

# The Epiphany Of The Lord

January 7, 2018

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## Insight Into “The Visit Of The Magi”

Matthew’s story of the “Visit of the Magi” gives us a theological insight into the person of Jesus and the activity of God. The Magi are not Jews. They are Gentiles. They worship Jesus. As such, they prefigure the Gentile mission that the risen Jesus will inaugurate in the closing verses of this Gospel (*Matthew 28:16-20*). The Gentiles are coheirs with the Jews of the promises of God. We cannot limit God’s mercy. It knows no bounds and includes all.



## 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?

## Washington, D.C. March For Life

As the Youth Group, Deacon Gene and their chaperones leave for Washington, D.C. next week, please keep them in your prayers. Please pray also for our country and its government.

## Thank You From The Antonians

The Antonians of Sts. Peter and Paul would like to thank all the parishioners who donated so generously to the Christmas Giving Tree project for the Pregnancy Help Center in Slidell, the Battered Women’s Shelter and the Free Indeed Home, Covington, a shelter for underage victims of human trafficking. You can be assured that each donation will be given with a spirit of love and compassion for the women and children helped by these ministries.

## Offertory Giving

Today’s Gospel reading reveals the story of the Magi who come from the east to pay homage to Jesus, the newborn king. The story of the Magi teaches Christian stewards three Christmas truths: God, in the person of Jesus Christ, is present and active in the world, and good stewards strive daily to follow His star. Second, each of us, no matter our circumstances or station in life, has a gift to bring to the Lord. Finally, our life’s journey always leads to Christ, even when at times we do not know where the road is taking us.

## Financial Report

Due to a power outage, the financial information for December 31, 2017, will be published in next weekend’s bulletin.

## Building Fund

The Parish Building Fund will be next weekend’s second collection.



## Holiday Office Schedule



The Church Office will be closed **all day Monday, January 15**, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday. It will reopen on **Tuesday, January 16**, at 1:00 p.m.

## 2018 Church Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2018 can be picked up from the main entrance of the Church for your convenience.

## St. Joseph’s Altar Preparations Begin

Preparations for the St. Joseph’s Altar, celebrated this year on Monday, March 19, will soon begin. Come prepared to start working Saturday, January 27, in the Parish Hall. Baking will be on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call Gene Templet at 863-2545.



## Congratulations Father and Deacon

Congratulations to Father Warren Cooper on 46 years in the priesthood! Congratulations to Deacon Richard Calkins on 18 years as a deacon!

## Altar Society Dues

Annual dues of \$10.00 are now due. Parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul Church are invited to join. Dues are payable to May Caballero or the Church Office.

## Mass Intentions Requested

### Monday, January 8 Baptism of the Lord

(Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Mk 1:7-11)

No Mass Scheduled

### Tuesday, January 9

(1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28)

8:00 a.m. Bessie O'Dell Russo

### Wednesday, January 10

(1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

### Thursday, January 11

(1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45)

8:00 a.m. Richard and June Calkins

### Friday, January 12

(1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12)

8:00 a.m. Gene and Sissy Templet

### Saturday, January 13

(1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17)

5:00 p.m. James & Dolores Brewin, May Caballero, Joseph Purcella Jr., Frank & Julia Drake, Maurice Bersuder Sr., Rosemary Poche, Eugene Blanchard Jr., Curtis & Vita Owens, Tina Mangano, Roszczynialski Family, Ken & Adele Salzer, Lee & Yvonne Tracey, Joseph D'Antoni Jr., Louis Mangano Sr. & Jr., Jake & Brooke Ripp, Altar Society Members

### Sunday, January 14

(1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42)

7:00 a.m. Jeannette Gomez

8:30 a.m. Ben Spansel, Amy Fandal, Kellyn White, Andrew Lambert, C.J. Lightell Sr., Jay & Jessie Duhor, Nancy Hunt, Jerry Roszczynialski, Vivian Huber, Pat Downey, Pat Cuccia, Camille Dooley

10:30 a.m. Parishioners



## WEEKLY EVENTS

**GASPP**—Monday at noon in the Parish Hall. Bring your favorite dish or dessert and join us for the fun and fellowship!

**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, 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall after Mass

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

## Church Cleaning Rescheduled

Due to the snow event on our regular Christmas church cleaning, we have re-scheduled. We will clean the church Saturday, January 6, at 9:00 a.m. Students who need service hours can use this as an opportunity to earn them. Call Audrey Ruiz at 601-799-4527 if you have any questions.



## K. C. Raffle For Gas Barbecue Grill



You can win a deluxe four-burner gas barbecue grill by purchasing a raffle ticket from a member of our local Knights of Columbus Council. Tickets are only one dollar. The drawing will be February 18 during our Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall. Tickets are available from any SPPC Knight or in the Parish office.

## 2018 Right To Life Calendars Available

The Sts. Peter and Paul Youth Group is selling the 2018 Right to Life calendars for \$5.00. They are available in the Church Office.

## St. Joseph Altar Lecture

On January 27, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the St. Tammany Parish Library, 1123 Main Street, Madisonville, historian Sandra Scalise Juneau will present two FREE lectures on the traditions of St. Joseph altars. She will trace the history, explain the symbolism of this ancient tradition as brought to Louisiana by Sicilian immigrants and demonstrate the intricate technique of carving "Cuccidata" fig cake designs. A film of vintage St. Joseph Altars will be shown. Reservations should be made at 985-845-4819.

