



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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RECOGNIZE GOD'S FACE IN HIS LITTLENESS

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 4, 2026

Today, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the Gospel speaks to us about the Magi who, arriving in Bethlehem, open their [treasure] chests and offer gold, incense and myrrh to Jesus (cf. Mt 2:11). These wise men from the East are famous because of the gifts they offered. Considering their story, however, we could say that, above all, they receive three gifts. They received three gifts, three precious gifts that regard us as well. They give gold, incense and myrrh, but what are the three gifts they received? The first gift is the gift of the call. The Magi were not alerted because they had read the Scriptures or because they had seen a vision of angels, but they sensed it while they were studying the stars. This tells us something important: God calls us through our aspirations and our greatest desires. The Magi allowed themselves to be amazed and inconvenienced by the novelty of the star, and they set out on a journey towards the unknown. Educated and wise, they were fascinated more by what they did not know than by what they already knew. They opened themselves to what they did not know. They felt called to go beyond. They did not feel happy remaining there; they felt called to go beyond. This is important for us as well. We are called not to settle, to seek the Lord by stepping out of our comfort zone, journeying towards him with others, immersing ourselves in reality. For God calls every day, here and now. God calls us, each one of us, every day. He calls us here and he calls us today, in our world.

But the Magi speak to us about a second gift: discernment. Seeing that they are looking for a king, they go to Jerusalem to speak with King Herod, who, however, is a power-hungry man and wants to use them to eliminate the baby Messiah. But the Magi do not allow themselves to be fooled by Herod. They know how to distinguish between the goal of their journey and the temptations they find along the way. They could have remained there in Herod's court, serene. No, they move ahead. They leave Herod's palace and, attentive to the sign from God, do not pass that way again, but return by another route (cf. v. 12). Brothers and sisters, how important it is to know how to distinguish life's goal from the temptations along the way! Our goal in life is one thing, the temptations on the way are another. To know how to renounce that which seduces but leads down an ugly road, to understand and to choose God's ways! Discernment is a great gift and we should never tire of asking for it in prayer. Let us ask for this grace! Lord, grant us the ability to discern what is good from what is evil, what is better from what is not better.

Finally, the Magi speak to us about a third gift: the surprise. After a long journey, what do these high-ranking men in society find? A baby with his mother (cf. v. 11): certainly, a tender scene, but not astonishing! They do not see the angels like the shepherds did, but they meet God in poverty. Perhaps they were expecting a powerful and prodigious Messiah, and they find a baby. And still, they do not think they made a mistake; they know how to recognize him. They welcome God's surprise and experience their encounter with him with amazement, adoring him — in his littleness, they recognize God's face. Humanly, we are all inclined to seek greatness, but it is a gift to know how to truly find it — to know how to find greatness in the littleness that God loves so much. For the Lord is encountered like this: in humility, in silence, in adoration, in the small and in the poor.

Brothers and sisters, we are all called — the first gift: the call — by Jesus; we can all discern — the second gift: discernment — discern his presence; we can all experience his surprises — the third gift: the surprise. Today, it would be beautiful to remember these gifts: the call, discernment and the surprise, gifts that we have already received — to think back to when we sensed God's call in our life; or even when, perhaps after quite a struggle, we succeeded in discerning his voice; or even still, an unforgettable surprise he gave us, astounding us. May Our Lady help us remember and treasure the gifts received.

POPE FRANCIS — January 6, 2023

CAMINANDO JUNTOS

Preparación Sacramental para una Iglesia Misionera

Únete a nosotros a un día de formación para todos los que están o desean participar en la preparación de los Sacramentos para niños.

Toda la presentación, los materiales y recursos estarán disponibles en español al igual que habrá traducción en vivo por los presentadores.

Inscripciones a través de nuestra página web o dando [click aquí](#)

Día y Hora: Sábado, 10 de Enero, de 10:00 a.m. a 2:00 p.m.

Lugar: Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe,

Costo: \$10 por persona (*para el almuerzo*)

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 3 5:00 PM
+Karl Friedrich

Sunday, January 4 9:00 AM
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, January 6 11:00 AM

Wednesday, January 7 11:00 AM

Thursday, January 8 11:00 AM

Friday, January 9 11:00 AM

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 10 5:00 PM
+Edward Yutronkie

Sunday, January 11 9:00 AM
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

La Epifanía del Señor

Sabado 3 de Enero 7:00 PM
+Marvin Castillo Courtade +Gloria Flores de Lazo

Domingo 4 de Enero 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 6 de Enero 12:00 PM

Miercoles 7 de Enero 12:00 PM

Jueves 8 de Enero 12:00 PM

Viernes 9 de Enero 12:00 PM
+Teresa Morales Castro

Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor

Sabado 10 de Enero 7:00 PM

Domingo 11 de Enero 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
Por la Comunidad Parroquial



Diocesan's Announcements

music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, February 7th at the St. Michael's Church, Waterloo ON**. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>. For more information, contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL Join the Reel Justice Film Festival **January 22, 2026 7:00 – 9:00 PM** for a screening of **PUSH**. Housing prices are skyrocketing in cities around the world. Incomes are not. **PUSH** examines our increasingly unliveable cities and an escalating crisis that has an effect on us all. Housing is not a commodity, it is a human right. The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register and view our full schedule of events at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/> A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.