

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 03, 2016

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Virtuous Disobedience

Disobedience a virtue? Think about it. When someone in authority requests or requires us to break God's law, we may think our only choice is disobedience. We obey God by disobeying. Granted, it takes a strong character and a stronger faith to stand up to someone when we are asked to do something unethical, illegal or immoral. It may be our boss or a family member who not-so-innocently asks us to cross the line, but no matter who asks we must stand firm. God wants us to follow Him faithfully, even when the road gets seriously bumpy. The magi followed the star over thousands of miles, but the terrain was never tougher than in Jerusalem, facing off King Herod. To obey God, the wise men had to disobey the king leaving Jesus' location secret. They followed the star of faith, and by doing so protected the newborn Savior.



What acts of disobedience do you need to participate in this week? Has your boss asked you to "fudge" the numbers? Has someone asked you to back up a "little white lie" or something even darker? Step out in faith instead and follow the magi in disobedience. You will find the star of faith shining even brighter on your path.

We Have Seen The Star

 We return to the beautiful story of the wise men from the East, and our questions arise as surely as the star. Why did they, the Gentiles, who knew nothing of the promised Messiah, leave everything to seek a newborn king of Judea? And how is it that they saw the star from hundreds—thousands?—of miles away, but the Jews in Bethlehem missed it completely? St. Matthew's point is crystal clear: those who seek Him will find Him, whether born into the right bloodlines or not. Are we ready to follow the stars in our lives to be utterly open to the One who meets us in our dreaming and our rising? Keep your eyes wide open for the Christ who seeks you even more than you seek Him.

Kathy McGovern

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

"That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice."

Offertory Giving

Today we hear Saint Paul proclaim that he exercises stewardship of "God's grace" for the benefit of the Christian community. Earlier in this letter to the Ephesians, he prayed they would come to realize the actual value of "these riches" of God's grace they inherited. This letter was written to remind, encourage and spiritually motivate this Eucharistic community to appreciate just how immeasurably wealthy they had become to inherit a life in Christ. What value do we place on our life in Christ? If someone asked us to put a price on this life in today's currency, how would we respond? \$100 million? \$100 billion? Priceless? Do we live as though our life in Christ is priceless?

Weekly Budgeted Need	\$7,000.00
Last Sunday Dec. 27	
Envelopes (Adult)	\$6,032.00
Loose	392.00
Christmas	<u>5,362.00</u>
Total	\$11,786.00
Progress Report	
Cumulative Budget	\$182,000.00
Cumulative Income	<u>181,389.72</u>
<Behind>	<\$610.28>
Second Collection	
(Retired Religious)	\$880.31

Building Fund

The parish Building Fund will be next weekend's second collection.



Baptized Into Christ



BAPTIZED
UNTO THE
LORD

Born of water and the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism in December were **Lane Benjamin Walker** and **Liam David Walker**, sons of Michael Paul and Laura (Broughton) Walker. With love and joy, we welcome **Lane** and **Liam** into God's family.

Youth Presentation Sunday, January 3

The Sts. Peter and Paul Youth Council invites everyone to attend an inspirational talk by Derrick Fauchaux, a student at Southeastern University, Sunday, January 3, at noon in the Parish Hall. Derrick's topic will be "Living Our Faith," something which does not end with Confirmation or graduation.

Mass Intentions Requested

Monday, January 4

(1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, January 5

(1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44)

8:00 a.m. Father Bill McGough

Wednesday, January 6

(1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, January 7

(1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22a)

8:00 a.m. Father Adrian B. Hall

Friday, January 8

(1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16)

8:00 a.m. Evelyn Meyer

Saturday, January 9

(1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30)

5:00 p.m. Rosemary Poche, Tina Mangano, Ken & Adele Salzer, Louis Mangano Sr. & Jr., Jerry & Barbara Roszczynialski, Joseph D'Antoni, Jody Roszczynialski, Lee & Yvonne Tracey, Clara Saucier, Billy Cox, Antonians & Benefactors, Kori Saucier, John Lacourrege Sr.

Sunday, January 10 **Baptism of the Lord**

(Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22)

7:00 a.m. Maurice Bersuder, Sr.

8:30 a.m. Clara Saucier, Kori Saucier & Family, Susan Mercier, Ann Rooney, Danny & Marlene Ragusa, Gloria Pace, Pat & Cathy Downey, Mary Vautrot, Jerry & Evelyn Meyer, Laurie Gauthier, Nancy Melchionni, Liz Hilby, Jo & Diana Bilbo, Carolyn Clark

10:30 a.m. Parishioners

WEEKLY EVENTS

GASPP—Come to our first meeting of the new year at noon on Monday, January 4, in the Parish Hall. Prepare your favorite dish and join us! All parishioners age 55 and over are welcome to join this organization. No registration, dues or night meetings—just lots of fellowship and fun.

Legion of Mary—Monday 7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Hall

Tuesday Morning Rosary—Tuesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and the St. Jude Novena in St. Anthony Hall

RCIA Track I—Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in classroom

Knights of Columbus—7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Hall after Mass

Patriotic Rosary—Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

K.C. Pancake Breakfast—Sunday, January 10, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Parish Hall at \$5 per plate. Proceeds are used to finance scholarships for our own Church Parish's high school seniors. Come join us!



