

## Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Today we recall the magi, who, drawn by the star, journeyed from distant lands to find the newborn king of the Jews and present him with their finest gifts. We each make our own journey to the Lord, and when we come to celebrate the Eucharist we offer our finest gifts—our prayers, our lives, our future—to him whose birth we have just marked. Let us in turn welcome all those who are making their journeys from near and far to worship the Lord.



### **Monday 8th January, 2024 Feast of The Baptism of the Lord, will be celebrated at the 7:00 pm Mass.**

Christ's baptism remarkably shows all three Persons of the Trinity at the same time: the Son being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending, and the Father speaking from the heavens. In this event, the Father and the Holy Spirit confirm the deity of Christ, and Jesus submits to his Father's will. The Gospel of Mark describes the event:

*It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)*

#### **Why Is Jesus Baptized?**

When Jesus comes to John, John hesitates to baptize him. John's is a baptism of repentance, and Jesus has nothing for which he needs to repent. Why then does Jesus insist on being baptized? By choosing to be baptized, Jesus fulfills all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us.

#### **What Does Baptism Mean for Us?**

As we reflect on Christ's baptism, we are reminded of our own baptism. Pope Benedict XVI said on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord:

[Baptism] is communion with the One who conquered death and holds in his hand the keys of life. Belonging to this circle, to God's family, means being in communion with Christ, who is life and gives eternal love beyond death.

Thanks be to God, who has redeemed us from our sins and given us eternal life through Jesus Christ.

(This beautiful image is from the Immaculate Conception Church)



## *Immaculate Conception Parish*

With the Churches of :

Immaculate Conception Church, Truro; St. Michael's Church, Brule;  
St Kateri, Indian Book; Sacred Heart, Millbrook;

St. Bridget's, Shubenacadie

**January 7th , 2023**

**Epiphany of the Lord**



*"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."*

Matthew 2 : 10-11

**Pastor:** Fr. Jim O'Connor

**Telephone:** 902-893-7188 Ext: 5001

**Email:** fatherjim@eastlink.ca

**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Andrew Rembarczyk **Telephone:** 902-893-7188 Ext: 5004

**Email:** arembarczyk@gmail.com

**Office Administrator:** Carla Field

**Telephone:** 902-893-7188

**Email:** office@icctruro.org

**Saint Vincent De Paul Society**

**Help Line:** 902-897-0222

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 1:30 pm

**Veritas Books and Gifts:** Tuesday (starting Jan 9th) 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (or by appointment)

Website: icctruro.org

Email: office@icctruro.org

Telephone: 902-893-7188



**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Monday, 7:00 pm -† Holy Souls in Purgatory  
Tuesday, 12:15 pm -† William Hanlon, † Faye Conrad  
Wednesday, 7:00 pm-† Jean Mac Neil, † Leonard MacDonald  
Thursday, 7:00 pm - † Wilfred MacDonald  
Friday, 12:15 pm -† Greg Glasgow, † Joan Dowe  
Saturday, 4:00 pm - Zemeckas Family (SMC)  
Sunday, 9:00 am - Special Intention

**WEEKEND MASSES**

**Saturday**

**4:00pm** - Immaculate Conception, Truro  
**4:00pm** - St. Michael's, Brule

**Sunday**

**9:00am** - Immaculate Conception, Truro  
**10:00am** - St. Kateri, Indian Brook  
**11:30am** - Sacred Heart, Millbrook  
**11:30am** - St. Bridget's, Shubenacadie

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** : Thursdays after the 7:00 pm Mass

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**: 30 mins prior to weekday Masses or by appointment

**Holy Rosary** : In prayerful support of all our ministries, the rosary will be offered before every Sunday 9:00 am Mass, from 8:20 -8:40 am. Everyone is invited to join us.

**Baptism Preparation** : If you plan to celebrate the Baptism of your child this coming year, we invite all parents and godparents to attend the Baptism Preparation session on Friday, January 26th, 2024 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Kinsella Room. Please pre-register as you'll be required to watch videos prior to the session.

**COLLECTION UPDATE**

**Previous Week's Collection** was \$3,394.30 : ICC \$2,624.30 = \$; St. Michael's = \$190.00; Sacred Heart = \$180.00; St. Bridget's = \$400.00 and Capital Campaign = \$450.00  
**New Year's Collection** was \$1,444.70 : ICC \$ = \$1,369.70; St. Michael's = \$50.00; \$; St. Bridget's = \$25.00;

**VERITAS BOOKS AND GIFTS:**

Veritas will be closed for the Christmas Season, and will reopen on January 9th, 2023.

**WEEKLY EVENTS:**

**45'S Card Play**: Card Play Sunday resumes on ***Sunday Evenings*** at 7:00 pm, in Campbell Hall on Sunday 7th, January. Come join us and bring a friend!  
**Bible Study**: Bible Study has recommenced. Come join us in Kinsella I & II, ***Thursdays*** at ***10:00 am*** for 1 hour. We are studying Romans I & II; No previous Bible knowledge is required. All are welcome! Contact **Tony Harvey** at ***902-977-0808*** for more information.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**(14 Jan) ICLA:** The Immaculate Conception Ladies Auxiliary will hold their first Annual Meeting on ***Sunday, January 14th*** at ***2:00 pm***, in Campbell Hall. The new executive will be installed at this meeting. Social and lunch to follow.

**Pastoral Care Ministry** is looking for about **6** more people interested to assist the Priest on Wednesday mornings at different Senior Facilities in serving Mass in the new year. If interested contact the Immaculate Conception office at ***902-893-7188*** or John Aubey at ***902-843-0065***. Thank you.

**Parish Life Survey:** This weekend begins our Survey. Our goal is to understand our parishioners' experience of worship and parish community life, and to identify the strengths, needs, and opportunities for growth in our parish, so we can better serve our God and our parishioners.  
This survey has three sections. Part 1 asks about your experience of worship. Part 2 focuses on how the parish supports you in your faith journey. Part 3 asks about parish ministry and how we reach out beyond our community. Additionally, you'll have an opportunity to indicate in which areas of ministry you would be interested in participating, either as an attendee or volunteer.  
Over three weekends (six overall) each church will be handing out a paper copy of the Survey to complete following Mass according to the schedule below.

- PART 1      January 6 and 7 at Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart Churches  
                 January 13 and 14 at St Michael, St Kateri and St Bridget Churches
- PART 2      January 20 and 21 at Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart Churches  
                 January 27 and 28 at St Michael, St Kateri and St Bridget Churches
- PART 3      February 3 and 4 at Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart Churches  
                 February 10 and 11 at St Michael, St Kateri and St Bridget Churches

The complete Survey is also available online for those who prefer.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICParishSurvey>

**Parish Collection Envelopes** are available inside each church. If yours is missing, please contact our office as it may be at the wrong church.

**Family Faith Formation:**

**Start Up Dates:**

Family Faith Formation Gathering (with parents) - Sunday , 7th January  
Youth Night - Monday, 8th January  
Parent's Meeting (Grades 9 and 10) - Monday, 8th January

**Family Faith Formation and Youth Night:** We are resuming our gatherings after our Christmas and New Years break! See you all there!

**Children's Liturgy (pre-school/elementary):**

During 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Children process to Kinsella I & II, where they participate in an age-appropriate reading of the scriptures, reflective discussion on the scriptures, prayers of the faithful, song and an activity if time permits. All children are welcome!

**Mass Activity Booklet:**

A booklet designed to help children grow deeper in their understanding of the Mass. Usually extras are hanging on the white, double doors down the stairs to the right of Veritas by Monday of each week. Help yourself!