



Rocky Mountain House



Evergreen



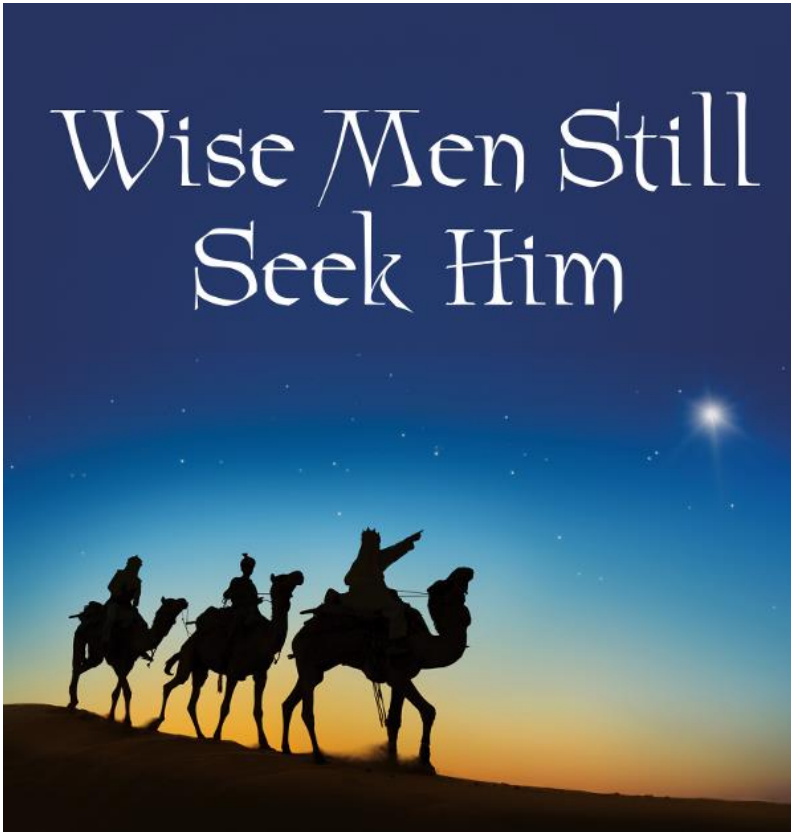
Caroline

## ST. MATTHEW PARISH IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE AND MISSIONS IN EVERGREEN AND CAROLINE

Administration Office: 5208 - 53 Avenue; Website: [www.rocky.caedm.ca](http://www.rocky.caedm.ca); Mailing Address: Box 130, Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1A1

CALL/TEXT: Office 403-845-3457; Pastor 587-441-4364; EMAIL: Office [stmatthew.rmh@caedm.ca](mailto:stmatthew.rmh@caedm.ca); Pastor [rajesh.iesurajSAC@caedm.ca](mailto:rajesh.iesurajSAC@caedm.ca)

**January 7, 2024 – The Epiphany of the Lord (Year B)**



# Wise Men Still Seek Him

## MEDITATIONS

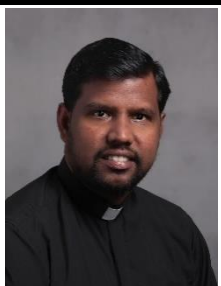
**Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13**

**Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12**

*They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Matthew 2:11)* In your high school English class, you might have learned that an “epiphany” is the moment when a character is struck with a life-changing realization that changes the rest of the story. Every good novel has one. That’s one way to think about the feast we’re celebrating today. God revealed himself to the Gentiles, and that moment changed everything. There had been hints of God welcoming the Gentiles throughout the Old Testament. But Matthew’s Gospel shows us this pivotal moment: pagan astrologers from the East came to worship Jesus, the newborn king of the Jews (2:11). They are the first of the “nations” whom Isaiah prophesied would walk by the Lord’s light (Isaiah 60:3). They are the first of those Paul says will be “coheirs . . . in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6). Why is this event so

important? Because it reveals to us that God’s love is far more expansive than anyone had ever thought. We begin to see that in Christ, a loving relationship with God is open to *everyone* who comes to him, Jew or Gentile. That includes you! And your annoying cousin. And the notorious criminal on death row. And the atheist on that YouTube channel. The invitation to come to Jesus extends to everyone. Because God’s loving desire to draw all people to himself cannot be contained; no one is excluded from it. And that’s a life-changing realization! Today, as you celebrate this great feast, give thanks to God who loves so extravagantly that he opens his arms wide to welcome everyone who believes. Pray, too, that all people will come to the Lord.