## Tabernacle Lamp

This week the Tabernacle lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of the **Deceased Members of the Widows Group.**



## Pray For The Sick

Lyn Adams, Audrey Bonnet, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewin, Mary Brown, George & Wanda Butko, May Caballero, Patricia Cuccia, Dotsy Chedville, Deacon Pat & Cathy Downey, Larry DuBois, Steve Dunn, Marcelle Ernewein, Carroll Fourcade, Deacon John Howard, Virgie Hurstell, Allen & Joan Jagneaux, Margaret Jorns, Maria Kalcic, Gloriette Kiern, Elizabeth Kittel, Vito Montalabano, Jessie O'Dell, Norris Ripp, Ed Roszczynialski, Cathy Smith, Lorraine Steilberg

## 2017 Income Tax Statements

Will you need a statement of 2017 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.



## Mass For God's Special Children

The Mass for God's Special Children will be held Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie. For information, contact Joy Zainey at 504-834-5865 or visit [www.godsspecialchildren.org](http://www.godsspecialchildren.org)

## Every Life Deserves a Lifetime"



The Louisiana Life March South will return to downtown Baton Rouge on Saturday, January 20. Due to construction in the area, the route will be reversed. The Life March South will begin in the grassy area outside the State Capitol near Spanish Town Road and North 4th Street. The March for Life will begin at 10:00 a.m., proceed south on North 4th Street, west on North Boulevard, and south on River Road to the Levee Green near the U.S.S. Kidd. A formal program will be held at the Levee Stage, beginning approximately at 11:00 a.m. The mission of this march 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 Louisiana Life March can lead toward an abortion-free Louisiana.

St. Margaret Mary Church and St. Luke the Evangelist Church are sponsoring a bus going to the Baton Rouge Life March. The bus will leave St. Margaret Mary's parking lot in front of the E Building at 7:15 a.m. and return to Slidell about 2:30 p.m. You will need to bring a bag lunch. Bottle water will be supplied. There is a bathroom on the bus. Cost is \$15.00 with checks payable to St. Margaret Mary Church. If you are interested, please contact Mary at 985-643-9547 or Eileen at 985-649-6281. Seating on the bus is limited.

## Magnificat Breakfast

This year's West St. Tammany Magnificat Chapter Magnificat Breakfast will be held at Benedict's Plantation, Mandeville, from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, February 7. This year's speaker will be Janice White Charbonnet, who formerly worked with teen evangelization retreats across the United States. Tickets are available at Most Holy Trinity Church, 501 Holy Trinity Drive, Covington, for \$15.00 each (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Registration forms are available at the front entrance to our Church and on the bulletin board in our Parish Hall. No tickets will be sold at the door or after Thursday, February 1.



## Rosaryville Spirit Life Center

"Taize"—Rosaryville invites you to join us in an evening of Contemplative Prayer in the style of Taize. The services start at 7:00 p.m. This is a simple and meditative Taize worship which promotes serenity to all who take part in it. The prayer consists of music, scripture readings and reflection. The candle-light service, beginning and ending in silence, fosters the participation of all present by focusing and deepening faith through the power of prayer. Dates are as follows: January 8, February 5 and March 5 (Mondays). All are welcome.

"Day of Prayer"—This event will begin with registration at 9:00 a.m. with coffee. The day of prayer's opening presentation begins at 9:30 a.m. and the day ends with 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. Albert Haase, OFM, will facilitate the day. A former missionary to China for over eleven years, he is an award-winning author of nine books on popular spirituality and the presenter on four bestselling DVDs. For details, email [scallais@oppeace.org](mailto:scallais@oppeace.org)

For more information on these events, contact Suzette Callais at 225-294-5039 at Rosaryville.

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

"That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom."

### Please Support Our Sponsors

In Loving Memory of  
the Deceased Members of the



**Barrios**  
**Frayle**  
And  
**Schaefer**  
Families



## The Feast Of The Baptism Of The Lord

The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.



At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the "Christification" of that humanity that He had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and "Christified" that human nature with which He became incarnate.

In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from Heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of "Christification," Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the "Christification" of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. *'And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men' (Lk 2:52).*

In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (*Gen 1:2*). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (*1 Cor 15:47*) or the last Adam (*1 Cor 15:45*), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. *'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realized what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; He bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated His public activity by stepping into the place of sinners (Joseph Ratzinger, Jesus of Nazareth, Bloomsbury 2007, p 18).*

Excerpted from the Congregation for the Clergy

## Ordinary Time

Is the season of the Church year when Catholics are encouraged to grow and mature in daily expression of their faith outside the great seasons of celebration of Christmas and Easter and the great periods of penance of Advent and Lent.

Is a time to deepen one's prayer life, read the Scriptures, unite more deeply with the Lord in the Eucharist and become a more holy and whole person.

Is a period when average people like you and me strive to become the extraordinary messengers of the Gospel that we have been commissioned to be through our Baptism.

Is this day, this moment. Now.

From The Catholic Almanac

The season of Ordinary Time begins on Monday (or Tuesday if the feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on that Monday) after the Sunday following January 6 and continues until the day before Ash Wednesday, inclusive. It begins again on the Monday after Pentecost and ends on the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent. It consists of 33 or 34 weeks. The last Sunday is celebrated as the Solemnity of Christ the King. The overall purpose of the season is to elaborate the themes of salvation history.

The various liturgical seasons are characterized in part by the scriptural readings and Mass prayers assigned to each of them. During Advent, for example, the readings are messianic; during the Easter season, from the Acts of the Apostles, chronicling the Resurrection and the original proclamation of Christ by the Apostles, and from the Gospel of John; during Lent, baptismal and penitential passages. Mass prayers reflect the meaning and purpose of the various seasons.

Excerpts from Our Sunday Visitor