

The Epiphany of the Lord

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." In our day and age, the star of Christmas has become a kind of decorative symbol that adorns manger scenes and Christmas trees. It suggests something good and bright and holy, a visual indicator that the "Light of the world" has appeared. But today, on the feast of the Epiphany, we recall that originally, this star was not just a pretty symbolic ornament. This star was a sign from God that intervened in the operations of the physical universe. The Magi understood that this star was sent from God to indicate where his Son would be born.

Of course it should not surprise us in this season of all seasons that God should choose to order the universe according to his purposes. Jesus has just been born of a virgin! God has just taken on human flesh. These events in themselves are extraordinary divine interventions--miracles that defy the standard operation of things. Why shouldn't God choose to send a luminous star where he wants it, when he wants it? Why shouldn't he reveal his plan through the things that he created in the first place?

The beauty of today's feast is found, in part, in the fact that the Magi were able to recognize this sign from God. They waited for it, they saw it, and they rejoiced in it: "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." We too should be overjoyed in this season of God's special revelation to us. We may need the eyes to recognize it, but truly we have waited for a Savior, we have seen his appearance at Christmas, and now it is time to celebrate! God is at work in our physical world. He has come here, now to save us. This is cause for rejoicing!

Sunday Collection

The Sunday Collection for December 24/25, 2016 was \$4,628.00.

St. Cecilia's Seniors

The St. Cecilia's Seniors of DMP (the over 50 Club) meets every Thursday at 12:30 in St. Cecilia Auditorium, 26 North Henry Street. Come and enjoy companionship, bingo, coffee and cake.

New Members welcome.

La Epifanía del Señor

Seguimos celebrando el nacimiento del Hijo de Dios y la liturgia nos invita hoy a entrar de lleno al misterio de la Epifanía del Señor. "Epifanía" viene del griego y significa manifestación. Hoy Dios se manifiesta al mundo por medio de los tres reyes. La Iglesia Griega celebra la Epifanía a lo grande, la Iglesia Católica la celebra después del nacimiento de Jesús. En la antigüedad se creía generalmente que las estrellas y los planetas tenían un significado especial en el nacimiento de personas importantes. Los magos que llegaron hasta Jesús no eran magos como los que vemos en el circo que hacen magia, sino que eran las personas sabias de aquellos tiempos. Es importante que expliquemos a los niños esta gran diferencia especialmente porque muchas veces esperan la magia de muchos juguetes.

¿De qué forma Dios se ha manifestado a nosotros en esta Navidad? ¿Qué hemos encontrado en la jornada de búsqueda de Dios en nuestra vida? Recordemos que en el camino de la vida nuestro enfoque principal debe ser el Señor Jesús. Hace apenas 8 días celebramos con alegría el Año Nuevo ahora tenemos casi 365 días de páginas en blanco para llenarlas con proyectos y sueños propios. El más importante es continuar moviéndonos hacia Cristo. Que no se pierda la estrella de la Navidad entre lo cotidiano de la vida. Que siempre preguntemos a los que nos rodean, "¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que acaba de nacer? Porque vimos surgir su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo" (Mt 2, 2). Que durante el año recordemos las siguientes palabras: Gloria a Dios en las alturas, nacido en Belén, magos de oriente llegaron a Jerusalén. ¡Que así sea!

Readings for the Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29/Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday:	Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday:	Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95/Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

A Message from Fr. Tom

The perspective of Matthew's Gospel is the Good News of salvation that comes to us in trying or difficult times. The Magi seek the newly born infant king—Christ the Lord. The specific title the Magi use is "The King of the Jews." This was a title well known in Jesus' time. It was a title conferred upon King Herod the Great by the Roman Senate 40 years before the birth of Jesus. Thus, the announcement of this prophecy by the Magi, creates a threat to the political power of the day. Christ is a challenging figure—even as an infant.

And so, our Gospel is a challenge to our own understanding. So much of our activity is taken up in maintaining who we are; responding or reacting to the forces around us. Perhaps we take our faith for granted—assuming we know all the right answers—so who needs to ask questions? We have to remember that to follow Jesus is more than knowing facts about our religion. Being Christian is to be a person on a journey. The Magi make a journey following the star. The Magi desire more than knowledge about things. They ask questions and they seek the truth. They read the signs around them (the star) and follow that sign. At the heart of every human person is this desire to know what life is all about. Often this compels us to make a journey—to leave what is familiar and enter into uncharted territory. Christian faith is not just facts about God or questions over which we struggle. Christian life is a journey—a mystery to be lived and encountered in Jesus.