***“Lord God, your revelation to the Gentiles has changed the course of history!  
Thank you for your love that reaches out to everyone!”***



## VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU from Fr. Raj

I want to take this opportunity & thank everyone for your prayers, Christmas cards, gifts, donations of cash and food, especially this year of rising prices for everything. May God bless you for your generosity and your support! I really appreciate your goodness and kindness to me at Christmas and always.

# HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JOINING CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE?

Do you want to make new friends? Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to walk in friendship and faith with other women? Do you want to develop a deeper spiritual life? Are you interested in having fun?

**Consider joining the CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE. Memberships are now due for year 2024.**

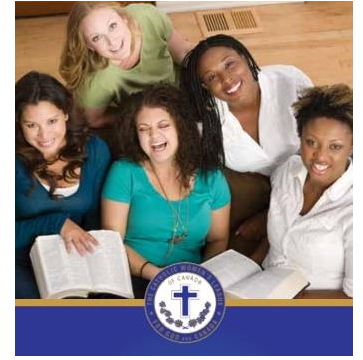
There are three ways to join and pay your membership:

1. E-transfer to CWL email [cwlrocky@gmail.com](mailto:cwlrocky@gmail.com) for auto deposit. Please include your name in the message.
2. Drop off your \$40 at the church office, either by cheque or cash.
3. Place in an envelope your \$40 and place in the collection basket. Please ensure the envelope is clearly marked CWL membership.

**In all the above ways, include your name, address, email, and phone number.**

If you new to the parish and have a CWL membership number please include it.

There will be someone available after Mass January 6 & 7 to answer questions.



## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES – ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Date and Time	Sacristan	Greeter(s) – Gifts	Proclaimer 1	Proclaimer 2	Projector
Jan. 06, 2024 at 7:00 PM	Audrey Kokesch	Loretta Leer	Leslie Read	Marliss Cartier	Jonah Caluttung
Jan. 07, 2024 at 9:00 AM	Linda Collinson	Morgan & Susanna Duhamel	Gerda Groothuizen	Renee Nuttall	Lura Collinson
Jan. 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM	Mona Cruickshank	Gil & Brandt Perreault	Dorraine Lonsdale	Laverne Froese	Audrey Kokesch
Jan. 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM	Jo-Anne Como	Steve & Donna Oscar	Doreen Quintal	Becky Marland	Linda Schmidt

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES – EVERGREEN

Date and Time	Proclaimer 1	Proclaimer 2	Gifts Bearers
Jan. 7, 2024 at 11:00 AM	Simon Szymanek	Melanie Heske	Justin & Jenn Graham & family
Jan. 14, 2024 at 11:00 AM	Dennis Nugent	Juanita Szymanek	Morgan & Andrea Engi & family

## THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHES!

Remember Your Offerings	DECEMBER 31, 2023 & JANUARY 1, 2024			
	REGULAR SUNDAY:	RMH - \$922.40	Evergreen - \$135.00	Caroline - \$192.85
	NEW YEARS DAY:	RMH - \$380.00	Evergreen - \$105.00	Caroline - \$137.00
	PARISH LIBRARY:	RMH - \$240.00	Evergreen - \$00.00	Caroline - \$00.00
	ONLINE + E-TRANSFERS:	RMH - \$220.00	Evergreen - \$00.00	Caroline - \$00.00
	TOGETHER WE SERVE:	RMH - \$70.00	Evergreen - \$00.00	Caroline - \$20.00
	FRIENDS OF JESUS:	RMH - \$12.45		

### St. Andrew Live-In Society

### Healing Service Bus Trip

Encounter Ministries and Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Spruce Grove host an amazing Healing Service on the last Saturday of every month. Many people have been healed of every kind of illness through the graces poured out by God during these services. Join the Red Deer Live-In Centre for a bus trip to Spruce Grove on Saturday, January 27, 2024. The bus will leave Red Deer at 2PM and return around midnight.

**\$40/person**      **BYO lunch, snacks, drinks**

Register with Carol Szymanek at: [SALISredeer@gmail.com](mailto:SALISredeer@gmail.com)

### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS JANUARY 14 1:30PM

The next class will be covering Sessions 1 & 2 of the Communion workbook. It will be at 1:30PM at St. Matthew church. Every effort must be made by parents to have their child attend every class. Thank you.

### PASTOR ON VACATION

Our pastor, Father Rajesh will be on holiday from January 15 to February 13, 2024. There will be **no daily Mass** during the four weeks he is away. Please pray for his safe travels.

