



Rev. Rudolf V. D'Souza, OCD  
Pastor

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Office hours:  
9:00 am – 4:30 pm  
Mon., Tues., Thu., & Friday;  
CLOSED on Wed. & weekends

# Feast of the Epiphany



## PARISH LITURGICAL AND PRAYER SCHEDULE

### Liturgical Celebrations

**Saturday** 4:00 pm (Anticipated Mass)  
**Sunday** 9:00 am; 11:00am; 12:30pm

#### **Weekday Mass Times:**

**Monday** 7:00 pm  
**Tuesday – Friday** 8:00 am  
**Saturday** 9:00 am

#### Sacraments:

**Confessions**– Saturdays between 3:00—3:45 pm or by appointment.

**Baptism / Marriage / Anointing of the Sick or Home Communion / Funeral** - Please contact the Parish office.

### Devotions / Prayers

#### **Morning Prayers / Breviary:**

Tuesday-Friday 7:40 am  
Saturday & Sunday 8:30 am

#### **Mother of Perpetual Help:**

Wednesdays 7:00 pm

#### **Infant Jesus of Prague:**

Mondays 6:30 pm

#### **Divine Mercy Chaplet:**

Sundays 1:30 pm

#### **First Fridays - Holy Hour at 6:00 pm (except during Lent)**

**Stations of the Cross (during Lent)** - every Friday at 6:30 pm followed by Mass at 7:00 pm.

## Pastor's Corner - Feast of the Epiphany



### History

In ancient Iran - also known as Persia - a priest was called a "magus." The plural is "magi". The word "magic" comes from the same root. Magi were experts in astronomy. This was useful in determining the calendar and the end of winter and the spring planting season. They believed that stars and other celestial objects actually influenced, rather than merely coincided with, earthly events. One, or possibly a series of omens, led them to believe that a royal prince had been born in Israel. They were sent as ambassadors to provide tribute to the newborn. The bible does not say how many Magi visited. It is assumed that there were three because of the number of gifts.

The gifts brought by the Magi were both appropriate and expensive. The value of gold is obvious but what of the other presents? Myrrh is an aromatic substance made from the sap of Myrtle balsam trees found in India, Africa and Saudi Arabia. It is a natural antiseptic and useful as a medicine. Egyptians used myrrh for embalming mummies. It is now used for toothpaste and mouthwash.

Incense is a hardened gum that also comes from trees found in the same areas. The word "Frank" comes from an old French word that means "marked." It is a stamp that the incense is "free" from contaminants or "pure". (Franking is still used for free mail rights given to members of Congress.) Incense was used primarily to cover up the smells caused by animal sacrifices. Hence it was connected with worship.

Most of us have always taken the story of the Wise Men, or Magi or astrologers from the East as simply part of the Christmas story and don't think too much about it. These people sort of appear out of nowhere, bring gifts to baby Jesus, then go back and disappear out of history – we never hear about them again. It's a beautiful story, but there is a lot more to it. In our second reading, Paul wrote: It was not made known to other people in other generations as it has now been revealed...that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body and copartners in the promise on Christ Jesus." That revelation, that epiphany, that light bulb going off for St. Paul was this extraordinary message that he received at the time of his conversion, when he was even blinded by the light: here is the Good News – that non-Jewish people share in the inheritance of Jesus. Jesus came not just for the chosen few, but for all people. The good news is that there are no barriers of religion, race, and ethnicity. Nothing can separate or should separate anyone in the human family from anyone else in the human family. We are all sons and daughters of God. The one God is the God of everyone.

Paul's epiphany or insight came and was written down before any of the Gospels were written. Jewish Christians had a very narrow understanding of what God intended by sending Jesus into the world. They thought that the followers of Jesus still had to be Jews before they could be Christians. They wanted to limit the saving love of God to only those who would be circumcised, would follow the full Jewish law but then accept Jesus as their savior.

To tell his story, Matthew drew from roots in the Hebrew Scriptures, where we heard, in the first lesson today, that magnificent vision of Isaiah when Isaiah sees Jerusalem as this city that is a light to the whole world and people come flocking from everywhere. Matthew is saying in effect to the Jewish Christians of his day and to the Jewish people, "Look, that vision has been fulfilled. People from everywhere are now part of God's people. There are no more chosen people, elite, separated people. Everyone is called by God to share in God's life and be a son or daughter of God. That is why Matthew has these outsiders, three Eastern Magi come to visit Jesus. All people are coming to receive the benefit of God's love, he said.

That was a shocking message to those first Jewish Christians, and perhaps it is a shocking message to some of us. Are we any different today than the Jewish Christians were? What if God is present in other world religions? How can Jesus and Christianity be the light of the world if other religions reach God also? Is there not a contradiction here?

