

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE

The 12:10pm Mass at St. Theresa's Cathedral, is celebrated on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Fr. Joe Morley will celebrate on Wednesdays & Fridays.

Fr. Julio Blazejewski will celebrate on Thursdays.

SATURDAY ADORATION: In the Chapel of St. Theresa's 9am Holy Mass in Portuguese, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration, 12:30pm — Benediction

LECTIO DIVINA: resumes Monday, January 6th - St. Theresa's Hall at 7 PM

CARITAS HOUSE OF PRAYER (236-5877): A special prayer service will take place on Sunday, January 5th at Caritas at 3pm in celebration of the Epiphany and the Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Quiet Wednesdays will resume on January 8th with Rosary recitation at 10:30am followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:50am. Sister Dolores and Sister Judith pray that God will bless each and every one of you with good health and much happiness in this New Year and ask that you pray for them as they bring the mission of the Sisters of Charity on the island to a close with a special celebration on July 19, 2020

All those who signed up for the **Diocesan Women's retreat** at Grotto Bay hotel on February 7th through 9th, 2020 will be receiving more information with dates for the deposit and retreat costs within the next week.

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP WILL REOPEN on Tuesday, 7th January, 2020. We wish all our customers a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued patronage and support!

Dear Padre,

What do we know about the Three Kings?

Your question reminds us how much human tradition has embellished some of the events described in sacred Scripture. Historically, the name Magi designates members of an ancient Near Eastern priestly caste. In Matthew's Gospel, they are presented as noble wise men and astrologers.



The number three has long been associated with the Magi. However, the Gospel narratives never mention their number (though they did offer three gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh). Saint Matthew is also silent about their names. However, in the eighth century, Western traditions began calling them Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Other Christian traditions use different names.

Though their gifts indicate they were from South Arabia, it's doubtful that they represented particular nations or the major racial families. At the very least, the Magi represent the Gentile peoples coming from afar to find the true God in Jesus Christ. This contrasts with King Herod and Israel. Both neglected this manifestation of God's presence in their midst.

Astrology permeated ancient cultures, so it isn't strange that astrologers appear in the Bible. The Church responded by "Christianizing" aspects of astrology. For example, the Church deliberately called Christ the "Sun of Justice," thus replacing the pagan god Sol with one true God. In the fourth century, the Church placed the celebration of Christ's Nativity on December 25, the birthday of the sun. We emphasize Jesus as the Light of the World and celebrate his feast every week on Sunday.



The Bishop's Corner

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

The counting of time with a calendar is the oldest use of astronomical communication for the essentials of everyday life. The beginning of time calculations that we use were founded in ancient Egypt, where the solar calendar was used and closely related to the periodicity of the Nile floods. In Mesopotamia, the solar-lunar calendar was used. On the other hand, in the Islamic calendar, the count was purely lunar, and interestingly enough, the months in this calendar only had 29 days.

All calendars of ancient times had numerous disadvantages. In practice, they created a lot of complications. This was not due to a lack of knowledge as ancient astronomers knew the true length of the tropical year, but various considerations, primarily religious ones, did not allow for the necessary reforms. The calendar was considered sacred and the division of the year was also a tradition. Life, however, required order. Julius Caesar understood this when making a general decision for change. Caesar commissioned a group of astronomers to reform the calendar. The Egyptian calendar with the year set to 365.25 days was used as the basis for the new calendar. This year was divided into 12 months with a leap year. The disparities between the Roman calendar and the solar year were already significant, with the difference being 90 days. This difference was added to the year preceding the reform and was done as follows: to February, which was a leap year month in the Roman calendar, 23 days were added, the remaining 67 days to the last month of the 46th year BCE, so it added up to 445 days. The new calendar began to operate from the 1st of January 45 BCE, i.e. from 708th year since the founding of Rome. It covered a 4-year cycle: three years were 365 days, the fourth year 366 days.

The Julian calendar, based on the Egyptian solar calendar, was undoubtedly a great achievement of world calendarology. It was the best and most convenient calendar among those that were created. Unfortunately, there was also a drawback. The year of this calendar was 11 minutes and 14 seconds shorter than the solar one. It can be said that it is a triviality, but from this triviality over 128 years 1 day was created and not included in the calendar. As time passed, the discrepancy between the astronomical year and the calendar year grew.

The calendar was reformed only during the pontificate of Pope Gregory XIII. On the 21st of February 1582, the Pope announced a bill, recommending the adoption of the new calendar. It was later named The Gregorian Calendar and was based on the following principles: Years – Those whose numbers were divisible by 4 were leap years, as in the Julian calendar. The exceptions were years containing centuries, expressed in hundredths and they were only leap years if they were divisible by 400. An example of this is 1600 and 2000 were leap years. We count the remaining years containing centuries as ordinary years (365 days each). It was also ordered that the spring equinox go to the 21st of March. This was done by leaving out ten days so that the 4th of October 1582 was followed by the 15th of October. To prevent the future shifting of the spring equinox again, it was decided to leave 3 leap days within 400 years. The spring equinox of day and night on the 21st of March remains thus far.

