay homage to Jesus, the newborn king. The story of the magi teaches Christian stewards three Christmas truths: God, in the person of Jesus Christ, is present and active in the world, and good stewards strive daily to follow his star. Second, each of us, no matter our circumstances or station in life, has a gift to bring to the Lord. And finally, our life's journey always leads to Christ, even when at times we do not know where the road is taking us.

#### The Pope's Prayer Intention January 2021

*Human fraternity:* May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

### Into the Deep: Reading *Fratelli Tutti*: Pope Francis' Vision of Fraternity and Social Friendship

Pope Francis' latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* diagnoses the shortcomings of society that have been laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic. Inspired by the Gospel and the example of St. Francis of Assisi, Francis invites all to embrace fraternity and social friendship in order to build a more just world. Fr. Nick Meisl and Nick Olkovich will introduce and contextualize the encyclical, highlight important themes and invite participants to reflect on its implications for their Christian living. Join us for this free event on Friday, Jan. 29 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom. Register now at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)



### Mass Intentions

#### Jan 3 - 9, 2021

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| Mon, Jan 4 | - | Ninfa Fresco (+)  |
| Tue, Jan 5 | - | Angelo Mario & Maria Rozaria Fernandes (+)                            |
| Wed, Jan 6 | - | Rene Quiaoit (+)  |
| Thu, Jan 7 | - | Crispiniano Rosales (+)   |
| Fri, Jan 8 | - | Jimenez, Mendoza, Alvarez Family (INT)                                |
| Sat, Jan 9 | - | Lidwina Duffy Chaluyan (INT)<br>- Deceased Legionnaires & Auxillaries |