

From the Priest in Charge

“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)

While we are a week late, I will still take the opportunity to remind us all about Epiphany House Blessings – because it never is *truly* too late!

Why does one bless a house? There can be many reasons. For some, it is done when you first move in as a type of housewarming – to invite God into the space and be present with you there for protection and guidance. For others, it may be in response to an incident and to re-invite God’s presence. In all its forms, it involves primarily praying for the occupants of the home and that the building might be a blessing to them. It is an old practice among Christians, and some basic forms of house blessings can be found in the Old Testament. For example, in 1 Samuel 25:6, King David sends tree men to Carmel and tells them to “greet him: ‘Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have’”.

Regardless of the reason, they can be done at any time. I did mine in the fall – because it was still nice enough to be outside – but they are often associated with this time of year: with Epiphany. Why? Because the arrival of the magi with their gifts is seen as a blessing to the occupants of the home – in this case Jesus and his family.

House blessing at the time of Epiphany remains such a popular thing in Europe, that one tradition that has long been attached to Epiphany has started to take root here in North America in the last few decades. This would be the tradition of “chalking the door” for Epiphany as a way to invoke God’s blessing on your home and its inhabitants for the coming year. Its form is simple, and it’s meant to be done by families: you take a piece of chalk (sometimes blessed in Church on Epiphany), and write a pattern on a door lintel or on the door itself. This pattern, for 2024, would read:

“20 + C + M + B + 24”

The “20” and “24” come together to form the current year (2024), the “+” signs represent crosses for Christ, and the initials C, M, B mean one of two things – or both: either the traditional three names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) or the Latin prayer *Christus mansionem benedicat* (“May Christ bless this house”). An example of this blessing in

action can be found over the main door between the nave and the narthex at St. Mary’s. After writing this pattern over the door, it is customary to say a few prayers that ask for God’s protection and guidance.

While going through these motions, there are a few good things to remember. First, we recall the Passover in Egypt, when the Israelites marked the lintels of their doors with blood as signs they were God’s people. Second, we recall the hospitality that the Holy Family showed to the Gentile kings who arrived to pay homage to Jesus. Third, we recall the blessing of gifts which the magi brought. Finally, this marking serves as a reminder, every time we see or walk through the door, of God’s presence in our houses and in our daily lives.

Last year in the NB Anglican the Rev. David Turner, from Hampton, shared the following prayer for chalking the lintel:

*“Almighty God, you led the Magi to the humble dwelling of the Holy Family in Bethlehem to bless their home with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We ask you to bless our home with the riches of your grace, with the righteousness of your son, Jesus, and with the presence of your Holy Spirit.
May this chalk be a reminder of your blessings to us, and may our lives be marked by the peace and love of our eternal home with you in your everlasting kingdom, where you reign with Jesus, your son, and with the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.”*

May we, in this Epiphany season when our Lord was revealed to the world, be daily reminded of our Lord’s presence and protection.



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi’kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



Parish Notices and Updates _____

OUR PARISH BIBLE STUDY continues each **Friday at 10:00 a.m.** in the Church. This year we will be taking a close look at the Sunday lectionary, with a series called “Unpacking the Homily – A Deeper Dive than Twelve Minutes a Week.”

CHOIR PRACTICE meets **Sundays after Coffee & Conversation**. Please speak to Jim O’Neill if you are interested in singing.

Although we are still basking in the joyfulness of Christmas, the season of Lent is just around the corner due to the early date of Easter this year. As such, the Parish Corporation has decided we would like to try to host a **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER** once again. To plan for this, *we will need volunteers*. Please speak to Fr. Nicholas or one of the wardens if you are interested in helping out. **Shrove Tuesday this year is Tuesday, February 13th**.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS: The annual congregational meetings of the three parishes currently in shared ministry are scheduled for the following dates. Please plan to attend your congregational meeting.

- **PARISH OF MARYSVILLE**, February 11th following 9:30am Eucharist
- **PARISH OF STANLEY**, February 18th following 10:00am Eucharist
- **PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK**, February 25th in the Parish Hall following 11:00am Eucharist

If you are responsible for writing an **ANNUAL REPORT**, please submit to Fr. Nicholas by **January 29th**.

As we have started a new calendar year, the **PRAYER LIST** has been ‘refreshed’. If you have names of loved ones for the list, please pass them along to Fr. Nicholas.

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF WINTER WEATHER, please note that services will go ahead as long as driving conditions permit and the parking lot is accessible. *However, please use caution when making the decision to drive in poor weather.* A good rule of thumb: if the city busses have been cancelled, it is probably too poor to drive. If in doubt, please call Fr. Nicholas to confirm the status of a service or event.

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*Please join us in the Parish Hall
following the 11:00 a.m. Celebration
for Coffee and Conversation.*

*The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton*

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



When we see, therefore, such deeds wrought by Jesus God, why should we wonder at water being turned into wine by the man Jesus? For He was not made man in such manner that He lost His being God. Man was added to Him, God not lost to Him.

St. Augustine of Hippo

EVE OF THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER

THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 13, 2024

*The Lord hath manifested forth his glory:
O come, let us worship.*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalm 68, part 2 | Hosea 10 | Galatians 6

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 66.1-3:	<i>page 408</i>
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collects:	<i>pages 124, 117</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	<i>2 Kings 4.1-17</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 124</i>
Gradual Psalm 107.8-9:	<i>page 472</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 125</i>
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
The Intercessions:	<i>Ÿ. Lord, in thy mercy</i> R. Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

JANUARY 16: FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

JANUARY 17: FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

JANUARY 18: FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, *Paradise Villa*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

JANUARY 19: HENRY, MISSIONARY & BISHOP

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

JANUARY 20: EVE OF EPIPHANY III

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

JANUARY 21: THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:45 a.m. – Morning Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, *All Saints, Marysville*

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the Hall



PRIEST IN CHARGE

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THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 14, 2024

*The Lord hath manifested forth his glory:
O come, let us worship.*

11:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♫ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	97 (DIX)
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 124</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	2 Kings 4.1-17
♫ SURGE ILLUMINARE:	<i>page 28</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 124</i>
♫ GRADUAL HYMN:	93 (DUNDEE)
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 125</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	♫ 747 <i>Chorus Only</i> (IRIS)
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♫ OFFERTORY HYMN:	356 (STELLA ORIENTIS)
The Intercessions:	Ÿ. Lord, in thy mercy R. Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
♫ HYMN AFTER COMMUNION:	493 (ST. BOTOLPH)
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>
Epiphany Chalk Blessing	
♫ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	92 (FOREST GREEN – 82)

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