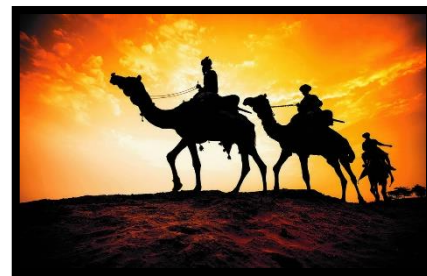


# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Diocese of Prince George

3285 Cathedral Avenue - Prince George, BC V2N 6R4

TELEPHONE: 250-964-4898 WEBSITE: [www.icparish.ca](http://www.icparish.ca)



January 8, 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord



### OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic community nourished through  
the Word and the Sacraments.

Striving to follow Christ,  
we reach out and welcome all,  
witnessing through loving actions  
in service, education, and celebration.

OFFICE HOURS:	Monday to Friday	9:30AM – 3:00PM
MASS TIMES:	Daily	Monday – Friday 9:00AM
	Sunday	9:00AM, 11:00AM & 7:00PM
SACRAMENTS:	Baptism	Contact Parish Office
	Reconciliation	Before Mass, or by appointment
	Marriage	Contact Parish Office at least six months in advance

BISHOP -DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

Most Rev. Stephen Jensen

Email: [sjensen@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:sjensen@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

PASTOR -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Rev. John Garden

Email: [jgarden@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:jgarden@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. Martha Primus

Email: [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

PRINCIPAL -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

Mrs. Kathleen Barth

Email: [icsoffice@cispjg.ca](mailto:icsoffice@cispjg.ca)

### PASTORAL MINISTRIES CONTACTS

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR: Matt Brown

HOME VISITS: Contact Parish Office

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: Eva Gillis

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: TBA

HOSPITALITY/COFFEE SUNDAY: Dan Burri

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT: Phyllis Sarrazin

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Dennis Fedyk

SOCIAL ACTION: Sr. Michaela

GRAND KNIGHT:

Soup Kitchen

K of C Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

VOCATIONS: Fr. Terry Brock

We have come from the East to pay homage to the King

*Matthew 2.1-12*

# Mass Intentions

## FOR THE WEEK



Sun	Jan 8	9AM	For the intentions of Murry Olson
		11AM	Intentions of the Rodrigues Family
		7PM	For the people of IC
Mon	Jan 9	9AM	
Tues	Jan 10	9AM	For the holy souls in purgatory
Wed	Jan 11	9AM	
Thu	Jan 12	9AM	
Fri	Jan 13	9AM	

Mass intentions may be requested for various reasons (eg. a deceased loved one, someone who is ill, a birthday or anniversary, etc.) A Mass offering may be given for the intention but is not required. If you have a Mass intention, please call the parish office by Wednesday of each week so that the intention can be published in the bulletin.

See insert today on the explanation of the Christmas Season from Fr. John



Today's Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is a feast that celebrates communication. The Gospel we read today portrays Jesus—the Word Made Flesh—revealed to the nations as the wise men arrive to pay him homage. Whatever the historical facts behind the story, the message of faith is that God is reaching out to us, communicating to us the Word Made Flesh. That's communication that has transformed human history.

God's revelation in Jesus has a power surpassing all our modern technological "miracles" because it speaks to our hearts. Are we listening? Are we open to the Word?

Let's become modern channels of God's communication to the world in this New Year using our gifts—whatever they may be—to pass on the message of the Good News, that Love is born in our midst.

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- **Games Night - Crib and Scrabble 7:00PM**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday- Postponed until further notice.
- **Monthly Adoration at Domano Chapel – Tuesday, January, 10, 2023, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm**
- **K of C Monthly Meeting** – Next meeting will be **Thursday, January 12, 2023 7:00PM**
- **RCIA - 7:00PM January 12, 2023 at St. Mary's**
- **Monthly School Mass - January 13, 2023**
- **K of C Pancake Breakfast –January 15, and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the 9 & 11AM Mass**

*Thank You!*

Fr. John, Martha and Sr. Michaela would like to extend sincere thanks for the cards, well wishes and gifts given over the Christmas Season. We feel truly blessed to be part of this parish and school community

IC=  
Immaculate Conception  
Incredible Community

## SHEPHERD'S CORNER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Shepherd's Corner is a ministry and outreach of the Diocese to the homeless and street people in the downtown area of the city. It is an opportunity to live out what Jesus asked in Matthew 25: 35 - 40.

Since Covid-19 we have not had people inside, although restrictions have been lifted. We currently provide front door services of drinks, snacks, and clothing (if available).

Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

There are strict procedures in place to ensure safety of all, and to maintain cleanliness and good hygiene.

The primary focus of the ministry is to see those served as children of God.

**We are in dire need of volunteers.**

Please note that **ALL** volunteers require a Criminal Record Check to be completed prior to being scheduled for this ministry.

If you feel called to serve in any way, please contact:

Peter Ranson at [p-ranson@shaw.ca](mailto:p-ranson@shaw.ca) or (250) 552-8980.

## PASTORAL CARE TRAINING SESSIONS

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, **starting on January 28, 2023, and running until April 1** (with no session on March 18 for Spring Break).

Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Whether you are a member of your parish Pastoral Care Team, an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, a member of the Knights of Columbus, CWL or St. Vincent de Paul, clergy or religious, caring for a family member, or someone attending as a personal undertaking, this training program is important. It will show why those who visit the sick are unique and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Bishop Gary Gordon of the Diocese of Victoria feels “it is important to have parishioners trained at the ready to provide a caring and compassionate experience to those who are most in need.”

**Please register through your local parish by January 18.** For further information, please contact [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca)

See the Wednesday Weekly for more information.

