



# THE BEACON



## The Anglican Church of Saint Dunstan

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“A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

The season of Christmastide ends on January 5<sup>th</sup> and the next day the season of Epiphany begins. This marks the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas which stretch from Christmas Day, the birth of the Jesus Christ, to the arrival of the Three Magi or Kings, also known as the Wisemen, which is the Feast of the Epiphany. The word “Epiphany” can mean both a manifestation of a divine being and the intuitive realization of some reality. Our Christian understanding of Epiphany thus encompasses both meanings; God is with us in the divine Christ child, and the Magi realize who and what he is.

Although the Gospel of Mathew does not list the number of Magi, in Western tradition they are three in number and come to be known by the names Caspar (sometimes Gaspar), Melchior and Balthasar (also Balthazar). In Byzantine art they are shown with trousers and red Phrygian caps. Their clothes show that they come from the east. The earliest depiction we have of them with their names comes from a Byzantine mosaic in the Basilica of Saint Apollinare Nuova in Ravenna, Italy (see below). Here already one is shown as an older man, one middle-aged, and one young. Their names are inscribed above +SCS (Sanctus, meaning holy) Balthassar, Melchior and Gaspar. In the West they are first shown with crowns as kings beginning in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The Adoration of the Magi was a popular subject of painters in the medieval and Renaissance periods and the depiction of the Magi evolved over time. The Magi are shown representing the three ages of man with Melchior as an old man, Caspar a middle-aged man and Balthasar a young man. They also come to represent the continents of the known world, which in the medieval world are Europe, Asia and Africa. Melchior is European, Caspar is Asian and Balthasar in the late Middle Ages is depicted as a noble African king. They bear the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the infant Jesus and these gifts allude to his status as the Messiah. The gift of gold represents his kingship, the gift of frankincense is a symbol of his role as priest and the priestly use of incense in the Temple, and the gift of myrrh, which is used at death for embalming, prefigures the death and sacrifice of Jesus.

In the Spanish-speaking parts of the world El Día de Los Tres Reyes (The Day of the Three Kings) is the day that gifts are exchanged. January 6<sup>th</sup>, not December 25<sup>th</sup> is the day that children look forward to. Children leave their freshly-shined shoes at the door and sometimes a box of grass or hay for the camels. Traditional foods are served including

pozole and King's Bread (Rosca de Reyes). Hidden in the King's Bread is a small figure of baby Jesus. This is similar to the King Cake that is prepared for Mardi Gras. The person who gets the figure must prepare a feast for Candlemas on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

With the arrival of the Magi, the Nativity of our Lord is thus complete; we are shown who the baby Jesus really is. The whole world both Jew and Gentile, near and far, low and high have come to worship the Lord, represented by both common men, the nearby Jewish shepherds, as well as the high and mighty, the foreign Gentile Magi. Representatives from all parts of the world have come to worship at the foot of the Christ child. Thus Epiphany connects with the Great Commission, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19).



## **The Journey Of The Magi**

A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.'  
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
and running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information, and so we continued  
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

-T.S. Eliot



(The Three Kings from the Catalan Atlas 1375)

## Anglican 101

It is traditional to have your home blessed in the Epiphany season. If you wish to have your home blessed please let Fr. Paul or Fr. Chris know. The year and the initials CMB may be written in chalk on your door. These are the initials of the Wisemen: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar and also stand for Christus Mansionem Bendicat (May Christ Bless this House.)

+20 CMB 18+

### A Prayer for Epiphany

*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.*

*God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

*Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

## Upcoming Events

December 31<sup>st</sup> - Feast of the Circumcision

January 9<sup>th</sup> - Vestry Meeting

January 25<sup>th</sup> – Conversion of St. Paul

January 28<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting

Adult Formation will resume January 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with the Councils of the Early Church.

## Upcoming Annual Meeting

Remember, on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, we will hold the Annual Meeting for St. Dunstan's. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend, as we deal with parish business. There will be a potluck after the 10 o'clock service.

