

Parish News & Upcoming Events

January 6, 2023

Epiphany by The Rev. Paul Richards

In the business, both inside the church and out, of Christmas, so often we forget the importance of Epiphany and the relevance to our lives today. More often than not, the Christmas story is compacted with both the gospel narratives of Luke and Matthew combined into one. The word Epiphany come from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning manifestation or appearance. As demonstrated in the beautiful painting above by long-time parishioner Catherine

Robertson, we are most familiar with the image of the three Magi making their way



'Westward Leading, Still Proceeding' by Catherine Robertson

westward with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, for the Christ Child as they followed the great star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the Day of the Kings (*Dia de los Reyes*). It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 days of Christmas. Of course, many of us are familiar with this idea from the traditional carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Increasingly, the readings and text after Epiphany will dramatize the many ways in which people came to understand who Jesus was, and this revelation began with the Magi. The Magi are often referred to in older bible sources as wise men, and it has been suggested that these Gentiles were priestly descendants of eastern tribes who were known for their knowledge of the stars and ability to interpret dreams. The Magi are only mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew (2:1-2), and the number of wise men, while not stated in the gospel, was assumed in tradition because of the three gifts mentioned. In eastern Christianity and Syriac churches, tradition holds there were twelve Magi, and the linking of the Magi to kings later in Christianity is linked scripturally to Isaiah 60:1-6 and Psalm 72:11. Christian tradition has also held that three Magi individual identified with three Christian continents; Europe (Melchior), Asia (Caspar) and Africa (Balthasar). Equally, the three gifts mentioned in Matthew have traditionally been associated to kings (gold), priest (frankincense), and sacrifice (myrrh).

What do we take away from this important feast in the Christian calendar year? What can we learn from the journey of the Magi to pay homage to the Christ Child? First, I think we need to consider that the Magi travelled from the east because of their belief in the portents of the star and

the birth of a king. Many cultures were looking for the long-awaited signs of the Messiah King, perhaps most of all was a nervous Herod, as scripture tells us. When the Magi saw the star, they believed and set out on their journey. Like the Magi, may God give us all inspiration for this year's journey ahead of us to follow the one light in our lives. Secondly, the Magi headed into unknown territory, full of risk and association with Herod (who was well-known for his violence and paranoia). As Christians, we must go on our journey often to parts unknown, sometimes at personal risk. When we are singular in purpose for our Christian journey, we often must live outside our comfort zone. Third, the Magi remained committed to their journey, no matter where the star might lead them. Of course, we all know the end of their journey leads them to a tiny baby in rough conditions and from very ordinary parents. For our journey, may we look to heaven for guidance and take comfort in all the blessings that God sends us, in whatever form. Finally, the Magi brought gifts that befitted a king. What gift do we bring to God in the coming year? The gift of time, talent, service to your neighbour, your devotion and love? In our journeys, let us be like the Magi, both paying homage to God incarnate and bringing the gifts of ourselves to the Christ Child born to us.

*Star of wonder
Star of light
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading
Still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light.*



Follow the links to the livestream and bulletin for January 6, 2023

[Livestream](#)

[Bulletin](#)

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: JANUARY 6, 2023

We'll celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with a solemn mass at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, January 6, followed by a wonderful dinner



and fund raiser in support of the Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program (CUSAP) in Griffiths Hall. Our church service will include “smells and bells.” As one of the gifts of the mage was frankincense, we’ll be using incense during our service. And, we’ll have a special guest preacher as the rector of St. John’s, Shaughnessy, The Rev. Terry Dirbas, joins us for this service.

January 6 also happens to be the day after the celebration of Ukrainian Christmas (according to the Orthodox liturgical calendar). As such, our meal will consist of homemade borscht with meat, rye buns, coffee, tea, and homemade honey-cherry cake, a Ukrainian favourite.

The suggested donation for dinner is \$20.

All monies raised will directly support the CUSAP, a registered Canadian charity with the Canada Ukraine Foundation, which supports medical missions of surgeons and nurses from Canada to fly to the area and perform much-needed surgery on civilians wounded by the war. If you’d like to help with this event or would like additional information, please let Deacon Paul know.

Come! Worship with us! And then join in our feast as we support our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.



BLESSING THE CHALK



At the supper following our Epiphany Mass, we will bless chalk so that parishioners can take some home and “chalk the doors” of their house, an epiphany-tide tradition to bless our homes.