Whatever else the bombing of New York's "World Trade Towers" did, it alerted many people in the United States to the reality of Islam. Tragically, it was the few extremists that brought this awareness, but they have very little to do with real Islam. Muslims are not some small sect of people far away with strange and negligible beliefs. They are a great people, who worship the same God we do. Their ideal is, like ours, love. They are an integral part of this world.

But, like us, they do have terrible fanatics among them who would kill to achieve domination. In the same way as the IRA in Northern Ireland, these are a very small percentage of a religion that pledges eternal fidelity to the one God. The Spirit of God is present in Muslims and Jews as well as in Christians. As St. Paul will put it this Sunday, "in every nation, whoever fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

The question of which religion contains God reminds me of children asking their parents which child they love most. "If you love her more than me," one will say, "then you don't love me at all." Now, now, children, we love each one of you in a special way, a way that is perfect just for you.

So, in the first place, let us not ask which religion is the only true one, thus making all the others false. There is not really a competition. The religions are different approaches to God, and they each bring out a special aspect of who God is to us. Jealousy and hatred of one another is an exact equivalent to dysfunctional families where each person has to fight to be recognized at all. Think of a world in which God loved only Christians and left all the others out in the cold. A much better way is to look at how each religion and belief helps the others.

For its part, Christianity is a very special revelation to the world, because in it God enters the underside of human life. His suffering shows forth love in a way that is crystal clear, revealing what other ways need to hear. Because Jesus did not hesitate to suffer as we do, even to suffer at the hands of sin, disgrace and death, he became a light to all nations. Not a light instead of other lights, not the light that puts out all others, but the most rare and poignant beam of all. His glow gives fiber and strength and depth to each and every other light that shines.

So which religion is first? Catholic Christians would do well to seek last place and try to be servant of all. Let this message cause you to have an 'epiphany' today. Let the light go off. Especially if we would like to know why, on this Epiphany, Christ is the light to all nations. God bless you.

*Fr. Rudolf*

All blessings come to us through our Lord. He will teach us, for in beholding his life we find that he is the best example.

-St. Teresa of Avila

### Daily Readings

Jan. 9–14



**Monday:** Jan. 9

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29;

Matthew 3:13-17

**Tuesday:** Jan. 10

Hebrews 2:5-12; Psalm 8;

Mark 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** Jan. 11

Hebrews 2:14-18; Psalm 105;

Mark 1:29-39

**Thursday:** Jan. 12

Hebrews 3:7-14; Psalm 95;

Mark 1:40-45

**Friday:** Jan 13

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Psalm 78;

Mark 2:1-12

**Saturday:** Jan. 14

Hebrews 4:12-16; Psalm 19;

Mark 2:13-17

### Mass Offerings

Jan. 9 - 15, 2017

Monday 7:00 pm-

**+Rozalia+**

By: Nityova Family

Tuesday 8:00 am-

**+Aulis Kinnunen +**

By: Daniel Brooks

Wednesday 8:00 am-

**+Rosemarie Mascarenhas +**

By: Theresa Dagenais

Thursday 8:00 am-

**+Lorenzo Faulmino +**

By: Cynthia & Argel Faulmino

Friday 8:00 am-

**+Consuelo O'Tuells +**

By: Connie Perez

Saturday —

9:00 am:

**+Hentek Kupinski+**

By: Kamil Hepner

4:00 pm

**+Chester Kotowski +**

By: Family

9:00 am-

**Sp. Int. of Cecile Bozyk**

By: Friends

11:00 am

**+Arlene D'Souza +**

By: David DuPerron & Family

12:30 pm -

**Sp. Int. of Guardian Angels Parishioners**

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENIORS' TEA

Seniors are invited to the first Seniors' Tea 2017 on Wednesday, Jan. 11. Please call Cecile Bozyk if you are attending— 604 683-0143

### 2017 SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES

There are still many unclaimed boxes of Sunday Envelopes 2017. Those who have not done yet, please pick-up your set of envelopes on your way out today.

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### \*World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2017

Pope Francis urges us to do as Jesus did by proclaiming the good news of hope to all, especially to those in great need. He wants to "focus attention on the smallest of the small." Children who often arrive unaccompanied in their destination countries "are unable to make their own voices heard" and "easily become victims of grave violations of human rights." Join us on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Parish, Surrey, for the 6th annual World Day of Migrants and Refugees Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Miller, CSB. [rcav.org/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees](http://rcav.org/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees)

### Morning of Recollection

Little – be always little! Be simple, poor, childlike.

Come join Madonna House for a talk and time of silent reflection, followed by fellowship and sharing.

