***JANUARY 6, 2019***

***THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD***

**Dear Parishioners,**

 **We celebrate today the Epiphany of the Lord, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi or wise men. The English word “epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “to reveal or unveil”. The glory of the Son of God was revealed to those first truth seekers and it is also revealed to us today. Jesus made clear during His public ministry that He had come for the Jewish people for they were the chosen people of God. The Epiphany of the Lord, however, makes clear that Jesus has come for the salvation of all peoples: “the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel” (Ephesians 3:6). God desires to reveal Himself to all and to be known and loved by all.**

 **Many believe that the Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season when in fact it is the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, which occurs a week later, that ends this season. Since the commercial world anticipates the Christmas season by several months there is a lot of build up to the 25th of December; so much so that many believe that Christmas ends on December 26th. If we think about this, it doesn’t make very much sense - a very lengthy period of preparation for a single day of celebration. No, the Church invites us to prepare well for Christmas during the Advent season, but she also wants us to truly celebrate the birth of our Savior over several weeks and not only on one day. I invite you then to keep up your Christmas lights and decorations and especially your crèche or the figure of Jesus. This is important if we are to recuperate today in our society Christmas as a true Christian holiday.**

 **Fr. Konrad, Fr. Aloysius, Deacon Pat, and I want to thank you all for the many well-wishes, cards, and gifts we received from you. (We haven’t always in every case been able to connect names to people, but we are working on it and wish to personally thank all of you). We wish you and all your loved ones many blessings as we begin this New Year!**

**In Christ,**

**Fr. Alessandro**

**THANKS TO ALL!** The celebration of Christmas has involved a lot of parishioners with their time, talents and treasure. We wish to thank especially:

* Those who have contributed for flowers and those who have decorated the altar.
* Those who have prepared the nativity scene and those who have decorated the church with lights.
* The choirs with the many required rehearsals.
* Ushers, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors and all who have helped at the Mass celebrations.

**HOST AND WINE.** If you are interested in donating the Host and Wine in memory of a dear one please contact the office, 604-298-4144. Donations are tax deductible.

**ST. HELEN’S FOOD BANK** would like to thank you on your generous support in collecting the Christmas gifts for the needy families in our community. Thanks, from those who have received them and volunteers.

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,

and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17

**SENIORS CLUB WILL RESUME THEIR ACTIVITIES ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019.**

**ENVELOPES FOR 2019** are available at the entrance of the church. Please pick up your set. Thank you.

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|  **Sunday Collection (Weekly goal $12,000.00)** |
| **Date** | **Envelopes** | **Loose** | **Total** |
| **Dec. 30** | $ 8,482.00 | $ 774.00 | **$ 9,256.00** |
| **Jan. 1** | $ 3,390.00 | $ 344.00 | **$ 3,734.00** |
| ***Thank you for your generosity!*** |

**BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK.** Please support ***NICK PARENTE***, one of the sponsors who bring to you this weekly Parish Bulletin!

**CHURCH CLEANING** – JAN. – TEAM 5 – Lina, 604-293-2277

**COFFEE HOUR** –Jan. 20 – CWL – Christine, 604-436-0169

***We Pray For***

**Saturday, January 5 [Christmas Weekday]**

 9:00 am - Spec. Int. for Magdalene Chung

 † Pietro & Elisabetta Colapinto & Fam.