SUNDAY SERVICE LIVESTREAMS



Follow the links to the livestream and bulletin for January 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

[Livestream](#)

[Bulletin](#)

OUR DONATION TO SOURCES FOOD BANK



We do our best to remain mindful of those in need. As such, we periodically announce a food bank Sunday during which we collect non-perishable and self-stable food items for our local food bank. Those donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Cash donations have also been made including the proceeds from a 50/50 draw at our recent neighbourhood Christmas Party. Your generosity is amazing. In 2022, in addition to countless bags of groceries, we were able to donate more than \$1000!

God bless you for your gifts and may God bless the ministry of the food bank and those who partake of this amazing community resource.

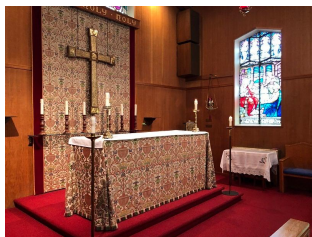
Stay tuned for our next food bank Sunday and for more opportunities to support the Sources Community Resource Centres.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS

Our first prayer shawl ministry of 2023 will gather in the Library on Monday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m. We'll enjoy some wonderful conversation and fellowship as we knit hats, scarves, gloves, and other items for those in need. We invite you to join us and look forward to seeing you.



FLOWER AND AUMBRY CANDLE DEDICATIONS



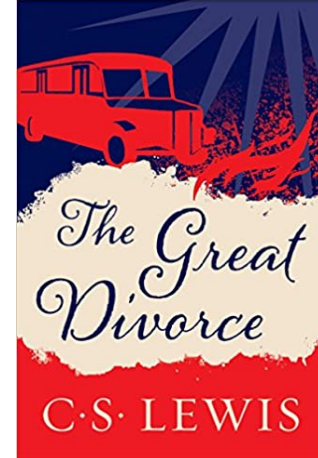
A new sign-up calendar has been posted in the hallway from the church to the parish hall inviting you to donate toward and dedicate altar flowers and/or aumbry candles on a specific Sunday or other day of the year. Please stop by and choose the dates that are important to you. Your dedications are valued and your donation supports the beauty of our Sunday worship. Donations can be given at the office or placed in the offering plates.

JOIN US FOR OUR BOOK STUDY - JANUARY 18

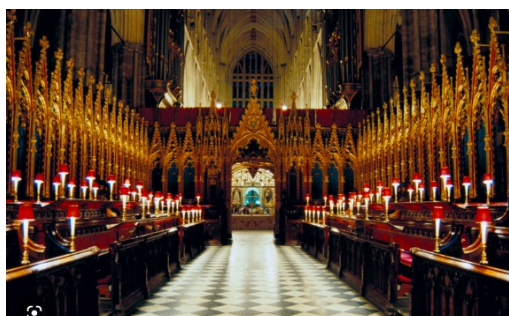
You're invited to read along with us and join us for conversation. In January, we're inviting everyone to join in reading C.S Lewis' *The Great Divorce*. We'll gather on **January 18, 2023** at **noon** for a soup and roll lunch followed by a discussion of the book. The book can be readily obtained. If you're having problems, please let Fr. Joe know.

If you're interested in making soup or providing rolls for our gathering, please sign up at the parish office.

And, it's likely that we'll select a book to read and discuss in February. Come and be part of that conversation, too!



GOT QUESTIONS? ASK ABBEY!



If you've got questions about church and the answer, "we've always done it that way" doesn't seem quite enough to satisfy your curiosity, then ask Abbey!

Dear Abbey is your opportunity to anonymously ask any question about church, liturgy, or music and have your answer posted right here in this newsletter.

Send your questions to abbey@holytrinitywhiterock.ca

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS OPEN



If you are interested in serving on the parish council or have an interest in serving on ministry committees, our Nominating Committee (**Mary Ponsford, Carol De Boeck, and Nigel Cole**) would love to hear from you.

We're in the process of re-tooling our committee structures and will be building groups to support our varied ministries: Fellowship, Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Formation, Stewardship, Youth/Children, Community Service, Communications, and more. There are so many wonderful opportunities to be involved in the ministries of our parish. And of course, we're always looking for at-large members of the parish to service with us on parish council.

Don't be shy, reach out to Mary, Carol or Nigel. And, don't be surprised if they find you first!

