

The Epiphany Of The Lord

January 8, 2017

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A Perfect Start To The Year

Epiphany—What a perfect feast with which to start the year! The Magi's story challenges us to begin the year on our feet, already walking the path of righteousness. We are given the gift of a mission, called to look up to God, following His star even when earthly authority stands in our way. We are reminded to carry our gifts faithfully, laying them at the feet of God, allowing Him to make full use of those gifts.



Epiphany says to every heart, stand up from your apathy, look up to God, lift up your gifts and follow His path.

What better recipe for a year could we find?

2017 Church Contribution Envelopes



Contribution envelopes for 2017 can be picked up from the front of the Church before/after weekend Masses. Envelopes can be picked up from the Church Office during the week. If you are a registered parishioner and have not used the envelope system or are not registered yet and would like to use the envelope system, contact the Church Office.

A Star For Us All

Did you think the star was meant just for the Magi and the shepherds, just for that one night alone? Ah, no! God hung it there against the ages. It is for all of us. Its radiance enfolds us all, knowing no bound of creed, color or servitude. It guides the aged home; it is reflected in the eyes of babes, generation after generation and in the eyes of mothers seeking in their babes the countenance of Christ. All, all of us are under the spell of the star, come to take new hope in peace and the Prince of Peace.



Pope Francis's Mission Intention



"That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity."

Offertory Giving

In today's second reading, we hear the teachings of Saint Paul to the members of the Church at Ephesus. He proclaims that he, and they, are stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and therefore stewards of God's loving, unifying and inclusive grace. He also proclaims that the Holy Spirit is at work within each of them, if only they would be open to the Spirit. Today, our world races by with intolerance, violence, desperate poverty, fear and division. At the beginning of this New Year, perhaps it is appropriate to reflect on Saint Paul's words and ask ourselves how we can be good stewards of the Gospel today. How will we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us? How can we be better stewards of Christ's justice and peace?

Weekly Budgeted Need	\$7,100.00
Last Sunday	
Envelopes (Adult)	\$14,049.00
Loose	<u>1,155.00</u>
Total	\$15,204.00
Progress Report	
Cumulative Budget	\$191,700.00
Cumulative Income	<u>196,700.35</u>
Ahead	\$5,000.35

Office Closing

The Church Office will be closed **Monday, January 16**, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The office will reopen at 1:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 17**.



With Deepest Sympathy



Our heartfelt sympathy on the death of **Nancy Clair McCann**, sister of Father Thomas McCann III. Please remember **Nancy** in your Masses and prayers. Fr. Tom may be contacted at St. Charles Borromeo, P. O. Box 428, Destrehan, LA 70047-0428.

Why Do We Call It Epiphany?

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest" or "to make known." Thus the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ, and the light of His salvation, is made known to the world.



Mass Intentions Requested**Monday, January 9 Baptism of the Lord***(Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Mt 3:13-17)*

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, January 10*(Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28)*

8:00 a.m. Deacon Frank and Julia Drake

Wednesday, January 11*(Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39)*

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, January 12*(Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45)*

8:00 a.m. Nancy Clair McCann

Friday, January 13*(Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12)*

8:00 a.m. Purgatorial Society

Saturday, January 14*(Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17)*

5:00 p.m. Marcelle Ernewein, Patricia Langsford, Audrey Bonnet, Elizabeth Moore, Deacon Frank & Julia Drake, Vaughn & Patti Gay, Allison Ellender, Roszczynialski Family, Raymond Donovan, Lee & Yvonne Tracey, June Calkins, Rosemary Poche, Louis Mangano Sr. & Jr., Tina Mangano, Ken & Adele Salzer, Maurice Bersuder Sr., Joseph D'Antonia Jr.

Sunday, January 15*(Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34)*

7:00 a.m. Danny and Marlene Ragusa

8:30 a.m. Ronnie & Betty Lambert, Amy Fandal, Stephen Hall, Burnick Terrebonne Sr., Louis C. Funel Jr., Louis Mangano Jr., Pat Langsford, Calvin & Shirley Callais, Henry Jorns, Andrew Lambert, Jennifer Papa, Nancy McCann

10:30 a.m. Parishioners

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

GASPP—Monday, January 9, at noon in the Parish Hall

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 Tracks I & II—Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in classrooms

Apologetics—Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. "Blue Collar Apologetics," a two-part real world video, will be presented. The video is so good that instead of avoiding those who question our faith, you will be seeking them out. Part Two of the video will be shown on Wednesday, January 25.