 4:00 pm - † Bob Fantinic, † Antonio Musso

**Sunday, January 6 [ THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD]**

8:30 am - Special Int. For Melissa’s Recovery

10:00 am - † Antonio & Sabatino Petrucci, † John Brustolin

 † Gianpaolo & Angelin Peretto, † Albina Titotto, † Egidio Baratto

 † Mattea Dalessandro, † Angela & Domenico Loriggio

11:30 am - Special Intention for Gloria Staudt

 7:30 pm -

**Monday, January 7 [St. Andre Bessette, OBL]**

7:45 am – † Susan Vallee Henderson

**Tuesday, January 8 [Christmas Weekday]**

7:45 am - † DJ Kiely

**Wednesday, January 9 [Christmas Weekday]**

 7:45 am- † Emilio Ricci

**Thursday, January 10 [Christmas Weekday]**

7:45 am –Spec. Int. for the Seniors living in the Success Care Home

**Friday, January 11 [Christmas Weekday]**

 7:45 am – † Daniel Rezmer, † Carmine Clemente

**Saturday, January 12 [Christmas Weekday]**

 9:00 am - † Antonio & Mariangela Colapinto & Fam., † Ramon B. Natino

 4:00 pm - † Francesco Renzullo, † Anthony Grippo

**Sunday, January 13 [ THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD]**

8:30 am - † Francesco Santini, † Dec. of Tesan Fam., † Bert Laakman,

 † Mary & Arthur Galant, † Rob Kozak, † Manville Flynn

10:00 am - † Nicolina Marini, † Domenico & Donata Cibelli

 † Dec. of Campanile & Spinelli Fam.

11:30 am - † Stan Shaw, † Rafaelle, Francesca & Dina Pironaggi

 7:30 pm - Our Parishioners

***GENNAIO 6, 2019***

***EPIFANIA DEL SIGNORE***

***«SIAMO VENUTI PER ADORARE IL SIGNORE»***

*Dopo i pastori di Betlemme, ecco i Magi che vengono dal lontano Oriente. Questi sapienti e misteriosi cercatori di Dio, guidati da una stella, arrivano a Gerusalemme con un unico desiderio: rintracciare e adorare «il re dei Giudei». È lo scopo del loro peregrinare. Forse non si rendono conto che hanno portato turbamento. La città ha altro a cui pensare. L’antico profeta (1 Lettura) aveva invitato Gerusalemme ad alzarsi, a rivestirsi di luce, ma lei giace prigioniera di tenebra e nebbia. Erode, vestitosi di farisaica premura, indirizza i Magi a Betlemme. Grandissima la gioia dei Magi nel rivedere la stella, ma più grande la commozione nel vedere «il Bambino con Maria sua madre». Allora si prostrano e lo adorano. E insieme con i loro cuori, aprono gli scrigni e offrono oro al vero Re, incenso al Dio immortale e mirra all’Uomo che dovrà morire.*

*I Magi rappresentano le primizie dei popoli pagani che cercano Dio e lo trovano nel Bambino di Betlemme. Tu, che hai avuto il dono della fede, hai mai cercato e trovato Gesù? Chiedi a Lui di essere come la stella per i tanti pagani del nostro tempo e, forse, anche di casa tua!*

*Fr. Giovanni Crisci, OFMCap*

**GRAZIE CARISSIMI AMICI!** Siamo immensamente grati a tutti coloro che ci hanno mandato regali e biglietti di auguri. Che il Signore vi benedica! P. Alessandro, P. Konrad, P. Aloysius e Diacono Pat.

**GRAZIE MILLE A TUTTI I VOLONTARI !**

Le celebrazioni del Natale hanno coinvolto moltissimi parrocchiani che hanno donato il loro tempo e capacitá personali.

Ringraziamo specialmente:

* Coloro che hanno contribuito per i fiori e coloro che hanno decorato la chiesa.
* Coloro che hanno preparato il presepio.
* I cori che hanno dovuto prepararsi con tante pratiche per cantare cosí bene.
* Gli usceri, i ministri e i lettori, i chierichetti e tutti coloro che hanno animato le celebrazioni.

**BANCO DI ALIMENTI DI ST. ELENA.** Vogliamo ringraziarvi per tutte le donazioni raccolte per le feste natalizie in aiuto alle famiglie povere. Grazie da parte delle famiglie che le hanno ricevute e i volontari che le hanno distribuite.

“Colui che e buono con i poveri lo é con il Signore,

e Lui lo ricompenserá per ció che ha fatto” (Prov 19:17)

**LA SOCIETA ANZIANI RICOMINCIA LE SUE ATTIVITÀ MARTEDÌ, 8 GENNAIO, 2019.**

**LE BUSTE PER IL 2019** SONO DISPONIBILI ALL’ENTRATA DELLA CHIESA. PER FAVORE RACCOGLIETELE.