There will be elections to fill the openings on the Vestry and also elections for delegates to the Diocesan Synod in June. If you wish to place yourself or another in nomination for any of these positions you must do so in writing and if nominating another person have that person sign the nomination, indicating their agreement to serve if elected. That agreement is very important, since in the past we have had too many persons elected who then decide not to attend Synod. Please give the written agreement to a Vestry member at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting, so that we can have printed ballots ready. Of course, nominations may also be made from the floor of the Meeting.

## Parish Visit

Another candidate for the position of rector, Fr. Peter Geromel, will be visiting our parish the weekend of Epiphany. He will be preaching at the 8:00 and 10:00 o'clock services on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please come and meet him and let the clergy and vestry know your impressions.

## Thank you

We are delighted that Martin Stachnik has returned as our fulltime organist. Thank you to Cathy Osten and Carol Freed for stepping up to fill in so we could continue to have wonderful organ music. We are blessed to have so many people who are willing to share their time and talent. Thank you to everyone who has stepped in to take on duties since August. Martha Clift has been updating our Facebook page regularly. If you have not done so already, please like the Anglican Church of St. Dunstan's on Facebook. David Osten graciously agreed to resume his role as webmaster. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to take on additional duties and, of course, most of all to Fr. Paul and Fr. Chris.

## Ministry Schedule for January

January 7<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Epiphany

Altar Guild Lucille Thornsjo

Acolytes 8:00 Roath  
10:00 Woiwor

Lector Dick Cochrane

Ushers Dawn DeNio & Donna Kaufer

January 14<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany

Altar Guild Amy Fromayan

Acolytes 8:00 Claeys  
10:00 B. Murphy

Lector Tara Keehr

Ushers The Meyers & Jerry Keehr

January 21<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany

Altar Guild Jane Spann

Acolytes 8:00 Roath  
10:00 Willard

Lector Gannon Murphy

Ushers Dick & Brian Davis

January 28<sup>th</sup> – Septuagesima

Altar Guild Carol Freed

Acolytes 8:00 Canada  
10:00 Woiwor

Lector Mary Lou Sharp

Ushers Amy Fromayan Gannon Murphy



## For your prayers our January Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 1	Mike and Karen Phillips	Wedding Anniversary	1977
January 4	Joanne With	Birthday	
January 7	Vernice Gardner	R.I.P.	
January 8	Mariah Dufur	Birthday	
January 11	Mike Phillips	Birthday	
January 14	Lynne Thornsjo	Birthday	
January 15	Michael Myers	Birthday	
January 18	Anne Marie Kooistra	Birthday	
	Sarah Preisach	Birthday	
January 19	Grace Eckstein	Birthday	
January 20	Lorraine Lindahl	Birthday	
January 26	Stephanie Martinson	Birthday	
January 29	Ron and Kathy Spargo	Wedding Anniversary	

Prayer for a Birthday. Watch over thy child, [N.], O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him where he may be, keeping him unspotted from the world. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he fall; and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for a Wedding Anniversary. O God, who hast consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church: Look mercifully upon thy servants, N. and N., that both this man may love his wife, according to thy Word, (as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for it, loving and cherishing it even as his own flesh,) and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, faithful and obedient to her husband; and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for an Anniversary ("Year's Mind") of One Departed. Almighty God, we remember this day before thee thy faithful servant [N.], and we pray thee that, having opened to him the gates of larger life, thou wilt receive him more and more into thy joyful service; that he may win, with thee and thy servants everywhere, the eternal victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Mission Statement of the Anglican Church of St. Dunstan

We are a Traditional Anglican Church – Catholic Faith with the Anglican Tradition

We believe:

- The Bible is the Word of God
- With the Word of God, we hold the Creeds of the Church, the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Creed of St. Athanasius to be sufficient statements of our faith
- We are a Liturgical Church and we celebrate the Seven Sacraments of the Church Catholic
- We recognize three orders of ordained ministry in the Apostolic Succession
- God created us to be His people, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the people of the World.

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