

# Adult Faith Formation

Committee Members:  
Sue Berning, Annette Dutcher, Lisa Haines, Beth Praught,  
Lois Roden, Lori Valerius, Jeanne Vetsch, Sue Zachman

To deepen our understanding  
of our Faith and increase our  
Love for God

January 2017

## January Focus

Imagine being in a snow globe. This newsletter has lots of little bits of information, much like the tiny snow flakes in a globe. One flake is the “shake up” of the 2017 Pope Prayer Intentions—see below article regarding such. Also we have bits of information regarding the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, the Baptism of the Lord, and the second installment of the Infant of Prague Novena. We also have a short description of an upcoming video study series.

Let us hope that the 2017 changes in our own lives be small and land gently on open hearts willing to receive God’s love and mercy.

*“What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him, I give my heart.”*

*Song Text—“In the Bleak Midwinter” - verse 5*

## Upcoming Events

> **Monday, Jan 23rd—Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.** Watch bulletins for information regarding local parish and State Capital events.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and let all that is within thee bless His Holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

Ps. 103:1-2

## Did You Know?

St. Pope John Paul II restored the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus to January 3. Also, the month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. See the back page for a question regarding the Lord’s name.

## Did You Know?

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season. It is typically celebrated on a Sunday, but the feast is moved to a Monday if Christmas falls on a Sunday. This year the feast is celebrated on Monday, January 9th.



## Write a Crooked Path: Tips for the Journey

Epiphany is also referred to as “the Adoration of the Magi.” During 2017 may you find time to spend time in adoration of our Lord, Jesus. Resolve to become a more prayerful person, change bad habits, or help the less fortunate. God entered the world to give us His mercy and grace. Thank you Lord Jesus for all that you have give us.

*“ that we may offer You the gold of our love, the frankincense of our prayer, and the myrrh of our willing sacrifices in Your service.”*

## Changes to the Pope’s Prayer Intentions

The Apostleship of Prayers was founded by Jesuit seminarians in France in 1884, as a means of encouraging Christians to serve God and others through prayer, particularly for the needs of the Church. Since its foundation, the organization has received a monthly universal prayer intention from the Pope, but in 1929 an additional “evangelization intention” was added, aimed at the faithful in particular. However, after nearly 100 years, Pope Francis has decided to return to the old system and will alternate between universal and evangelistic themes each month. The process of finalizing the monthly prayer intentions is lengthy. It involves gathering suggestions from both the Vatican dicasteries as well as from members of the Apostleship of Prayer network around the world, proposing them to the Holy Father, waiting for his final versions, and then translating and publishing them

According to a recent blog post by Fr. James Kubicki, national director of the U.S. branch of the Apostleship of Prayer, Pope Francis decided to launch an urgent inten-

tion “given the speed of communication in the digital age.”

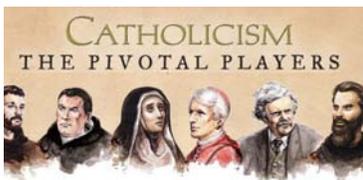
The 12 monthly prayer intentions for 2017 will focus on topics Pope Francis has frequently spoken about, such as support for persecuted Christians, youth, Christians in Africa and Asia, workers and the unemployed, and the elderly. They have already been published on the Apostleship of Prayer’s website. Pope Francis will announce his urgent intention during his first Sunday Angelus address each month. Therefore, his urgent intention for January has yet to be announced.

Fr. Frederic Fornos, S.J., the international director of the Apostleship of Prayer, has said that for him, the Pope’s urgent intention is a way of confronting “the culture of indifference” by drawing not only attention, but also prayer, to situations that are “more concrete, precise, current (and) related to actual circumstances.”

There are also now videos of the pope’s intentions which were initially created specifically for the Jubilee of Mercy and will continue during 2017, with the first one to be published January 9th.

## Pope Francis January Prayer Intentions

**Universal: Christian Unity**  
“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.”



Bishop Robert Barron and Word on Fire Catholic Ministries have produced another digital resource for growing in the Faith.

