

Sharing the Good News

St. Mary's Anglican Mission

January 2025

From James 1:27: Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Reader and Coffee Hour Schedule for January

January 5 David (Reader) Graham (Coffee Hour)

This Sunday is “Food Pantry” and “Anointing” Sunday.

January 12.....Elisabeth (Reader and Coffee Hour)

January 19 Braden (Reader and Coffee Hour)

January 26 Sylvia (Reader and Coffee Hour)

Notes from the Vicar

Maybe you, like me, long for the day when January 6 was known as Epiphany and nothing else. This year, Epiphany falls on a Monday, so we are celebrating Christmas II and will add a “salute” to Epiphany at the end of the service. The word Epiphany means manifestation, specifically the manifestation of a divine being.

This year Epiphany will be a long season, lasting from Christmas until Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 5, the first day of Lent, so we will have eight Sundays of Epiphany. The first five are Sundays of Epiphany Those of us who qualify as “old-timers can remember when the last three Sundays of Epiphany were known by Latin names denoting the number of days remaining before Easter. **Septuagesima** (70) is the ninth Sunday before Easter, the third before Ash Wednesday. The term is sometimes applied to the seventy days starting on **Septuagesima**. **Sexagesima** (60) is the second Sunday before Lent and the eighth Sunday before Easter in the Christian church year. The word comes from the Latin sexagesima, which means "sixtieth".

Quinquagesima marks 50 days before Easter, and is the **Sunday** before Ash Wednesday.

The message of Epiphany can be interpreted in several ways, and none are right or wrong. Some believe it is a message of faith in divine light, which guided the Magi to Bethlehem. Others interpret it as a celebration of Jesus coming to unite the world as the true "king of kings" and that He came to be a savior to all people.

Some people will tell you that January 6 is the Twelfth Day of Christmas, but that is not true. January 5 is called "Twelfth Night" in some areas (and it's where the **William Shakespeare** play got its name). Indeed January 5 is considered "Epiphany Eve" and the 12th day of Christmas.

We have a birthday this month at St. Mary's: Braden Bisping will celebrate on January 7.

Parish Prayer List (as of 12/31/24)

For Steven our Archbishop; Alberto, our Bishop; Tom, our Priest; and Deacon Tom

For those fighting cancer: Sandy, Cindy, Karen, Carol, Richard, Barb, Mark, Eric, Judy, Gary, Danielle, Charles

For those in need of uplifting prayer: Deacon Tom, Jess, Tressie, David, Kathy, Dan, Sylvia, Graham, John, Fiona, Shannon, Jon, Jerry, Stuart, Daniel, William, Jennifer, Rob, Bill, Chuck, Michael, Lottie, Mary, Max, Sherry, Marie

For those in long term care: Gabriel, Grace, Danielle, the residents at Holly Brook, Reflections and South Park

For the Church's ministry in Nepal: Purna, Mahendra, Dipendra, Reshma, Prakash; the Transformation Spiritual Church

For the growth of St. Mary's Anglican Mission

For those affected by the war in the Middle East and the war in Ukraine

RIP – Diane, Zachary

A blessed, healthy, and happy New Year to all!