

Newsletter January 2021



Administrators' Message

Happy New Year! We hope that each of you enjoyed a restful and healthy Christmas holiday filled with joy, peace and happiness.

In January, we celebrate Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day" and "Twelfth Day". This is a Christian holiday commemorated on January 6. It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas and signals the conclusion of the twelve days of the Christmas season. An epiphany is a sudden moment of deep clarity or insight, an illumination or revelation, into the reality of something. As we imagine the Magi finally arriving at the place of encounter with the Messiah for whom they had been searching, we can imagine the joy and fulfilment that this moment of epiphany brought to them.

Thank you to all our families for their continued support during these challenging times. Again, Happy New Year! We wish you many blessings in 2021.



January 4-8 Online Learning

As per AHS and provincial protocol, after the holidays, students WILL NOT be returning to school for in-person learning, but rather will be learning online from home. Students will need to access their Google Classroom as well as the Microsoft Teams link that their homeroom teacher will send out. Students should be online and ready to learn (dressed and fed) by 8:29 am every morning, as per their regular schedule. Students should also be in a distraction-free area so that they are able to focus and be attentive. If you require any online support, it is always a good idea to contact your child's teacher first.



Please note that the learning stance that you have chosen for the year will again come into effect on January 11.

Student Record Information

A reminder to parents/guardians, if you have recently moved or changed your contact information, please let the office know. In case of emergencies, it is important that we have up-to-date contact information. Also, if students have recently become Canadian citizens, we ask that you provide us with documentation so that we can update our records. Thank you!



The Wondrous Gift of Epiphany

During the Christmas season we celebrate with our families and friends with the giving and receiving of various gifts. Perhaps the greatest gift we receive, as Christians, takes place during Epiphany, when our Lord makes his first public appearance.

Throughout the ages, Christians have celebrated Christmas, including the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany, which falls on January 6. The season begins with the Nativity of our Lord, and ends with the celebration of His baptism, and His manifestation ("Epiphany") as Messiah of Israel and Son of God. This extraordinary gift calls for us to open our hearts and minds to God through His son, Jesus, who came to us as man, to live and suffer in the same way His lay people would.



Another one of the extraordinary gifts we receive is our ability to praise and worship the Father through the Holy Spirit, as a result of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. Knowing Jesus is the Body of Christ, we, through our Baptism, enter the Body of Christ as members of our faith community. Through this union, we are able to share in the cleansing of sins, and essentially, our re-birth.

The gifts of the eastern Magi, allow us to remember that they offered what little they had (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh), and in return, Christ gave them Himself. This 'exchange' of gifts takes place for us whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, by the glorious power of the Holy Spirit!

Throughout the holy Christmas season, God fills us with joy and hope! By celebrating Epiphany and these wondrous gifts bestowed upon us by the Christ-child, may we, in-turn, use them to take a step closer to the Kingdom of God, in unity with His one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church.

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