“Catholicism: The Pivotal Players” brings to life the stories of some of Catholicism’s most significant people. As with its predecessor series,

one of the strongest qualities of this series is that Bishop Barron brings the viewers on pilgrimage to some of the most significant Catholic sites. Filmed on location and including breathtaking scenery and sacred art, the series introduces viewers to more than biographies, but also the essential witness of the six individuals that have been known through the centuries of the Church.

Viewers will learn about the indelible mark left on the

world by St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, Blessed John Henry Newman, G.K. Chesterton, and Michelangelo. The six episode series also has a study guide available. Anyone who watches it will gain new knowledge of these important and influential figures.

St. Albert’s will be offering “Catholicism: The Pivotal Players.” DVD series very soon so watch the bulletins for upcoming dates.

### Vain Sayings?

Q. Is saying “Oh, my God!” when reacting to a situation or story taking the name of the Lord in vain?

A. While the phrase “Oh, my God” could be a prayer, it is not usually meant in this way. More commonly it uses the Divine name as a mere expression of surprise or exasperation. This is not a reverent or prayerful use of God’s name in most circumstances. The word “vain” means empty, and therefore, the context cited seems to qualify as using God’s name in vain.

However, in assigning culpability (blameworthiness), it is good to remember that some have developed a bad habit of using this expression. As such, they usually commit the sin in weakness rather than malice, not intending to show disrespect to God.

It should further be recalled that the Second Commandment, “You shall not use the name of the Lord in vain,” has for its first meaning that we should never use God’s name to swear falsely or curse others. Irreverence of God’s name through casual use, is an extended meaning of the commandment. Thus we see that violations of the Second Commandment do admit to some degree of seriousness, though it is far more serious a sin to use God’s name to swear falsely than to inadvertently use it to express surprise.

Still, one ought to avoid such vain or empty use. One way to help break a bad habit that may have developed is for the one who says, “Oh, my God!” to correct themselves aloud by saying, “ Oh, I mean to say, ‘May the name of the Lord be praised!’” This makes reparation and also helps break the habit.

Source—TCA Faith column, Jan/Feb 2017 Rev. Msgr. Charles E. Pope

~Days 4 through 6 ~

### Novena

to the

### Miraculous Infant Jesus of Prague

V. God, come to my assistance  
R. Lord, make haste to help me.  
Glory be to the Father...

#### Prayer for Every Day

Almighty and everlasting God, Lord of heaven and earth, You reveal Yourself to little ones; grant that we, duly honoring the holy mysteries of Your Son, the Infant Jesus, and daily imitating Him in our lives, may come to the kingdom of heaven promised by You to little children. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



#### Fifth Day—The Adoration of the Magi

“The wise men from the East saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

Matthew 11

Jesus, sweetest Child, made known to the three wise men by a star, adored in the arms of Your Mother, presented with the mystic gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh; have mercy on us.

#### Prayer

O Babe of Bethlehem, with the wise men we acknowledge You to be our Sovereign Lord. Our faith penetrates the disguise of Your weakness, Your humility and poverty, and we behold with great delight the new light of Your glory. Permit us, O Little Lord, to open the treasury of our hearts before You, that we may offer You the gold of our love, the frankincense of our prayer, and the myrrh of our willing sacrifices in Your service. Amen. *Hail Mary, and Glory.*



#### Sixth Day—The Presentation

“When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.”

Luke 11,2

Jesus, sweetest Child, presented in the Temple by Your Virgin Mother, embraced by Simeon, and revealed to Israel by Anna the prophetess; have mercy on us.

#### Prayer

O King of love, by that perfect conformity to the will of Your Father, which moved You to fulfill the prescriptions of the Jewish law in Your Presentation in the Temple, help us to make the Divine Will our guide in life, that we may as willingly accept humiliating tasks as those that flatter our pride. Amen. *Hail Mary, and Glory.*



#### Fourth Day—The Holy Name

“At the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

Luke 11, 21

Jesus, sweetest Child, circumcised on the eighth day, called by the glorious Name of Jesus and by Your Name and Your Blood, revealed as the Savior of the world; have mercy on us.

#### Prayer

O Jesus, Your Holy Name proclaimed, even from the moment of Your conception, your mission as Savior. Enkindle in our hearts a deep love and reverence for Your Holy Name, that filled with confidence in its saving power, we will be courageous in breaking with every sinful affection and unlawful attachment. Amen. *Hail Mary, and Glory.*