

Christ Child Catholic Church
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service***

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
January 6, 2019

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

The magi prostrated themselves and did the child homage. They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Matthew 2: 1-12

Christmas drum beats

Perhaps you've seen the touching Christmas episode of *The West Wing* which first aired two years ago but was recently repeated.

A few days before Christmas, Toby Ziegler, the President's acerbic communication director, receives a call from the D.C. police asking if he knows a homeless man who had died in the cold the night before. Toby has no idea who the man is. The police find Toby's card in the coat the man was wearing – Toby had given the coat to a shelter long ago. Toby discovers that the man was a decorated Vietnam veteran; his only survivor is a brother who also lives on the streets. Toby uses his Presidential connections to arrange for the man's internment with full military

honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Christmas Eve.

During the last five minutes of the episode, the scene switches back and forth between a children's choir – surrounded by beautiful poinsettias and candles – performing for the President and the White House staff, and the austere Arlington honor guard laying the homeless veteran to rest, attended only by Toby, the man's brother, and the President's secretary. At first, you only see the children's choir singing *The Carol of the Drum*; but as the scene cuts to a hearse pulling up to the grave site at Arlington, the orchestra begins the relentless bass drum-tum-tum, rum-tum-tum of the carol.

In those last few moments of the program, the same drum beat that celebrates the birth of the Christ child accompanies a homeless veteran on his last journey.

The haunting drums on that episode of *The West Wing* mirrors the paradox of the Epiphany. We rejoice with the magi at the Messiah's coming, but the world of the Messiah will lead to rejection, ridicule and death. The light of Christ will shatter the darkness, but the darkness will not disperse willingly. Jesus, who will preach compassion and forgiveness, who will welcome the poor and rejected, who will bring healing and joy into the lives of the hurting and lost, will be brought to ruin by the Herods and Judases. But the promise of Epiphany is that the light of Christ will ultimately triumph. As the magi depart, let us resolve to remain walking with Christ from the manger in Bethlehem all the way to the hill outside of Jerusalem; to follow not just the beautiful star of Christmas but the hard road of the Gospel; to accompany Jesus from the lake side to the upper room. The Drums of the Christmas carol will be muted

as the Christ event unfolds; but they shall beat once again in joy on Easter morning, the day of the Messiah's complete victory over the darkness.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment

Sacrament of Baptism and Marriage

Call the office for an appointment.

For Pregnancy Support

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women
And all Men

MASS INTENTIONS January 5 - 11

Saturday 5:00 pm. The Stehly Family

Sunday 10:00 am. + Leslie R. Olsen

Tuesday 9:00 am. The Stehly Family

Thursday 9:00 am. The Arnaudo Family

Friday 8:00 am. Parishioners

Stewardship of Treasury

Report Sunday December 29 & 30, 2018

TOTAL \$3,386.00

Thanks you and May God bless you!

Men's Club Meeting

Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30

PM. on **Wednesday January 9, 2019**

“Together, supporting each other, we can do great things!”

Women's Club/Prayer Group

**We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month,
January 23rd from 1 to 2:30 PM.**

Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

Please contact Ruth McCormick

ruthmcc@flash.net

We pray the ROSARY together every Saturday at 4:30 PM. Please come to pray for the families and our Country!

What better way to begin the New Year than by spending time discerning God's call?

We are hosting a “Come – And See” Day on Saturday, January 19, 2019 for single, Catholic women age 18-38 years.

As you know, these are perfect opportunities for young women to get a glimpse of cloistered life and Dominican cloistered life in particular, and to help them listen more closely to God's voice in their hearts, whatever their calling. Will you once again help us reach out and invite young women to this opportunity?

Contact Sister Joseph Marie, O.P. vocation directress, at vocations@nunsmenlo.org or visit our website at

www.opnunsmenlo.org/uncoming-ernts

To learn more and to register for one of our upcoming Come and see Days!

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

begins Friday, 18 January.

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity.

The Church and our Diocese are committed to protecting the children entrusted to our care.

Every member of our clergy, staff and volunteers must pass a criminal background check and be trained on setting boundaries BEFORE they can serve in any ministry that puts them in contact with children. They are also trained and encouraged to recognize signs of possible abuse and report any suspicions to civil authorities. You can report any suspected abuse to Child Protective Services, the police, or your pastor.