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

K.C. Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 15, 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!

**Singers Needed**

Do you like to sing? Do you have a good voice? If so, why not consider becoming part of Sts. Peter and Paul Church Choir. We are in need of many more voices to join in our praise and rejoicing. For information, call June Calkins at 985-863-2560.

St. Joseph's Altar Preparations Begin

Preparations for the St. Joseph's Altar, celebrated Saturday, March 18, will soon begin. An organizational meeting will be held Saturday, January 28, in the Parish Hall. Baking will be on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in working in this ministry, call Gene Templet at 863-2545.

**God's Northshore Blessings**

A Special Needs Mass will be held Sunday, January 15, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 312 Lafitte Street, Mandeville. The celebrants will be Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond and Fr. Charlie Latour, O.P. All are invited.

Tabernacle Lamp

This week the Tabernacle lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of **John Lacourge**.

**Pray For The Sick**

Valdeana Bauer, Audrey Bonnet, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewin, George & Wanda Butko, May Caballero, Patricia Cuccia, Dotsy Chedville, Deacon Pat & Cathy Downey, Julia Drake, Steve Dunn, Marcelle Ernewein, Carroll Fourcade, Jeanette Gomez, Deacon John Howard, Virgie Hurstell, Allen & Joan Jagneaux, Maria Kalcic, Gloriette Kiern, Elizabeth Kittel, Catherine Lambert, Pat Langsford, Cheryl Martin, Shirley Matthews, Rose Mire, Bailee Mitchell, Vito Montalabano, Jessie O'Dell, Cheryle Poiroux, Ed Roszczynialski, Cathy Smith

2016 Income Tax Statements

Will you need a statement of 2016 contributions to the church for income tax purposes? If so, please call the Church Office at 985-863-7935, extension 3, and request yours. Since not everyone has a need for a statement, we do not automatically mail one. The exception would be those who issued a check in an amount \$250 or over, as we are mandated by the IRS to issue a statement. Those who call will have their names put on a list, and a statement prepared as soon as possible. Our bookkeeper hopes to have these ready for mailing or pick-up (*please state your choice*) near the end of January.



Seelos' Birthday Healing Mass



Sunday, January 8, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

National Seelos Shrine
St. Mary's Assumption Church
919 Josephine Street, New Orleans
Celebrant Fr. Harry Grile, C.Ss.R.

Call 504-525-2495 or visit www.seelos.org

Louisiana Life March South

Please gather the people to build a stronger culture of life in Louisiana through the Louisiana Life March South. The walk begins at the Old State Capitol at 10:00 a.m. and ends about noon at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge on Saturday, January 21, 2017. The theme this year is "Protect Them Both!" The Life March South activities begin at 9:30 a.m. with pre-event remarks and program at Galvez Plaza behind the Old State Capitol. The mission of this walk is to unite the pro-life people of Louisiana, across all denominational lines, to take a stand for life in our state's capital city, and mobilize them with resources to make a difference in their communities. We believe the LA Life March can lead toward an abortion-free Louisiana. For more information on the schedule of the events of the LA Life March South, visit <http://www.prolifelouisiana.org/events/lalifemarch/southmarch.html>

Carry The Jordan With You

"If every path crossed the river Jordan, if every ear rang with the Baptist's call, the desert of our world would be transformed into fields plowed with repentance, watered with baptism, perfectly prepared for the seeds of faith to blossom. But as this cannot be, we are all called to the Baptist's work, carrying the call to repentance where the Jordan cannot reach."
C. Lee

The Faiths Of Our Neighbors

Know about your neighbors and their various faiths. Come for evenings of discovery and fellowship. These meetings are organized by the East Jefferson Interfaith Clergy Association and are hosted by a different faith community each month. The meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The February 2 meeting will be held at the Disciples of Christ First Christian Church of Greater New Orleans, 8121 Airline Drive, Metairie. The March 2 meeting will discuss the faith of the Episcopal Church. It will be held at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 3412 Haring Road, Metairie.

