

January 6, 2018: Feast of the Epiphany

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, commemorating the Three Kings' arrival from the East to adore the Christ child. We are happy to have the Kings arrive at our beautiful Nativity scene. It is always nice to have an artistic visual as an expression of our faith and celebration. This is why the Church has always been a patron of the arts, to visually and musically express and articulate the faith through all the senses, making it real. I would like to thank Greg Schuler for his design and construction of the beautiful stable that houses our new nativity statues. And I would like to thank Mike and Sue Venable and their helpers for all the work they did to decorate the Church and hall so beautifully for Christmas.

Last week the Church celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family. The Holy Family, so beautifully expressed in the nativity scene, is the way in which our Lord Jesus chose to enter the world. Jesus has a human mother and father in this world. The Holy Family is a reminder of ourselves and a symbol of the importance of the family. Fr. Julián Carrón, discussing the importance of the family says:

“If you do not love Christ, Beauty made flesh, more than the person you love, the latter relationship withers, because Christ is the truth of this relationship, the fullness to which both partners point, and in whom their relationship is fulfilled. Only by letting him in is it possible for the most beautiful relationship that can happen in life not to be corrupted and die in time. This is the audacity of his claim.”

As 2018 has come to a close and as we begin 2019, let us be grateful for all the gifts and blessings of the past year and look forward and be open to all the gifts and blessings of grace that Our Lord will have for us in the New Year. May 2019 be a year of grace and renewal for each of us and the entire Church. We know that all things work for his good and glory and that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Lord of all time. He existed before time and will come at the end of time. May each of us be prepared to meet him when our time comes to an end, like the faithful servant who was ready for his master's return.

On New Year's Day we celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and we unveiled and dedicated our new statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary for our Church. The new statue depicts Mary holding Jesus in one hand and a rosary in the other. Mary is offering the Rosary to us that Jesus is also holding. It shows that the Rosary is a way to Jesus through Mary. The Rosary is the great gift and legacy of our parish here in Edmonds. We are proud to have Mary as our patroness and the Rosary as our sign and symbol. Devotion to Mary and praying the Rosary will lead us to a greater union and love of Christ, Mary's Son.

A blessed, grace-full and Happy New Year to everyone,

Fr. Vincent