The Gregorian calendar is presently mandatory in most countries. However, there are still about twenty other calendars in use around the world.

Regardless of what calendar you use, let 2020 be productive, prosperous and blessed for you!

Bishop Wes

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 5, 2020

Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Is 60:1–6

Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6

Mt 2:1–12



ROYANA BASHYROVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A Christ for Every Nation

“Go back where you came from!” What if the Magi heard this when they came to the house where the Child was, and they heeded that deriding message? The “signs of the times” that they read told them a king had been born. They might not have known exactly where to look, but they knew what they were looking for, and they recognized that king when they found him. These righteous men were not Israelites, yet God revealed this great mystery to them. Furthermore, there is no indication that they eventually became Israelites. Rather, “they departed for their country” (Matthew 2:12). God really does not play favorites.

Then how are we to understand the claim of being God's Chosen People, whether ancient Israelites or the Christian community? What's the point of being chosen if you are not the favorite? While acknowledging God's special love for his Chosen People, both Isaiah and Paul answer this question.

The prophet claims that “nations will walk by your light, kings by the radiance of your dawning” (Isaiah 60:3), and Paul says “the stewardship of God's grace... was given to me for your benefit” (Ephesians 3:2). In other words, some have been chosen by God to bring the light of God's love to others.

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates two important realities—the revelation of God to all people and the responsibility to reveal that astounding mystery to others. The Magi personify both realities. They were men of another faith tradition to whom God revealed the mystery of the Incarnation, and they returned home and probably proclaimed to others the wonder of that mystery.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

...FOR Reflection...

- ★ How respectful are you of the religious quests of others?
- ★ In what ways might your life shine the light of God's love on others?



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Vocations: Fr. Toby Collins www.vocationculture.ca

Pastoral Council Chairperson:	Glenn Clinton	email: glennclinton@logic.bm ,	(c) 526 0000
Pastoral Council Finance Chair:	Robert Mason	email: rjm@logic.bm ,	(h) 292 3178
Pastoral Council CCD Coordinator:	Patricia Carreiro	email: pcarreiro1976@gmail.com	(c) 737 1047
Community Building Committee Chair:	Grace Lovecchio	email: mglove@northrock.bm	(h) 236-5006

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:45pm, Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00am

Weekday Masses: Thursday at 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 7:30 — 8:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday at 5:00-5:30pm

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance



www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us

Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm



We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this Sunday. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

Sat. Jan 4	5:45pm	Veronica & Herman Tucker ++
Sun. Jan 5	8:30am	Deolinda & Antonio Carvalho ++
	11:00am	Maria Ruggeiro & Vito Lovecchio ++
		St. Michael's Parishioners Living & Dead
Thurs. Jan 9	7:00pm	
		<i>Followed by The Holy Hour with the Rosary and Adoration</i>
Sat. Jan 11	5:45pm	St. Michael's Parishioners Living & Dead
Sun. Jan 12	8:30am	Kirby Brackstone +
	11:00am	

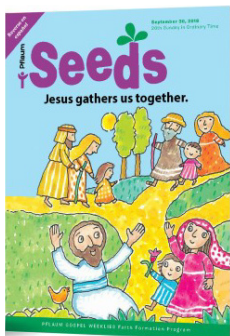
You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at St. Theresa's - 7:30 Mon.—Fri. | St Anthony's - 8:00 Tues.—Fri.

January 4/5th FEAST OF THE LORD EPIPHANY

5:45PM	Lector: K. Marsh
EM: P. Marsh, W. Forbes, A. Cannonier	
8:30AM	Lector: S. DeCouto
Greeters:	
EM: J. Mendonca, L. Ferigo, G. Lovecchio	
11:00AM	Lector: P. Robinson
Greeters:	
EM: C. DaCosta, J. Lee, L. Attridge-Stirling	
Altar Guild: L. Attridge-Stirling	Counters: K. Marsh

January 11/12th THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

5:45PM	Lector: A. Cannonier
EM: M. Wong, P. Marsh, K. Marsh	
8:30AM	Lector: E. Leitch
Greeters:	
EM: S. DeCouto, J. Mendonca, I. Brackstone	
11:00AM	Lector: I. Tavares
Greeters:	
EM: Maura Almeida, P. Robinson, L. Lau	
Altar Guild: I. Manuel	Counters: The Tavares



THE SEEDS PROGRAMME at the 8:30 Mass will resume on **NEXT Sunday, Jan. 12th**. SEEDS class takes place during the first part of the Mass and is a special and fun lesson about the Gospel for children aged 3 - 7 years old. There is no need to register but if you would like more information.

contact Annabel Cooper
email: annabelmcooper@gmail.com.

