

~ The Epistle ~

Vol. 21

EPIPHANY & SEPTUAGESIMA

No. 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
THE ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CANADA • TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN COMMUNION
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THE MOST REVEREND SHANE B. JANZEN, ARCHBISHOP AND RECTOR

THE Year of our Lord 2018 is now upon us; and we enter into this new year with faith and hope. Although attendance at Christmas was somewhat lower than usual due to the weather and road conditions we still celebrated the glorious Nativity of our Saviour Jesus Christ; and to welcome in a new year. Our annual Parish Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 31stth was well attended and a great success. Thank you to Peggy and Rory Kulmala for organizing the dinner and preparing the Christmas turkeys. Thank you as well to all those who provided food and beverages, and to those who stayed behind to clean up when all was done. Thank you as well to our Altar Guild who prepared and decorated our Church for Christmas – always a beautiful and welcoming sight, enabling all of us to ‘worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness’.

We meet this new year and new Season with the ‘faith once delivered to the saints’. As in times past, we are challenged to build, to reach out, and always to remain faithful to Christ’s commission to bring His Gospel of salvation to all peoples, in all times.

In witnessing to our faith and our Anglican tradition, we seek not a place of refuge but a place of growth, renewal, and evangelical witness. In this we are not alone; for we are part of a much larger Church, joining faithful men and women across the length and breadth of this country, and across the Traditional Anglican Communion. With our brothers and sisters here and around the world we seek to live out our Christian faith as traditional Anglicans with courage and conviction. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments remain our standard of faith and morals; the Book of Common Prayer remains our standard of worship and doctrine; and the seven Sacraments instituted by Christ for His Church remain our means of grace and salvation.

With the advent of the new year, we enter also into a new church Season, that of Epiphanytide. Epiphany is the season of manifesting forth the glory and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout this Season, the ‘epiphany’ or manifestation of our Lord’s nature and being, of the reason for His coming among us, is shone forth -- like the Star that shone over Bethlehem,

lighting the way for the Gentile kings. The Scripture lessons in Epiphanytide celebrate the going forth of the Word of God to reveal and to redeem. The Gospel lessons for Epiphanytide emphasize the manifestation of Christ’s divinity through His preaching and healing -- revealing God’s purpose and promises to mankind. The Season exhorts us to an imitation and manifestation of Christ in our lives and, in the light of His divine majesty, to steadfastness and hope in Him, even in times of darkness and doubt.

We conclude the first two months of the new year with Septuagesimatide. The three Sundays, Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima signify the seventieth, sixtieth, and fiftieth days before Easter -- for the Church Year, as with the Christian Faith, focuses upon and culminates with the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Epistles and Gospels appointed for these three Sundays encourage us to reflect upon the virtues that are necessary for holiness of life: faith, hope, love, prudence, courage, temperance, and justice. The object of these virtues is our happiness on earth and our eternal blessedness in the world to come.

All too soon, January will give way to February. As in years past we begin the month of February with the celebration of Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple and Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. One of the distinctive rites celebrated on Candlemas (hence its name) is the blessing of candles. Candles, which are blessed, distributed, and lit while the *Nunc Dimittis* is sung, are carried by the faithful in procession commemorating the entrance of the Christ Child, the ‘True Light’, into the Temple in Jerusalem.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. On that day we will begin the solemn days of prayer, fasting, and self-denial that mark the holy Season of Lent.

As we now enter upon this new year, I pray that each of us will take with us the joy of Christmas, the truth of the revelation of Christ in His Epiphany, and the power of His saving Gospel. May you, your family and friends, enjoy a blessed, prosperous and peaceful new year!

Archbishop Shane B. Janzen

~ The Season of Epiphany ~

WHAT makes the Season of Epiphany unique is that in this Season we celebrate not what Jesus did or said, but Who He is. We celebrate Him, Jesus Christ – not as on His field of battle or in His solitary retreats in prayer to His Father, nor even upon His Cross of victory, but as the eternal Son of God, the glorious King of kings, the Lord of heaven and earth, and the Saviour of the world. In the holy Season of Epiphany we behold Him as the object of our worship and not as the focus of our petitions, needs and wants. We worship God for being God -- nothing more, nothing less.

Throughout the six weeks of Epiphany (though in 2018, we celebrate only the first three Sundays of Epiphanytide), the manifestation of Jesus' glory as the only-begotten of the Father, is revealed to us in the Lessons of the Prayer Book lectionary; yet in the telling of the Scriptures, the events and the people portrayed seem to be but ordinary occurrences, ordinary men and women going about the daily things of life, except to those who see them through the eyes of faith.

In the First Sunday of Epiphany, Jesus manifests His glory in the Temple at the age of 12 years, sitting among the doctors of the Law, and astonishing them with His wisdom and insight.

In the Gospel for the Second Sunday, our Lord manifests His glory at the Wedding in Cana of Galilee by turning water into wine – a miracle not of necessity or urgency, but an act of generosity and hospitality – the act of a King, who out of His abundance gave a gift to His own, 'wine to gladden the heart of man'.

In the Third Sunday, the leper (outcast of his people) worships Christ, who in turn heals him; the centurion, one who is outside the faith of Israel and indeed regarded as an enemy of the nation, approaches Jesus with a plea for His healing mercy upon his servant, and the Lord of life grants his plea while hearing the words of humble access: "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof but speak the word only and my servant shall be healed."

