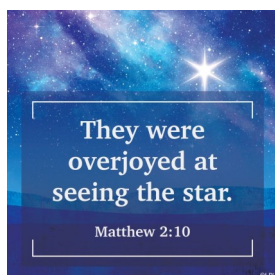


## Sunday, January 2nd, 2022



### The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."



Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important. We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



**SYNOD 2021-2023, Journeying Together**  
"Synod" is a Greek word meaning to journey together. The Synod on Synodality 2021-2023, convoked by Our Holy Father Pope Francis begins by focusing on questions of who in our local church is journeying together. Who is included or excluded? How as a synodal Church are we journeying together today? The Synod is an opportunity for listening to each other, sharing our experiences with courage and openness as companions on the journey. Small groups will be formed to focus on our journeying together with the fundamental themes of communion, participation and mission. Discussions will begin in at the parish level (February and March 2021), then move to diocesan, regional (Ontario) and national levels, leading ultimately to our Holy Father Pope Francis and the (worldwide) Synod of Bishops in 2023.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the Month of January**  
*We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family. (Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network)*

### The Baptism of the Lord

## Sunday, January 9th, 2022



### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.  
- Lk 3:21-22a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life. It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

**SYNOD 2021-2023, Journeying Together:** Our Holy Father Pope Francis, in his Opening Address for the Synod said, "In the Church, everything starts with baptism. Baptism, the source of our life, gives rise to the equal dignity of the children of God, albeit in the diversity of ministries and charisms. Consequently, all the baptized are called to take part in the Church's life and mission. Without real participation by the People of God, talk about communion risks remaining a devout wish. In this regard, we have taken some steps forward, but a certain difficulty remains and we must acknowledge the frustration and impatience felt by many pastoral workers, members of diocesan and parish consultative bodies and women, who frequently remain on the fringes. Enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty! All the baptized, for baptism is our identity card."

**The Diocesan Separated & Divorced Healing Ministry Support Group** meets every second and fourth Monday of the month (except holidays) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

For our pamphlet, information, and registration call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)

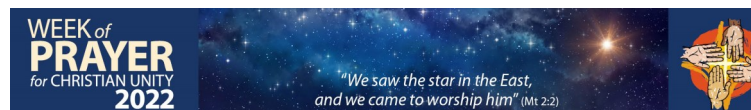
### PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY - MAY, 2022

Pre-registration is required. Meetings will be held both in person at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre and virtually via the ZOOM platform. Please see contact information above to pre-register. Information regarding Covid protocols for in person meetings can be found on the diocesan website: [saintcd.com](http://saintcd.com) Go to: (Marriage—Marriage Help—Separated & Divorced.)

**Jan 10, 2022, Embracing the New Year;  
Jan 24, 2022, Overcoming Loneliness**

Mon. Jan 10		<b>NO MASS</b>
Tues. Jan 11	9:30am	Intentions of Fr. Mitch (Colin & Teresa Walters) Vince Addario (Lena Addario)
		<b>HOLY HOUR &amp; Confessions</b>
Wed. Jan 12	7-8pm 9:30am	Amer, Divya & Praanjali (Divya G. )
Thurs. Jan 13	9:30am	Anita Gurnick (Colin & Teresa Walters)
Fri. Jan 14	9:30am	George Albanese (Vince Addario)
Sat. Jan 15	4-4:45pm	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</b>
	5:00pm	Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo)
Sun. Jan 16	9:30am	Lewis Tremeer (Tremeer Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses.



### The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January—

we pray together for that full unity which is Christ's will. THEME: "We have seen his star in the East and have come to pay homage to him" (Mt 2:2). More than ever, in these difficult times, we need a light that shines in the darkness and that light, Christians proclaim, has been manifested in Jesus Christ. The materials were produced by the Middle East Council of Churches: a regional ecumenical body, which brings together Churches for a common Christian witness in the region where Christ was born, lived, died, was buried and rose from the dead: from Iran down to the Gulf in the East, to the Mediterranean Sea and Egypt in the West.

In a region of the world where human rights are habitually trampled underfoot by unjust political and economic interests, in the face of an unprecedented international health crisis and bearing the human and material consequences of the serious explosion that devastated Beirut on August 4, 2020, the local ecumenical group nevertheless made every effort to fulfill this mandate. With them, we pray that greater unity among Christians in the Middle East and around the world may contribute to a more dignified, just and peaceful life for all men and women in our time and in the times to come.

Sat. Jan 1		<b>Solemnity of Mary the Mother Of God</b>
	9:30am 11:00am	All Parishioners Sarah, Ever & Harper Addario (Vince Addario)
Sun. Jan 2	9:30am 11:00am	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> Missa Pro Populo Deceased Members of the Rebeiro & Guest Families (Rebeiro Family)
Mon. Jan 3	9:30am	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tues. Jan 4	9:30am	Vince & Lena Addario (Teresa & Colin Walters)
	7-8pm	<b>HOLY HOUR &amp; Confessions</b>
Wed. Jan 5	9:30am	Antonio Addario (Vince Addario)
Thurs. Jan 6	9:30am	Intentions of Bishop Bergie (Colin & Teresa Walters)
Fri. Jan 7	9:30am	Cecil Shannon (Racz Family)
Sat. Jan 8	4-4:45pm 5:00pm	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions Trilo, Shiksha & Ssiva Gujadhur (Divya G.) In Thanksgiving for marriage of Jason & Reshma
Sun. Jan 9	9:30am 11:00am	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b> Missa Pro Populo Helen Albanese (Vince Addario)

Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses.

**Offertory December 19th, 2021**

\$2, 692.00

**Offertory December 25th, 2021**

\$5, 025.00

**Offertory December 26th, 2021**

\$ 800.00

E -Transfer: [stannfendonations@cogeco.net](mailto:stannfendonations@cogeco.net)  
(No password required)