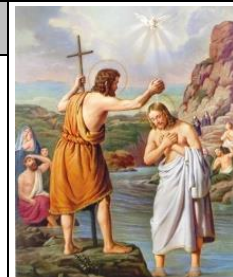


## THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you to all who helped in any way in preparation and celebration of Christ's birth in all our churches - Rocky Mountain House, Evergreen and Caroline; people who removed snow, people who cleaned & decorated our churches, people involved in music ministries, children's Christmas pageant, greeters, sacristans, readers, altar servers, ushers, projector operators. **GOD BLESS!**

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

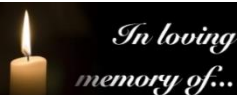
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024



Through his baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus expresses his solidarity with all of humanity in their longing for the fulfillment of the kingdom of God. Through our baptism, we are called to assist Christ in the work of redemption. Today, the last day of the Christmas season, we affirm our faith in the coming of God's kingdom, offered to us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Let us be renewed in our common baptismal vocation to share the Gospel with others.

Tomorrow is the end of the Christmas Season. Tuesday begins the longest, continuous season of the Church's year, the Season of Ordinary Time. Tomorrow's feast, the last of the Christmas Season's feast days, is called The Baptism of the Lord. We have left Bethlehem, and now encounter Jesus as an adult at the Jordan River where John the Baptist, at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, baptizes him.

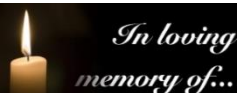
As the Season of Christmas began, it ends. We Catholics proclaim the same truth at the end of the Christmas celebration with today's scripture readings that was proclaimed on Christmas Day and throughout the entire season of Christmas, Jesus is God, "Son of God, Son of Mary, True God/True Man," in whom God the Father is well pleased. Jesus is the world's light, hope and salvation. Therefore, we continue to exclaim "Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King."



### MAX ANDERSEN (1932 - 2023)



The funeral service for Max Andersen, beloved husband of Mary Andersen, will be held in St. Matthew church on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 11:00AM. Inurnment at Pine Grove to follow. Lunch will be served in the parish hall.



### HELEN WILLIGAR (1933 - 2024)



The funeral Mass for Helen Willigar, mother of Alice Murray, will be held in St. Matthew church on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 2:00 PM. Vigil will be Thursday at 7PM. Fr. Leon will preside.



### UN-DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

If you have time this Monday, January 8 at 6:00PM, please come help un-decorate the church.

### Preparing for a Happy Death *and the Life to Come*

A course for compassionate Catholics, caregivers, and people who are dying Facilitator training will be offered via Zoom Tuesdays, January 23 to March 5 from 7-8:30 PM.

For more information and to register please contact Alana LaPerle at [alana.laperle@caedm.ca](mailto:alana.laperle@caedm.ca) or call 780-446-9009.

**PASTOR - FR. RAJESH JESURAJ SAC**  
**DEACON (RETIRED) - BERNIE OUELLETTE**  
**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR - VIVIAN DUHAMEL**

**OFFICE HOURS**

**M 11-4; T 12-4; W & TH 8:30-11 & 12-4; F 11:30-4**

**MINISTRIES • PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Altar Servers	Deacon Bernie Ouellette
Baptism Preparation Class	Steve and Donna Oscar
Bible Study Mondays	Mara Gagne
Bible Study Sundays	Jim Marland
Called to Protect	Ernie Murias
Charismatic Prayer Group	Lisa Feser
Children's Liturgy	Joanne Mazza
CWL	Bonnie Leaf
First Communion Class	Tyler Cadrain/Stephanie Porter
Library	Renée Nuttall
Maintenance	Scott Collinson
Ministry to the Sick	Ernie Murias
Music Ministry	Doreen Quintal
Parish Finance Council	Randall Sugden
Parish Pastoral Council	Lauren MacKenzie
Prayer Chain	Alice Murray
RCIA	Fr. JD Carmichael
Together We Serve	Vivian Duhamel
Youth Group	Peter van Kampen

**SUNDAY MASSES**

Saturday	7:00 PM	Rocky Mountain House
Sunday	9:00 AM	Rocky Mountain House
Sunday	11:00 AM	Evergreen
Sunday	1:00 PM	Caroline

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tuesday	6:30 PM - St. Matthew Church, RMH
Wednesday	9:00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH
Thursday	9:00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH
	11:00 AM - Jesuit Martyrs, Evergreen
Friday	9:00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH

**ALL REQUESTS FOR USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PASTOR & BOOKED THROUGH THE OFFICE**

**BAPTISM OF CHILDREN**

Contact the parish office if you want your child to be baptized in one of our churches. Preparation Class is mandatory. For more information check the parish website or call the office.

**CONFESSIONS**

In Rocky Mountain House – Saturday 6:15 PM – 6:45 PM & Sunday 8:15 AM – 8:45 AM • In Evergreen & Caroline: after each Mass by request (no appointment needed).