Celebration of the Banns of Marriage

St. Nicholas Church in Divine Mercy Parish

Thursday, December 29th, 2016

David Ismael Solorzano Ruiz & Maria Castillo

Generations of Faith

It has been one year since we introduced the Generations of Faith Campaign to our parish. I am very pleased to say that we made our pledge goal of \$375,000.00, and exceeded it by about \$25,000.00. Of particular note is that at this point, thirty five percent (35%) of our pledges have been fulfilled. I am told this is a very good place to be. Of the many work projects that were mentioned as part of this pledge drive; Divine Mercy Parish has completed every one of them in all three of our churches.

With all the good news are some areas where we can still make progress. There are still some people that have not made any contribution to the pledge they made during last year's campaign. We have approximately

600 registered families in the parish, but only 135 have made pledges. Please do what you can in the coming days to continue to fulfill your pledge or make one if you have not already done so. It is my hope that every family or person who attends Mass here regularly would find the generosity to make a pledge. If you cannot make a pledge, I ask that you continue to pray for the success of this campaign. Blessed New Year and thank you,

Fr. Tom

Transfiguration Men's Shelter

Thank you to all the parishioners who volunteered to serve at Transfiguration for the week of January 8 – January 14, 2017.

We will be assigned additional weeks in upcoming months. As soon as the dates are available they will be posted in the bulletin.

Ladies Movie Night

Join us on Sunday, January 15, at 5:30pm in the St. Francis of Paola Rectory Basement. We'll be showing the musical romantic comedy "Mamma Mia" based on the Broadway play of the same name. Refreshments will be served and we will have a 50/50 raffle. This movie is rated PG-13: parents urged to be cautious as some material may be inappropriate for pre-teenagers.

New York City Universal Pre-K

Queens of the Rosary Catholic Academy—our affiliated school—would like to remind all members of the parish community that the application period for New York City's Universal Pre-K begins January 17.

Queen of the Rosary participates in the UPK program and invited you to select their school for your child. Please feel free to call the school for more information or to schedule a tour.

Thank You

The Rosary Society wishes to thank all our parishioners from their extraordinary generosity in supporting our recent **Christmas Giving Tree**. Your kindness provided 208 gifts for the 22 HIV-POSITIVE orphaned children and adolescents living at Incarnation Children's Services. Be assured that your donations brightened their lives and helped to remind them how special they are.

Best wishes for a peaceful and blessed New Year!

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

GIFTS OF LOVE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH

“For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome..” (Matt 25:35-36)

We are gratified to report that in the year 2016 our pantry served 2,900 individuals, representing approximately 9,000 family members. This achievement was possible through the grace of God and the generosity of our benefactors and the loyal support of our volunteers. In the coming new year, with God’s continued good grace and your support we will continue our ministry to serve those who need our assistance.

Lord, please continue to bless our faith community with love and unity. Join our hands, one to another, and lead us in the way you have designed for us. Rest your favor upon us and keep us always in your loving care. Amen.

Specific item needed: **Canned fruit**
Food Pantry Coordinator & Volunteers

St. Francis of Paola Church

Memorial Gifts – January 8, 2017

SANCTUARY LAMP

Antoinette Graffeo by Rosemary Clementi

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLES

Immacolata Baglivo by granddaughter Tina

St. Theresa Guild

The next meeting of the St. Theresa Guild will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 7:30pm in the St. Francis of Paola rectory basement. Please bring a wrapped, Christmas gift you are willing to part with for our fun “January Re-Gifting. New members are always welcome.

Join the St. Anthony Society for “Carnevale Dinner”

Fat Tuesday, February 28, 2017 -- 6 to 9 PM

In the St. Francis of Paola Auditorium

Tickets are \$25 and will be available starting January 10th, in the Rectory. Limited number of tickets available. This event will sell out again. Don’t wait!. For more information please contact Christina Scotti (718-782-3881.)

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Francis of Paola Church

Saturday, January 7, 2017

5:00pm For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

Sunday, January 8, 2017

8:00am Michael Loguercio by Family

11:30am Rina & Maria by Ada Maestrini

Monday, January 9, 2017

7:45am Open Intention

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

7:45am Charles J. Palmaccio
by daughter Melissa

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

7:45am Concetta DiGiovanna by daughter

Thursday, January 12, 2017

7:45am Immacolata Baglivo by family

Friday, January 13, 2017

7:45am Anna Farco by Rose Martinez

Saturday, January 14, 2017

7:45am Xiamin Joe Sun
by son Joseph & Agnes Sun

5:00pm Sara Porcelli
by Anthony Porcelli & Family

Sunday, January 15, 2017

8:00am For the People of Divine Mercy Parish

11:30am Giovanna De Sarno by Marie Sepe

Maturing in God / St. Joseph Retreat Center

January 19th – 1pm to 3pm / \$20 per session

Aging... The opportunity of a lifetime- developed by Richard P. Johnson, PH.D. is a short course in living agelessly in 12 powerful lessons. (This program will be given over a 2 year period) Each session will help you tap the wisdom and grace that comes with learning from the Master Teacher. You’ll discover the keys to maturing in the way God intended; Changing your attitudes, seeking love everywhere, accepting your true self, letting go of anger, forgiving yourself and others, delighting in connectedness, living in the now, celebrating faith, giving of yourself, making your feelings work, finding deep meaning and balancing your life everything you need to develop your “spiritual vitality”. Each session stands alone. For more information: St. Joseph Retreat Center Tel 718-720-1097 or website sjretreatcenter.org.