When: Saturday, January 14th, 2017

Where: St. John the Apostle Parish Hall (5457 Trafalgar St, Vancouver)

What time: 9:30 am to 12 noon

For more information contact Madonna House: [madonna02@shaw.ca](mailto:madonna02@shaw.ca)

Or call 604-267-1757

### World Day of the Sick 2017

Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB, will be celebrating a Mass of Anointing to celebrate World Day of the Sick 2017, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 555 S. Slocan Street, Vancouver, on Friday February 10th at 10:30 a.m. The Sacrament of Anointing will be administered after the Homily. All the sick and their caregivers are invited to attend. Following Mass, a simple refreshment will be offered in the parish hall. Plenty of parking is available.

### \*Couples Connect: A Deeper Bond

Through teaching moments, demonstration, and practice, this 6-week workshop provides couples with a unique opportunity to practise skills learned and receive feedback from counsellors. Couples will learn how to manage and work through conflict, increase sexual intimacy, fondness and admiration, feel more connection with their partner, and build a long-lasting relationship of love. Couples will also receive a workbook containing handouts and reference tools to take home. Join us on Wednesdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 8, from 7–9 p.m., at John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. Cost: \$130 per couple. To register, visit [rcav.org/event/couples-connect-deeper-bond](http://rcav.org/event/couples-connect-deeper-bond)

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND!

February 24-26, 2016 at the Carmel Hill Retreat Centre  
Call Steve and Mary Bohnen to register 604-876-7298 or e-mail [wwwmevancouverbc@gmail.com](mailto:wwwmevancouverbc@gmail.com), or visit [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org)



You must ask God to give you the power to fight against the sin of pride which is your greatest enemy—the root of all that is evil, and the failure of all that is good.

St. Vincent the Paul

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION



### Epiphany Sunday

Today we celebrate the Epiphany – the revelation of Christ to all peoples. The Magi came to pay Jesus homage. The two essential elements of 'paying homage' are adoration and service. It's not good enough to simply adore our Lord. Being intimately close to Him, as the Magi were that night, naturally inspires in us a desire to also serve Him.

God has given us all awesome gifts. What treasure chest of gifts will you open up this year in the service of our Lord and His Church? We have been given an incredible gift in Jesus. How are you stewarding the gift of our Saviour? Why not share that gift in a way that brings even just one person who does not know Christ into the Church this year – now that's a New Year's Resolution!

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Joppa Stewardship Leaders,  
Ottawa



**PARISH**

**MINISTRIES**

**GROUPS**

**Knights of Columbus (Council # 14723)**

Terry Brennan - GK 778-229-7228

**Legion of Mary (Immaculate Heart of Mary)**

Elsa Dimayuga- 604 537 7281

**Legion of Mary (Mother of our Savior)**

Rufina Amandiz - 604 325-9921

**Family Rosary Crusade**

Leonarda Lariosa - 604 684-9806

**Divine Mercy**

Marivic Escribel - 604 434-8280

**Infant Jesus of Prague**

Susan Hauck—604 278-6346

**Neo-Catechumenal Way**

Contact 604-924-9179

**CFC- Foundation for Family & Life**

Benny Luarca -778-317-0069

**Rite of Christian Initiation For Adults (R.C.I.A.)**

Tom Weaver at 604 408-2125

**P. R. E. P. (Parish Religious Education Program)**

Jenny Po – jennypo@outlook.com

**Project Advance**

Cecile Bozyk - 604 683-0143

**Altar Servers**

Terry O'Neil - 604 689-3685

**Choirs**

Carmelita Domaoan - 604 773-9373

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

Kimberly Charbonneau - 604-683-1124

**Hospitality**

Cecile Bozyk - 604 683-0143

**Lectors**

Maria Kaiser - 604 628-4896

**Sacristy**

Terry O'Neil - 604 689-3685

**Flowers**

Ave Obejas - 604 990-0986

**Safe Environment Screening Committee**

Jenny Po - jennypo@outlook.com



**Let us pray for those in our long-term prayer list**

Maggie, Anthony Petrina, Geoffrey & Doreen DeSousa, Joyce Kisoondath, Pat Williamson, Masooma Noorzai, Andre Costa, Hassiran Hakim, Elizabeth Walton, Barry McDermott, Eddie Bilek, Lucille Johnston, Ralph Milburn, Milta Rapalo, Ida Brown, Sonja Lawrence, Colleen Mason, Jara Asterova, Zenaida Nicolas, Doreen Millburn, Helena Glavot, Zeenith Garay, Florence Nichols, Joanne Borrys and all the sick / shut-ins of our Parish whom we may not know by name.



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**Silvano Luarca CPA**  
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Cell: 778-317-0069  
benny.luarca@sunlife.com



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