**In every church - anytime by appointment with the priest.**

**MARRIAGE**

If you want to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in one of our churches, contact the parish office at least 9 months in advance. Preparation Course is mandatory. For more information check the parish website or call our parish office.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

RMH - Fridays 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM (Noon) - Mass 9:00 AM

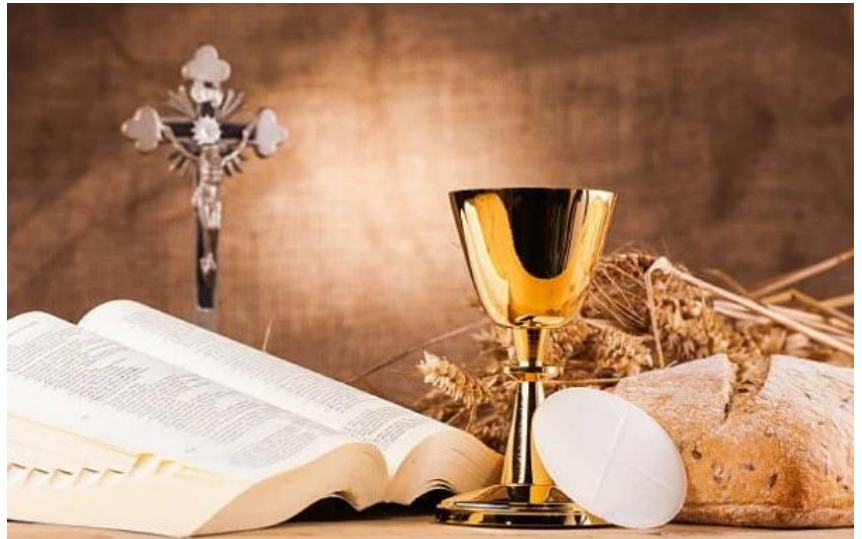
RMH - Every First Tuesday 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM - Mass 6:30 PM

**SUNDAY MASS ONLINE**

If you attend Mass in Rocky Mountain House on Sundays, your image may be included in a video on YouTube. Go to [www.youtube.com/@StMatthewParish](http://www.youtube.com/@StMatthewParish) to subscribe and watch Mass live every Sunday.

[www.rocky.caedm.ca](http://www.rocky.caedm.ca)

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**



**ST. MATTHEW PARISH**

**SUNDAY MASS LIVE ON YOUTUBE**

<b>Saturday</b> 7:00 PM	<b>January 06, 2024 – Epiphany of the Lord</b> For all parishioners at home & in extended care
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM	<b>January 07, 2024 – Epiphany of the Lord</b> ✠ Doreen Couture
<u>Evergreen</u> 11:00 AM	<u>Jesuit Martyrs</u> For all parishioners at home & in extended care
<u>Caroline</u> 1:00 PM	<u>St. Joseph the Workman</u> For God's blessings for all members of our parish communities
<b>Monday</b> No Mass	<b>January 08, 2024 – Baptism of the Lord</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 6:30 PM	<b>January 09, 2024 – Weekday in Ordinary Time</b> ✠ Hélène Pelletier
<b>Wednesday</b> 9:00 AM	<b>January 10, 2024 – Weekday in Ordinary Time</b> God's blessings & healing for Tammy Clark
<u>11:00 AM</u>	<u>Mass in Westview Lodge (Rocky Mountain House)</u>
<b>Thursday</b> 9:00 AM	<b>January 11, 2024 – Weekday in Ordinary Time</b> ✠ Max Andersen
<u>Evergreen</u> 11:00 AM	<u>Jesuit Martyrs</u> For all intentions placed on prayer boards in our churches
<b>Friday</b> 9:00 AM	<b>January 12, 2024 – St. Marguerite Bourgeoys; virgin</b> ✠ Helen Brooks
<u>11:00 AM</u>	<u>9:30 AM – 12:00 PM → ADORATION</u> <u>Mass in Ravines at Park Avenue (Rocky Mountain House)</u>
<b>Saturday</b> 7:00 PM	<b>January 13, 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> ✠ Anthony Walisser
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM	<b>January 14, 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Living & deceased members of Marland, Russell & Riedemann families
<u>Evergreen</u> 11:00 AM	<u>Jesuit Martyrs</u> For God's blessings for all members of our parish communities
<u>Caroline</u> 1:00 PM	<u>St. Joseph the Workman</u> For all parishioners at home & in extended care

*May the God of love and peace set your hearts at rest and speed you on your journey.* – St. Raymond of Penyafort

*There is nothing impossible for God.* – St. Rita of Cascia

**OFFICE CLOSED**

The office will be closed  
 Wednesday, January 10.