JANUARY 8, 2017

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Nicholas Church

Sunday, January 8, 2017

10:30am Magdalena Sanchez by Family
12:45pm Constaninos Kotteakos
by Olga Navarro & Family

Sunday, January 15, 2017

10:30am Nilda Morales by Margarita Quinones
12:45pm Olga Elliott by Olga Navarro & Family

Pray For the Sick

Patrick Del Vicario, Seymour Sarrel, Charline Vine, Anne Sansilippo, Arthur Weber, Rae Pacifico, Diane James, Frank Cremato, Pam Curcio, Jennifer, Craig Washack, Patricia Clarke, Elizabeth Lucivero. Wanda Zadwarny, Carmella Caiafa, Maureen Conlon, Sister Rose Ellen McCann, C.S.J., Raul Carreiras

Pray for Our Recently Deceased

Mary Loquercio, Theresa Prevete, Alvin Cox, John Walsh, Nora Goff, Patricia Krieger

Silent Meditation Group

All are welcome in Divine Mercy Parish's Silent Meditation Group. Our silent prayer is based on the teaching and writing of Benedictine Monk, John Main. We will meet in St. Cecilia's Chapel on Herbert Street, every 2nd and 4th Sunday evening after 7:00pm Mass, from 8:00pm until 8:30pm. The dates are January 8th and January 22nd, 2017.

Affordable Housing

Applications are now being accepted for affordable housing at 325 Kent Apts, 325 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11249

Address to obtain paper applications:

325 Kent Apts.
243 5th Avenue, Box 425
New York New York 10016

We encourage interested persons to apply online at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect.

Please remember that online applications must be submitted by the deadline date and that the applications received after this deadline date will not be considered. Deadline date is January 30, 2017.

Mass Intentions for the Week St. Cecilia Church

Sunday, January 8, 2017

9:30am Tom Sabatino
Jo & Ed Collins
Eamon & Ray McGinn
Thomas Petrowski
Mary Loquercio
7:00pm Open Intention

Monday, January 9, 2017

8:30am Rose Del Vicario (Anniversary)

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

8:30am Open Intention

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

8:30am Open Intention

Thursday, January 12, 2017

8:30am Open Intention?

Friday, January 13, 2017

8:30am Bernadette Criscio (Anniversary)

Saturday, January 14, 2017

8:30am Suzanne O'Connor

Sunday, January 15, 2017

9:30am Barney & Angie Cavallo
Lucy & Peter La Veglia
Caliendo Family
7:00pm Open Intention

St. Cecilia Church

Memorial Gifts – January 8, 2017

BREAD & WINE

Timothy McErlean by Mom and Dad

A Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage To Catholic Cuba

Bishop Octavio Cisneros, Spiritual Director

March 24—31, 2017

Aboard Celestyal Cruises

With visits to: Our Lady of Cobre, Havana, Punta Frances, Cienfuegos.

For a brochure call Lucille at Regina Tours 1-800-CATHOLIC x 208.

Mass Book 2017 is Open

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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
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Comments:

Available On-line You can locate Divine Mercy Parish in Brooklyn, New York on-line at www.seekandfind.com and sign up to receive via email notification our weekly parish bulletin. Stay up to date on all parish events and activities—even if you are away for the weekend—sign up today

Memorial Gifts At Divine Mercy Parish

Bread & Wine Sanctuary Lamp Tabernacle Candles Altar Candles Blessed Mother Candles St. Joseph Candles Memorial Gifts are a wonderful way to honor and remember your loved ones. Please come to the Rectory (or call) for information on available dates. Also available are Tree of Life Leaves and Blessed Mother Yearly Candles (this candle is lit for a year). All memorials can be In Honor Of or Remembrance Of a family member or friend.

A Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage To Catholic Cuba

Join Bishop Octavio Cisneros as Spiritual Director, March 24-31, 2017 on a Celestial Cruise, with visits to Our Lady of Cobre, Havana, Punta Frances, Cienfuegas. Call 1-800-CATHOLIC X 208 for more info.