

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7TH, 2018.

Under the tree, or on the mantle of a fireplace, we have the figures of those associated with the Birth of Christ. Late arrivals, the three kings were – we think – a tribe of Persian priests, men of holiness and wisdom, who sought truth. They searched for Light to penetrate the darkness.

A famous poem describes the Magi, decades after their return from their pilgrimage. The Magi had experienced an Epiphany (a *showing forth*) of God. Melchior, Balthazar, and Caspar – the names we have given them – knew they had witnessed something wonderful and gave homage to the mystery. Wise as they were, they didn't fully understand. The poem's narrator sighs: *We returned to our places, these Kingdoms/ But no longer at ease here ...*

Then and today, there are so many good people in the world who genuinely search for truth. While we, who have been baptized, who have access to the graces of the sacraments, who hear the Word of God are comfortable in our blessings of conviction, we sometimes neglect to take the opportunity to be epiphanies to others.

We have the responsibility to "show forth" the Light of God in the things we do, the words we say, and the faith we cherish. We are called to be the manifestation of Christ's glory.

FATHER RICARDO

FATHER RICARDO'S DESK:

NEW YEAR'S OPPORTUNITY

One of the most significant tenets of our faith is that God permits us to begin again. We fail, we "miss the mark," we fall back into bad habits, but God in His mercy gives us the chance for "do overs." Making resolutions at the beginning of a New Year is beneficial to all of us. The opportunity to be grateful for our successes is also beneficial. Together, let us resolve to be led by the Lord Jesus as we contribute to the building of His kingdom of justice, love, and peace in our homes and parish. Let us be grateful for every day we have.

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

During the past few months, I have tried to expand our appreciation of the rituals of the Mass through brief explanations. I hope this has been helpful.

Our Catholic worship is biblical. Almost every prayer, hymn, response and posture is saturated with images, themes and quotes from Sacred Scripture. Our Catholic

worship is sacrificial. At the Last Supper, Jesus commanded the apostles to celebrate a new Passover meal. Christ's offering of His Body and Blood are re-presented to us at the Mass (cf. Catechism no. 1366).

In this sacrifice our lives, praise, sufferings, prayer, and work are united with those of Christ. Our lives acquire a new value. And we give thanks.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is more than a human event. It is a participation in the eternal, heavenly liturgy.

May we always be attentive and reverent.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

This week, when I saw my mother, I could answer her usual question truthfully. I have been eating nutritiously and regularly, thanks to you. I am so grateful. This year the Christmas season was very hectic. Many of you brought me delicious, healthy meals and some treats. My mother thanks you, and I thank you.

ANNUAL APPEAL ***In Giving, We Receive***

The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports four causes: Catholic Charities agencies; seminarian education; retired priests; and inner-city schools. Every single gift changes lives. Every gift counts!

LEGION OF MARY

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue is available for you to take to your home for a week. To sign-up, call the parish office.

SAVE THE DATE

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES AND SHRINES IN SPAIN

MAY 21-29, 2018. If you are interested, please call the parish office. We have a limited number of seats that are available.

PLEASE BE AWARE

The Diocese sent the following instruction: ***Because of the danger of the influenza A virus (H1N1) and our inability to predict what will happen, it would be prudent not to join hands at the Our Father. Please know that it is not necessary to shake hands during the Sign of Peace at Mass. A simple bow and greeting would suffice. Please remember that anyone who receives the Body of Christ receives the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ and is in no way deprived by not receiving the Precious Blood from the cup. If you feel sick or have been exposed to the virus and suspect you have been infected, you are under no obligation to attend Mass. Please use common sense. Wash hands frequently and dispose of tissues carefully.***

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK



SUNDAY JANUARY 7TH
 8:45 +Margaret & Richard Murphy and Cathy Dignan req. by Family
 9:30am +Andrew Van Dyke req. by The Rumsey family
 11:00am +Thomas Cifelli req. by Eileen & Bill Aquino
 1:00pm Polish Mass

MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2018
 8:45am +Mabel Loughren req. by Family

TUESDAY JANUARY 9TH
 8:45am +Karen Hilbert req. by Family

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10TH
 8:45am +Matt Keane req. by MaryAnn & Tony Kaicher

THURSDAY JANUARY 11TH
 8:45am Intentions of Theresa & John Orso req. by Legion of Mary

FRIDAY JANUARY 12TH
 8:45am +Josephine Filisa req. by The Ruiz Family

SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH
 8:45am +Sister Kevin req. by Elizabeth Neillands
 5:00pm +Charles Janus req. by Larry, Lee and Dan Teza

SUNDAY JANUARY 14TH
 8:00 Intentions of Larry and Joan Bono
 60th Wedding Anniversary req. by Barbara Crum
 9:30am +Mary Patricia Brennan req. by Jerry and Cathy Calcagno
 11:00am +Claire Readie req. by The Van Gorder Family

Sun. 11:00am - Gather the Children"
12:10am Confirmation I and II
Pro Life Talk in Hall

Mon. Grade 8 - CCD CLASSES - 7-8:30
Tues. Grade 7 - CCD CLASSES - 7-8:30
Wed. Choir Practice - 7 pm
Baptism Instruction 8pm - Hall

Thur. 10:00am - Legion of Mary - Hall
6:30pm - Legion of Mary - Chapel

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Aidan Alvarez, Scott Anderson, Baby Grace Andrews, "Baby", John Apgar, Artie, Ray Bonomini, Maddy Brancato, Jerry Calcagno, Tina Contento, Mike Cordes, Aibhlinn Coyle, Elizabeth Copeland, Patricia and Paul Corbutt, Doug Crum, Nathanael Davenport, Jean Marie Day, Alice DeLorenzo, Courtney Dignan, Eileen Donahue, Katie Drago, Roseann Dundon, Jim Ecker, Barbara Etzel, Debbie Fuentes, Kay Gallo, Mike Gallo, John Gonzalez, Florence Guilfoyle, Barbara Hellwig, Christopher Hoehl, Bob Hojer, Joanna Horn, Jean Jones, Melissa Klimaszewski, Julianna Klinger, Carly Kosen, Rick Reuter, Emily Lewis, Brian Linke, Henry Mancuso, Rose Martis, Fran and Larry Marsh, James McAlary, Patty McDermott, Robert McDermott, Kathy Nestico, Jennifer Oldham, Janis O'Neill, Joan Quest, Maura Reagan, Mary Reynolds, Linda Ross, Ron Shelly, Lou Pra Sisto, Father Patrick Sullivan, Alexander Truong, Mary VanDyke, Pat and Jim Van Gorder, Debbie Ventriglia, Russy Wright, Nick Zayatz

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU
THE LORD LET HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU.
THE LORD LOOK UPON YOU KINDLY AND BRING YOU PEACE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH. GOD BLESS YOU!

December 31 st 2017 - Collection	\$ 2881.50
January 1, 2017 Collection	534.00