

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026 — Year A



Sat. Jan 3	8:00AM †Enzo Trasatti by Josephine Trasatti 4:00PM For the People
Sun. Jan 4	9:00AM Giuseppina de Gregorio by Mafalda Chiavetti
Mon. Jan 5	No Scheduled Mass
Tue. Jan 6	No Scheduled Mass
Wed. Jan 7	No Scheduled Mass
Thu. Jan 8	No Scheduled Mass
Fri. Jan 9	6:30PM †Michele Isaacs by Jaime LaPlante
Sat. Jan 10	8:00AM †Gerard van Ruyven by Josef & Mary van Ruyven 4:00PM †Michael Sammons by Ida Grant
Sun. Jan 11	9:00AM For the People

YOUTH RETREAT

St. Michael's Parish (310 Central Avenue, Fort Erie) will be having a Youth Retreat led by NET Ministries for students between Grades Eight and Twelve on Saturday, January 24 from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM. There is no cost. For more information or to register call 905-871-0692 or go to stmichaelfe.com.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

Bishop Bergie will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria (3 Lyman Street, Saint Catharines) on World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 8, 2026) starting at 3:00 PM. The Mass will honour all married couples but especially those celebrating significant anniversaries. No registration is required. A reception will follow the Mass.. Everyone is welcome.

FR. BASQUE AWAY

Fr. Basque will be away from the Parish from Sunday, January 4 (after the 9:00 AM Mass) until Friday, January 9. Mass will not be offered on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday but will be offered on Friday at 6:30 PM. In case of an emergency you can contact him at 905-941-1600 or call the Parish Office.

ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education will be holding its annual Benefit Gala to support students in need and providing scholarships, at Club Roma (125 Van Sickle Road, St. Catharines) on Thursday, March 5.

OFFICE HOURS

Regular office hours for St. Therese of Lisieux Parish will resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2026

2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Parishioners are asked to use the 2026 Offertory Envelopes that have been assigned to you. Do not use envelopes from pervious years because this will prevent us from providing donors with the proper Income Tax Receipt. Unclaimed envelope boxes can be picked up at the back of the Church. If you do not have Offertory Envelopes and wish to start using them register at the Parish Office and a box will be issued to you. If you do not use Offertory Envelopes frequently you can print your name, address and phone number on a Visitors Envelope or a plain white envelope and an Income Tax Receipt will be issued to you.

SERRA CLUB FUNDRAISER

The Serra Club of St. Catharine's is hosting a Murder Mystery Fundraiser at Club Roma (125 Van Sickle Road, Saint Catharines) entitled "Murder at the Ritz" on Saturday, April 25 starting at 5:30 PM. The event will include a four course meal, signature drinks and dancing. Tickets are \$75 per person if purchased before January 6 (a \$10 savings). A Charleston Dance Lesson will be offered from 4:30 until 5:30 for an additional charge of \$10. Prize for best dressed couple. Tickets are available at events@serrastc.ca.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place this year from Sunday, January 18 until Sunday, January 25. Catholics are encouraged to pray for unity with other Christians and to look for ways we can work together with local faith communities to build God's Kingdom on earth.

CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Confession is offered from 8:00 until 9:00 PM at St. Denis Parish (230 Lake Street, St. Catharines) Monday to Friday and St. Andrew the Apostle Parish (4 St. Andrews Ave., Welland) every Tuesday.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The next meeting of the St. Therese of Lisieux Parish Youth Ministry Group will be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 18 from 10:00 until 11:30 AM.

CLERGY DEVELOPMENT DAY

A Clergy Development Day will be held at St. Alfred's Parish on Tuesday January 27, starting at 10:00 AM. Among the topics discussed will be the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan and Marriage updates.

SAINT CARLO ACUTIS CHALLENGE

Students in Grades Five to Twelve are invited to take part in the St. Carlo Acutis Challenge. It is a chance to use your talents to create a video, app, song, dance, poem, essay, fashion project or social media campaign, to highlight an aspect of your faith about which you are passionate. The top prize for Secondary students is \$1000 while the top prize for Elementary students is \$500 For information visit bit.ly/Saint-Challenge or contact us at: evangelization@saintcd.com.

LAKESHORE MASS

Mass is offered at Lakeshore Catholic High School each Wednesday during the School Year starting at 7:30 AM. On Wednesday, January 21 Fr. Basque will be celebrating the Mass so the Parish Mass will be at 8:30 AM.

PARISH LEADERSHIP DAY

A Parish Leadership Day will be held on Saturday, March 7 starting at 10:00 AM. Among the topics discussed will be the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan and Stewardship. More information will follow.

SCHOOL MASS

Mass will be celebrated at St. Therese of Lisieux School in the gym on Thursday, January 22 starting at 11:30 AM. Everyone is welcome.

NORTHLAND POINT MASS

Mass will be offered Northland Pointe Residence (2 Fielden Avenue) on Thursday, January 15 starting at 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

Low Gluten Hosts (the amount of Gluten in them is less than 20 ppm) are available to anyone who suffers from Celiac Disease and requires one to receive the Eucharist. For those whose allergy is extremely serious, one can receive the Consecrated Wine from a separate Chalice to avoid contamination. Please let Fr. Basque know before Mass if a low gluten host or receiving the Consecrated Wine is necessary.

THANK-YOU

I would like to thank all the volunteers who help out around the Parish not just at Christmas but throughout the year such as the members of the Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Youth Ministry Group, Responsible Faith Ministry Team, the Ushers, Altar Servers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers at Mass and to those in Seniors Homes and the many others who make my job as Pastor so much easier. I would also like to thank all those who gave me Christmas Cards and gifts during this season. They make me feel appreciated.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: MAGI

The term "Magi" is often used to identify the wise men who visited Jesus in Bethlehem after his birth, as recorded in Matthew's Gospel. The Greek historian Thucydides linked "Magi" with members of a Persian class/tribe some of whom interpreted dreams and heavenly signs as well as acted in Priestly roles when offering sacrifice. Astrology, the attempt to connect earthly and heavenly events, was a common practise in Ancient Middle Eastern cultures, although it was condemned by the Jewish Law. The new star (likely the conjunction of three planets) was seen as the sign of an important event by the wise men who may have had knowledge of a future leader gained from Jewish sources who were scattered throughout the region. Their lack of knowledge about the details concerning this individual was shown by their not knowing his birthplace (they assumed he would be born in the capital Jerusalem). Their desire to find Christ for non-earthly reasons, while lacking the correct religious knowledge, contrasts sharply with Herod who has the right information but whose motivation to locate the child is solely a temporal one (the elimination of a rival). The story is a reminder to Catholics, the desire to seek Christ (or God) may originate from unlikely sources. The possession of the "correct theology" is no guarantee one will encounter Christ in one's life. The important thing is to have a sincere desire to seek to truth and follow it wherever it leads. Since as Vatican II teaches, the fullness of truth subsists in the Catholic Church, that is where Christ will be found. Yet, it is essential to allow people to follow their own faith journey, providing guidance at times, but always respecting their religious freedom. At a time when some religious traditions are adopting a black or white stance about religious truth, this seems a challenging idea to embrace. Yet, the Magi provide an example of how it works.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 27/28	Sunday Offering	\$ 1,540.00
	Christmas	\$ 3,695.00
E-transfer: celineincarmel@gmail.com		