Archdiocesan Spirituality Center

The Archdiocese of New Orleans Spirituality Center, 2501 Maine Avenue., Metairie, is offering the following programs. You can register for either program at <http://asc.arch-no.org> or by emailing archspirctr@arch-no.org For details, you may also contact Doris Melito at 504-861-3254.

Praying Our Goodbyes (book by Joyce Rupp) Janet Trahan will facilitate this spirituality of change in our everyday lives. Have you experienced loss, whether it be a job change, the end of a friendship, the death of a loved one, a financial struggle, a mid-life crisis or an extended illness? Together we will recognize, ritualize, reflect on and re-orient ourselves. . . to help heal the hurts caused by goodbyes and the anxieties encountered by change. The meetings will be Thursdays, beginning January 19 and running through February 23 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center. Please purchase the book, read the introduction and first chapter. Bring a journal. Cost is \$50.00 (adjustments can be made).

Prayer: Real Soul Food—Sr. Gloria Murillo, STJ, will lead this talk and discussion on prayer at the Spirituality Center on Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$25.00 (adjustments can be made).

Please Support Our Sponsors

Tap into your innate healing powers

Valerie "Val" Methe, B.S., CNC
~Certified Nutritional Consultant~





Val's Cell: 985-788-6921
FAX: 985-863-8496
E-mail: valmethe@msn.com

Ordinary Time

“Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle of thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time” (Universal Norms, 43)

Wasted time is not a prized commodity in American society. We are a people ruled by the clock. Time is money because time is to be filled with purposeful controlled activity which is productive of things which can be sold. We are convinced that we must be in control of time. The last thing the productive American would want to do is waste time playing around either realities that do not produce a saleable commodity.

But the Creator of heaven and earth is described by the Scriptures as the original and the best of players. Creative activity is playful and creative people do not feel that what they do is a job. Creative people also have a sense that their creativity and all that they fashion in the creative spirit are gifts they have received. The Christian can speak of this and the contemplative vision which sees all reality as gift or grace. Our thankful response we call worship or Eucharist.

We cannot speak of Ordinary Time without speaking of Sunday. The every seven-day celebration of the Lord's Day is the basic structure upon which the Church Year is built. The great liturgical seasons of Advent to Christmas and Lent to Easter are more expansive celebrations of particular aspects of the one paschal mystery which we celebrate every Lord's Day. These special seasons focus our attention upon critical dimensions of one mystery, a mystery so overwhelming that we are compelled to separate out its various elements for particular attention. These seasons in no way minimize the critical importance of the Sunday celebration throughout the rest of the year. Ordinary Time is not very ordinary at all. Ordinary Time, the celebration of Sunday, is the identifying mark of the Christian community which comes together, remembering that on this first day of the week the Lord of Life was raised up and creation came at last to completion. Sunday as a day of play and worship is a sacrament of redeemed time. How we live Sunday proclaims to the world what we believe about redeemed time now and forever.

What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday, like all sacraments, is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living.

Ordinary Time begins on Tuesday, January 10, and continues through Tuesday, February 28, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. It will resume when the Easter season ends, that is, on Monday, June 5, the day following Pentecost. Saint Andrew Bible Missal,

William J. Hirten Co., publisher

Why Do We Attend Mass Every Sunday

Throughout our two thousand years of Church history, Sunday has been set aside as “the Lord's Day,” to celebrate God's greater creation of the world. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The Sabbath brings everyday work to a halt and provides a respite. It is a day of protest against the servitude of work and the worship of money” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2172)

Observing Sunday as the Lord's Day helps us to keep our worship of God outward, visible, public and regular.

Sunday is also the day we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. The Church instructs us to attend Mass each Sunday because that is where Jesus gives us what we need to stay strong in the world. Just as we take food into our bodies, so we take in Christ through the Eucharist. His body is real food and his blood is real drink (John 6:55-57). The resulting grace helps us to overcome our daily temptations and fulfill our responsibilities. Our faithful Communion will bring us eternal life.

Why Do Catholics Use Holy Water?



The use of holy water has several purposes. When we bless ourselves with holy water before and after entering the church, for example, it calls to mind our baptism when our souls were washed clean of original sin.

When we use it to bless items, it consecrates them to God and reminds us to use them in His service.

Finally, using holy water helps to drive away evil spirits and calls to mind the purity required of followers of Christ.