PARISH NEWS

CCD CLASSES—CHRISTMAS BREAK — Classes will resume, **NEXT Sunday, January 12th.**

ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS DONATIONS ENVELOPE. It's NOT to late to contribute to St. Michaels. Maybe you were traveling and unable to make a Christmas contribution. Envelopes are still available should you wish to provide a Christmas donation toward the needs of our parish. Your generosity will be very welcome.
THANK YOU!!!

VISITS TO THE SICK AND SHUT IN: Please let the Sisters at Caritas know if you have loved ones or neighbours who are in the hospital, or are homebound and would like a visit and to receive the Eucharist. Tel: (236-5877)

THE 2020 DIOCESAN CALENDARS are located at the back of the Church. **THEY ARE FREE** however, with a suggested \$7 donation. Please use the Envelopes provided to make your donation and place it in the basket available.

YOUR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED: THE MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR



Parishioners were introduced to the hard work and dedication of the Missionaries of the Poor at a presentation made on Thursday, December 5, at St. Theresa's Cathedral Hall.

Since its establishment, Missionaries of the Poor has grown to include over 550 Brothers from 13 countries. Headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica, the Brothers maintain six mission homes for people in the most need, including abandoned sick, disabled, or dying men, women, infants, and children. In 2014, the Holy See elevated the order to an Institute of Pontifical Right.

Several parishioners in our Diocese have had first-hand experience with the devastatingly poverty-stricken conditions that exist in Kingston, and you are invited to view the YouTube link: Candles in the Dark: The Life & Story of Fr. Richard Ho Lung & The Missionaries of the Poor, to witness these conditions for yourself. The Missionaries of the Poor need your financial assistance. Bishop Wes has generously offered to personally cook dinner for two and you are encouraged to purchase a raffle ticket (\$20/ticket) from your Pastor after Mass this weekend. Raffles will also be available next weekend, January 11 and 12. Or consider making a heartfelt donation. All proceeds will be given to the Missionaries of the Poor. Thank you for your stewardship. Volunteers are also desperately needed to assist the Missionaries with their work for the poor. Please continue to pray for the Brothers and their missionary work worldwide.