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 11th, 2023

Holy Trinity Tea Dance

Sat. 11th February 2:30 - 5pm

Tickets \$20 on sale starting 9th January



*At the Church Office 9am-1pm Monday - Thursday or
After the 10am Sunday Service in the library*

Info: Church Office 604 531 0884



**Join us for a Tea Dance
with musical entertainment by Greg Hampson.**

**Ticket sales start this Sunday,
January 8.**

**Your \$20 ticket includes sandwiches, scones with cream and jam,
a glass of wine, tea/coffee, and entertainment.**

**For more information
contact Helen or John Davison**

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CHURCH

January 6, 6:00 pm - Feast of the Epiphany

We'll celebrate Epiphany with a solemn mass followed by a traditional Ukrainian Borscht supper, Ukrainian desserts, and a fundraiser for Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program

January 18, noon - 1:30 p.m. - Soup Lunch and Book Study

Join us as we break bread together and share in conversation unpacking C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*.

February 2, 9:30 a.m. - The return of Thursday Morning Eucharist

Join us in church as we celebrate Holy Eucharist.

February 5, 4:00 p.m. - Evensong

Join us for this service of light, song, and prayer.

February 11, 2:30 p.m - 5:00 p.m. - Tea Dance

Come and dance with us, sip some tea, and enjoy a glass of wine with musical entertainment by Greg Hampson.

February 21, 2023 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us for a Mardi Gras celebration hosted by the men of the parish as we enter the season of Lent.

February 22, 2023 - Ash Wednesday

We're offering two services on Ash Wednesday. A spoken service at 10:30 a.m. and a service with music at 7:00 p.m. Imposition of ashes will be available at both services.

February 26 - 2023 Vestry Meeting following the 10:00 a.m. service

JOIN US FOR THURSDAY MORNING EUCHARIST

Mark your calendar and plan on being with us for Thursday Morning Eucharist!

Our first Thursday service will be February 2 at 9:30 a.m. celebrating the Feast of the Presentation.

All are welcome. And, if you'd like more information about joining the altar guild, please let Susan Lazar or Fr. Joe know.



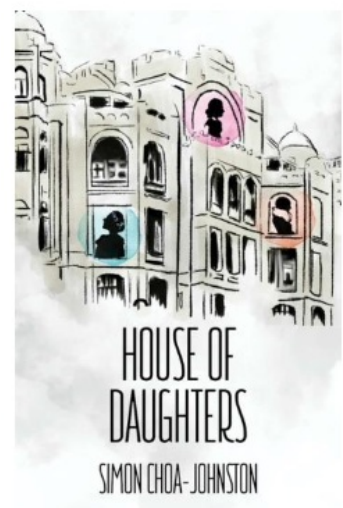
IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (AND PARISH)

You are invited to “**Meet the Author**” on Saturday **January 28th from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.** when bestselling author and Church of the Holy Trinity parishioner, Simon Choa-Johnston, will introduce his latest novel “House of Daughters” published by Earnshaw Books. Simon’s presentation will include a slide show outlining his research into his family’s history and how those stories informed his writing.

The event will be held at **the South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre on 14601 20th Avenue, South Surrey**, in the Turnbull Gallery.

Please RSVP to: Michelleprice999@gmail.com

Copies of “House of Daughters” will be available at the event for purchase and book signings. The novel is also available for on-line purchasing at Amazon.ca or at Chapters.Indigo.ca For more information, please go to: www.simonjohnston.ca



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Deacon Appointed to the Order of Canada

Congratulations to Deacon, the Reverend Pitman B. Potter for his appointment as Member of the Order of Canada, announced December 29, 2022, for “his precedent-setting scholarship in the



field of Chinese legal studies, and for his dedication and service to his community.” Visit pbpotterministries.wordpress.com for more information about Deacon Potter.

CONTACT US

Feel free to contact your church staff and lay leaders if you have any questions!

Staff

Father Joe - [**jdirbas@holytrinitywhiterock.ca**](mailto:jdirbas@holytrinitywhiterock.ca)

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Ron Dicks - [**envelopes@holytrinitywhiterock.ca**](mailto:envelopes@holytrinitywhiterock.ca)

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Questions about Church or Liturgy

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[**www.holytrinitywhiterock.ca**](http://www.holytrinitywhiterock.ca)