Altar Flowers Donated

The lovely flower arrangements adorning the altar this weekend were donated in memory of **James Bailey, Jr.**, by his loving wife Sandy Bailey.



In Memoriam

It is with deep sympathy that we inform you of the death of **Madeline Simmons**, mother of Mae Collins (Dean), Nora Simmons and grandmother of Michael Walker (Laura), of our parish, who was called by God to her eternal reward. Please remember **Madeline** and all those who mourn her in your Masses and prayers.



2016 Church Contribution Envelopes



Contribution envelopes for 2016 can be picked up from the Church Office during office hours.

Sanctuary Lamp

The weekly calendar for the dedication of the Sanctuary Lamp to the memory of a deceased person, family or group is open for 2016. Contact the Church Office for details for your memorial tribute.

Tabernacle Lamp

This week the Tabernacle lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of **James Bailey, Jr.**, husband of Sandy Bailey.



Pray For The Sick

Mike Adams Sr., Valdeana Bauer, Esther Binder, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewin, May Caballero, Ashley Code, Patricia Cuccia, Dotsy Chedville, Pat Downey, Steve Dunn, Marcelle Ernewein, Helen Fabre, Carroll Fourcade, Gail Garay, Jeanette Gomez, Virgie Hurstell, Joan Jagneaux, Maria Kalcic, Mary & Elizabeth Kittel, Andrew & Catherine Lambert, Tom Madigan, Cheryl Martin, Luke Martin, Shirley Matthews, Rose Mire, Jessie O'Dell, Cheryl Poiroux, Walter Reese, Ed Roszczynialski, Kori Saucier, Mary Seeler, Cathy Smith

God's Blessings Upon You!

We would like to thank our generous parishioners who gave of their time, talents and energy to decorate the church and church grounds with flowers, trees, lights and the Nativity scenes for our celebration of Christmas. The results were beautiful, very much appreciated and a fitting tribute to the Christ Child. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the deacons, altar servers, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, cantors, choirs and musicians. We could not have the beauty and splendor of our Christmas Masses without your dedication.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the volunteers and contributors who come in weekly throughout the year to clean our church for weekend Masses. Their efforts, of course, are multiplied in preparation for Christmas, and continued through cleanup afterwards, in order to prepare the church for regular daily and weekend Masses.

In addition, we would also like to thank the volunteers who baked and donated cookies and treats as well as those who organized and worked the "Sunday Snack and Snap with Santa" program for the benefit of the Youth Group. It was a great success, and we ask you to plan ahead for next year's event. Thanks also to "Santa," who took time out of his busy season to visit with our parishioners.

We ask God's greatest blessings upon each of you during 2016.

Lord, Teach Me To Pray

Lord, Teach Me to Pray is a three-part prayer series lasting twelve weeks based on Ignatian Spirituality. Beginning in January, Part 1 "Praying Christian Virtues" will be offered throughout the Archdiocese. Participants pray daily with scripture passages pertaining to a Christian virtue and then meet weekly in small groups with two trained facilitators. Men and women meet separately. Information for local meetings will be posted in future bulletins.

The "Lord, Teach Me to Pray Annual Weekend of Prayer 2016" will be held March 10-13 at the Airport Hilton Hotel, New Orleans. This will truly be a weekend of Prayer—Mass each day, Confessions, Adoration, Holy Hours! For schedules and to register, go to the website www.lordteachmetoprayer.com Contact Mrs. Carol Weiler at 504-439-5933 or carolweiler@cox.net or Fr. Martin Gleeson, O.P. at 504-717-8770 or mgleesonop@gmail.com for additional information.



Mass For God's Special Children

The Mass for God's Special Children will be held at St. Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie, on Sunday, January 3, at 2:00 p.m. This Mass allows those with special needs to participate more in the Mass with family and friends. For information, contact Joy Zainey at 504-834-5865 or visit the website www.godsspecialchildren.org

Seelos' Birthday Healing Mass

Sunday, January 10, 2016, 1:00 p.m.

National Seelos Shrine

St. Mary's Assumption Church

919 Josephine Street, New Orleans

Celebrant—Rev. Harry Grile, C.Ss.R.,
Executive Director of the Seelos Shrine



- Anointing for those in need
- Confessions before Mass
- Veneration of Relic Missionary Crucifix
- Wheelchair Accessible/Free Parking Lot
- One-on-One Intercessory Prayer—11:45 a.m. in back of church and in shrine

For information: 504-525-2495 or www.seelos.org

Archdiocesan Retreat Center

The Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie, is offering the following retreats. For details, visit www.retreats.arch-no.org

January 12 "Finding Peace Through Forgiveness" Presenter—Fr. Tony Rigoli, O.M.I.

January 22-24 "Practicing Mercy: Kissed by Mercy, Embraced by Love" Presenter—Rev. Phillip Chircop

January 29-31 "Family Patterns: Blessings, Burdens and Bedlam" Presenters—Jan Tate and Fr. Joe Krafft

Food For Thought

"The magi are filled with awe by what they see—heaven on earth and earth in Heaven; humanity in God and God in humanity. They see enclosed in a tiny body the one whom the entire world cannot contain."

St. Peter Chrysologus



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Dr. Crystal Gueldner, O.D.

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