## 2023 DONATION ENVELOPES

**There are still some envelopes for the 2023 year available in the foyer for those who use them.**

Because some parishioners have moved or some are now donating by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) and Preauthorized Debits (PAD), the number of envelope boxes required has decreased. If you had an envelope number higher than 160, you have a new number assigned to you. **Please be sure to indicate your name and contact information on the first few envelopes used to donate in 2023** to ensure that the receipt issued goes to the correct person. Please check your name and address on the label.

Please call or email the parish office if you do not currently have envelopes and would like to use them, or for the Special Collection envelope packages for those who are considering EFT and PAD.

For the current users of EFT and PAD there are Special Collection envelopes in the foyer.

If you would like to donate by PAD you will find the application [here](#).

Or if you would like to donate by EFT, we are registered through [icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:icparish@pgdiocese.bc.ca) for a direct deposit. [Click here for instructions on how to e-transfer.](#)

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Immaculate Conception School is currently accepting registrations for **Kindergarten 2023-24 school year**. If you know of anyone who is interested in having their child attend Immaculate Conception School this coming September, please have them contact the school office as soon as possible. You can obtain a registration form from the website at [www.icschool.ca](http://www.icschool.ca), under admissions or pick one up from the school office.

## MONTHLY ADORATION

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Domano Chapel. Mass will be celebrated at **7:30 am** and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from **8:00 am – 8:00 pm**

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[Link for the  
Diocesan Wednesday Weekly  
January 4, 2023](#)

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE DIOCESE

**Diocese of Prince George – Pastoral Centre**  
**Accounting Clerk – Temporary Full-Time:**

The Diocese of Prince George is seeking a temporary full time Accounting Clerk for maternity leave coverage which will commence early in 2023 and last up to 15 months. Reporting to the Business Manager, this position is responsible for a variety of bookkeeping and accounting duties in support of accounts receivable, accounts payable and other accounting and financial functions for several sets of books.

### Skills and Qualifications

- Business Accounting Diploma and/or two years related experience
- Knowledge of Sage 50 and 300, Microsoft 365
- A high degree of accuracy, judgment and ethics and the ability to work in a collaborative and team environment are essential

The successful candidate must be committed to working in a faith-based office environment.

The diocese provides a collaborative working environment and competitive remuneration including a comprehensive benefits package.

Interested applicants should send their resume to [jfowlie@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:jfowlie@pgdiocese.bc.ca)

## What is the “*Christmas Season*”? When does it begin? When does it end?



The answer to those questions depends on the calendar followed by the particular Christian traditions: the Julian Calendar (of Julius Caesar, 46 BC; and its later revision) OR the Gregorian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, as a replacement of the Julian Calendar in the western world. In some of the Eastern Catholic Churches, as well as the Eastern Orthodox traditions, the Julian calendar is followed, whereas the Gregorian calendar is followed in the greater portion of the Christian traditions, including our own Roman Latin Rite.

The Christian communities of the early centuries of the Church originated in the east and the Birth of Christ did not have its own feast day in their liturgical calendar. Instead, the Birth of Christ was celebrated as part of the great feast of the ‘Theophany’ (or ‘Epiphany’, meaning “manifestation” or “revealing”) on January 6<sup>th</sup> (or January 7<sup>th</sup> – depending on the Eastern Church). This one feast day celebrated the several “manifestations” of Christ: (1) His birth; (2) His visitation by the Magi; (3) His baptism in the Jordan; and (4) even His miracle at the Wedding of Cana. Because the Magi came bearing the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the Christ-Child, gift-giving became part of the feast of the Theophany in the eastern traditions.

However, as Christianity spread to the western world, and both the Roman Empire and the See of St. Peter gained influence, the western world followed decrees issued by Rome. In about the fourth century, Christians in the western world removed the celebration of Christ’s Birth as part of the traditional Theophany (Epiphany) celebration of January 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> and gave it a feast of its own on December 25<sup>th</sup>. This was to counteract the pagan celebrations of the winter solstice that were celebrated on that date. It was also chosen as the date for Christmas (the Birth of Christ) as it was exactly nine months after the Solemn Feast of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, celebrated on March 25<sup>th</sup>. In time, most Christians came to celebrate the Birth of Christ on December 25<sup>th</sup> according to the Gregorian calendar, and this date was adopted almost universally in civil calendars throughout the world.



As a result of the shift in date for the celebration of Christ's Birth to December 25<sup>th</sup> from January 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, the time between December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> (the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) became established on the liturgical calendar as the "Octave of Christmas", and the time between December 25<sup>th</sup> and the feast of the Theophany (Epiphany) on January 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> became known as the "12 days of Christmas."

But with the establishment of the Novus Ordo and its accompanying liturgical calendar (in 1969), the Christmas Season was extended beyond the date of January 6<sup>th</sup> in our Roman Latin Rite tradition. That is because the Roman Latin Rite tradition incorporated the original liturgical tradition of the east (and its recognition of the Baptism of the Lord as being part of the great Christmas Feast or Theophany of God) into its liturgical calendar for the Christmas Season. Hence, the Feast of the "Theophany" (or "Epiphany" – or "manifestation" of God to the world) became an extended octave, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord being placed as the end point of the Christmas Season.

To make matters more complicated, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (or Candlemas), celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, is also considered an occasion in which the Christ-Child was made "manifest" (or "revealed") to the world. Hence, some Christians (e.g., in places like Peru, Puerto Rico, France, and Belgium) include this feast day as part of their Christmas Season.

However, for us in Canada: the official end of the Christmas Season is the celebration of the *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*, which takes place this year (2023) on *Monday, January 9th*.





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Saturday 10:00AM to 4:00PM  
Closed Sunday  
(250) 562 3784

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