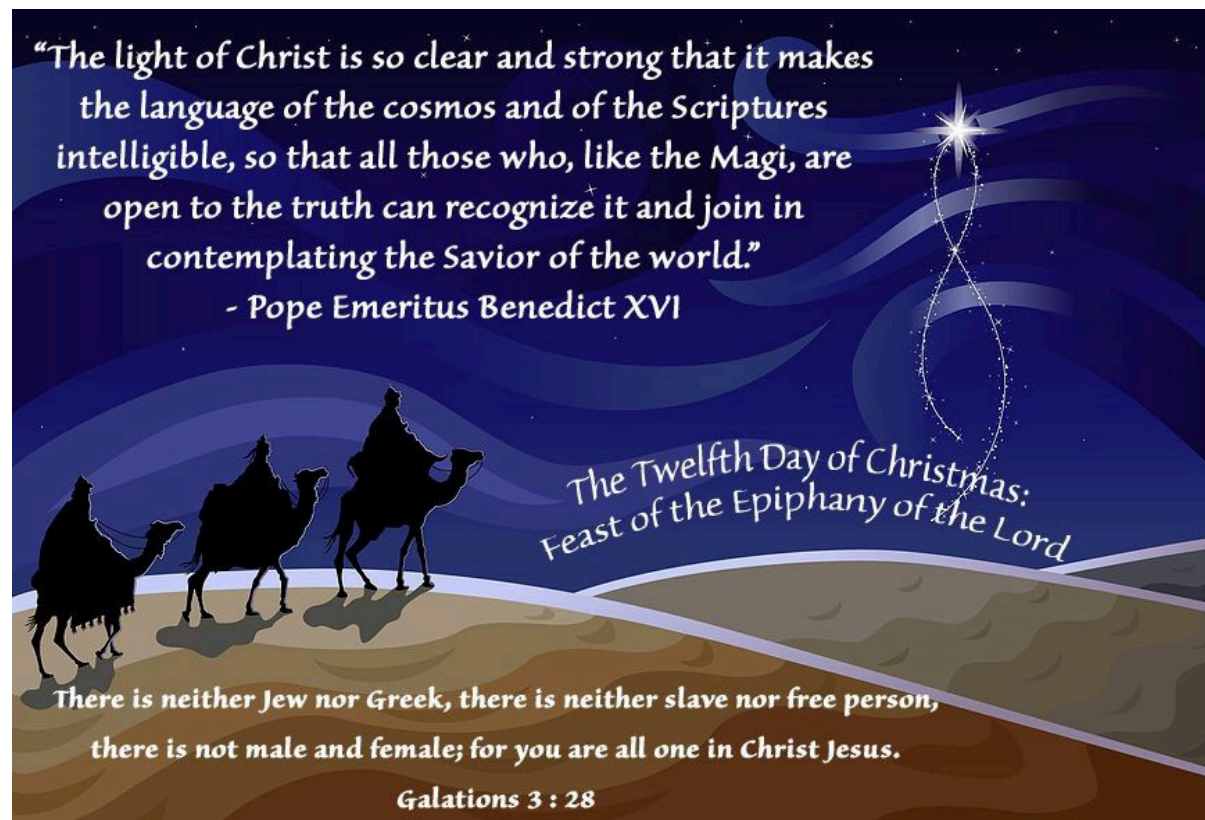


THE DIOCESAN YOUTH GROUP – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

All teens are invited to join for fun, fellowship and scripture. Come check it out!

Or for more Information, contact the Youth Group at: Email: catholicyouthbda@gmail.com; Facebook: BermudaCatholicYouthGroup; Instagram: @catholicyouthbda

Justin and the Core Group



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Weekly Collection December 21/22nd & 28/29th:	\$1,656.22
Weekly Income Needed to cover Routine Expenses:	\$6,072.00
WEEKLY Surplus/shortfalls:	\$4,415.78
CHRISTMAS MASSES COLLECTION:	\$2,241.00

"Please note, that we are charged \$20 for US\$ checks drawn on a US Bank."

ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions to support Parish Operations.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS DONATION: TO 29/12: **\$2,318.00**
SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Two Weeeks Votives: \$11.88 Two Weeeks Poor Box: \$70.10

POOR BOX FUNDS GO TO THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY's **LOAVES AND FISHES**

Direct Deposit to Butterfield Bank (BNTB) to:

"The Ordinary of the Roman Catholic Church, St. Michael's" Acct # 2000-6060-081824 -100



ROME - Pope Francis wished for peace in the world at the start of the New Year. Thousands of people packed Saint Peter's Square to hear his word on World Peace Day. The Pope also used strong words during a morning mass in the Vatican Basilica to decry violence against women and called for an end to the exploitation of the female body.

Under a brilliant winter sun and blue sky, Pope Francis wished a huge crowd gathered in Saint Peter's Square a happy new year of peace. The pope said it is not expected that our planet has begun a new circle around the sun and that humanity continues to live in it but rather it is always a miracle that

surprises and that one should be thankful for. On World Peace Day, instituted by Pope Paul VI, Pope Francis said that for 2020 the message is this: "Peace is a path of hope, a path on which one advances through dialogue, reconciliation and conversion."

Earlier Pope Francis celebrated a solemn mass on New Year's Day in Saint Peter's Basilica. On January 1, the Church celebrates Mary, mother of Jesus. In his first homily of 2020, the pope spoke against violence inflicted on women in modern society. He said all violence against women is a desecration of God. He also called for an end to the exploitation of the female body saying it "must be freed from consumerism" and it "must be respected and honored." He said "how often is a woman's body sacrificed on the profane altar of advertising, profit, pornography, exploited as a surface to be used." He added that while women are "the sources of life," they are continually offended, beaten, raped, forced into prostitution" or forced to have abortions.

Pope Francis said that our level of humanity is understood by the way we treat a woman's body. He also said that in order to make the world more united and at peace, women should become fully-associated with decision-making. In his homily, the pope also addressed the issue of immigration and mothers who undertake difficult voyages to improve the lives of their children. He said: "There are mothers, who risk perilous journeys to desperately try to give the fruit of the womb a better future and are judged to be redundant by people whose bellies are full of things, but whose hearts are empty of love."

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Do we know how to dream, to long for God, ... or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind? The Magi were not content with just getting by, with keeping afloat. They understood that to truly live, we need a lofty goal and we need to keep looking up.

—EPIPHANY HOMILY, JANUARY 6, 2018



PARISH REGISTRATION FORM Moved house, had a baby, changed your contact data?

Please help us to keep the Diocesan database up to date! Log on to our Website, click on your Parish Page and either download or print the Parish Registration Form. Complete and drop the form into either the Collection basket, at your Rectory Office or email it to diocesancentre@northrock.bm. Thanks for your assistance and God bless.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda website has been updated. Please take the time to review the website, it has a great deal of information of what is happening in and around our Diocese is www.romancatholicbermuda.bm.