In the Gospel of the Fourth Sunday, we hear of the great storm which arose upon the lake while Jesus slept peacefully in the boat, and how the Apostles were terrified they would perish; but Jesus rises and rebukes the wind and sea, and immediately the wind ceases and the waters are calm again; and the beholders worship Jesus, the Lord of earth, and sea, and sky.

On the Fifth Sunday After Epiphany, we have revealed to us something of Christ's kingdom on earth; of the enemy sowing tares amidst the good seed, how both must grow together, for good and evil must dwell together for a time, but that justice and righteousness and truth will prevail in the Kingdom of our God. For, as we

have revealed to us on the Sixth Sunday, the Lord of righteousness will come again in glory at the end of time, and His epiphany will be "with power and great glory" to judge the nations and to receive the homage of His holy people, redeemed for all time by His saving grace upon the Cross of Calvary.

Who Jesus is stands clearly revealed to us, if we but behold His manifestations and epiphany with the eyes of faith. Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem amidst the doctors of the Law stands revealed as Prophet; in the turning of water into wine at the Wedding in Cana, as Priest; in the healing miracles, as the Lord of life; in the rebuking of the wind and sea, as Sovereign King, whose word is Law; in the parable of the wheat and tares, as Guardian and Ruler of His people; and in His Second Coming, as the Lawgiver and Judge.

But even as we have revealed to our eyes Who Jesus is, both for us and for the world, we also have revealed to us in the Epistles and Lessons of this Season, our place and our privileges, duties and responsibilities in the Kingdom of God. We are called to be God's own chosen people, gathered together as the Flock of Christ, formed to show forth His glory and praise in the world.

As Christians, we are at one and the same time the temple of Christ, and His worshippers and ministers. We are collectively the Bride and Body of Christ; and individually, we are the friends of the Bridegroom, the guests at the marriage feast. We are called out beyond ourselves to proclaim the good news of salvation, and to manifest the glory of Christ in our own lives – so that others may come to worship Him with us as Lord and Saviour. We are called to live lives of righteousness, knowing that it is by His grace alone that we are saved. We are called to walk the way of the Cross in our journey of faith, knowing that it is the only way to everlasting life.

Let us then be thankful for the holy Season of Epiphany. Let us rejoice and be glad – for Jesus Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, He is the Saviour of the world, and He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! Amen.



~ ~ ~ CATHEDRAL CALENDAR ~ ~ ~

JANUARY 7 THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
MATTINS 9:15 AM
HIGH MASS 10:00 AM

JANUARY 11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD ~ MASS 10:00 AM

JANUARY 14 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
MATTINS 9:15 AM
SUNG MASS 10:00 AM

JANUARY 17 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM

JANUARY 18 EPIPHANYTIDE FERIA ~ 10:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM

JANUARY 21 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
MATTINS 9:15 AM
SUNG MASS 10:00 AM

JANUARY 25 CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL ~ MASS 10:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM

JANUARY 28 SEPTUAGESIMA
MATTINS 9:15 AM
SUNG MASS 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 1 FERIA ~ MASS 10:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM

FEBRUARY 2 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (CANDLEMAS) ~ MASS 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 4 SEXAGESIMA ~ MASS 10:00 AM
MATTINS 9:15 AM
SUNG MASS 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 8 FERIA ~ MASS 10:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM

FEBRUARY 11 QUINQUAGESIMA ~ MASS 10:00 AM
MATTINS 9:15 AM
SUNG MASS 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 14 ASH WEDNESDAY: BEGINNING OF LENT
MASS WITH BLESSING & DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES
10:00 AM & 5:30 PM

FEBRUARY 15 LENTEN FERIA ~ MASS 10:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM

FEBRUARY 18 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MATTINS 9:15 AM
SUNG MASS 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 21 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 22 LENTEN FERIA ~ MASS 10:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM

FEBRUARY 24	ST. MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE ~ MASS 10:00 AM
FEBRUARY 25	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MATTINS 9:15 AM SUNG MASS 10:00 AM
MARCH 1	ST. DAVID OF WALES ~ MASS 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM
MARCH 4	THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MATTINS 9:15 AM SUNG MASS 10:00 AM
MARCH 8	LENTEN FERIA ~ MASS 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM
MARCH 11	FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MATTINS 9:15 AM SUNG MASS 10:00 AM
MARCH 15	LENTEN FERIA ~ MASS 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM
MARCH 17	ST. PATRICK OF IRELAND ~ MASS 10:00 AM
MARCH 18	LENT V: PASSION SUNDAY MATTINS 9:15 AM SUNG MASS 10:00 AM
MARCH 21	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM
MARCH 22	LENTEN FERIA ~ MASS 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ 10:45 AM
MARCH 25	PALM SUNDAY MATTINS 9:15 AM SOLEMN HIGH MASS & PROCESSION OF PALMS ~ 10:00 AM
MARCH 28	MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER ~ 7:00 PM VIGIL BEFORE ALTAR OF REPOSE ~ 8:00 TO 9:00 PM
MARCH 30	GOOD FRIDAY MATTINS & LITANY ~ 10:00 AM
MARCH 31	HOLY SATURDAY MATTINS & ANTE-COMMUNION ~ 10:00 AM EASTER VIGIL MASS ~ 8:00 PM
APRIL 1	EASTER DAY MATTINS 9:15 AM SOLEMN HIGH MASS 10:00 AM

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ARCHBISHOP WILL BE AWAY IN DUBLIN, IRELAND
ATTENDING CONVOCATION 2018 FROM MARCH 1ST TO MARCH 10TH.**