



St. Joseph Catholic Church
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The Epiphany Year A 1.8.2017

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$1059.00	\$	\$0.00
Fuel Bill	\$	\$1697.00	

All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belong to the LORD; they are sacred to the LORD (Lev 27:30)

Do you give a tithe to the Lord?

A tithe is 10%

How much have you given in the past year?



Announcements

Jan 8th Religious Ed
 11:30 – 2:30 PM.

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 Kotz: We received 6 responses from architect firms. Appraisal should be completed by Spring.

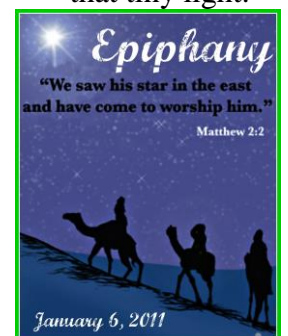
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 Fr. Kuffel will be in Kotz Jan 4 – 10 for funeral.

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 Fr. Kuffel retreat/vacation Jan 29 – Feb. 10
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We do well to repeat the question asked by the Magi: “Where is the child who has been born the King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage” (Mt 2:2).

We are impelled, especially in an age like our own, to seek the signs which God offers us, realizing that great effort is needed to interpret them and thus to understand his will. We are challenged to go to Bethlehem, to find the Child and his Mother. Let us follow the light which God offers us – that tiny light.



“RETRouvaille”
Feb 10 – 12 Anchorage
For troubled marriages
907-863-8000
Helpourmarriage.com

Saving?

Sixty-two percent of Americans have less than \$1,000 in savings and wouldn't be able to cover even the smallest of life's emergencies. Many haven't thought about saving for their retirement or their kids' college funds. But saving can be challenging, especially if you're living paycheck to paycheck.

Giving?

Most people give less than a \$1000 yearly to charities. Families can barely live with what they earn, how can we expect them to give to charity when they are the charity case?

Saving and giving are the flip sides of the same coin. People know they need to save; people know they need to give. But how can they if they do not have money?

Looking at your lifestyle and comparing it not to the lifestyle of the rich and famous, but to the lifestyle of the poor and homeless.

Seeing the crushing poverty of Haiti, India, Africa and other cultures where they struggle merely to survive, we can learn to simplify our lifestyle.

Simplicity brings so much balance for we are not burdened by all sorts of materialistic possessions, but free to give of our time, talent and treasure to those in need.

The Epiphany!

The Epiphany is recognizing the gifts in your life. It celebrates Gift Giving. We see three men give not merely gifts, but their way of life to Jesus and in return they receive the gift of eternal life.

The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are not just gifts of the rich; they are symbols of the world: power, pleasures, and possessions. They are also symbols of the practice of black magic: devil worship.

The Magi, the word we get magic from, are wise enough to realize their worldly and evil ways will not save them; but giving Jesus their possessions and worldly ways, they find true wisdom: the Worship of Truth, Peace, Love, Beauty, and Joy!

This is the exchange. They give themselves and lifestyle to Jesus and Jesus gives them everything they need: both the needs of earthly life, but most importantly, the way to eternal life!

The Second Commandment:
Love you Neighbor as Yourself!

Love destroys evil and only love will destroy evil for love forgives the evil and asks the person to change out of love.

This is the most radical teaching of Jesus and Christianity. We do not return evil for evil, but we return good for evil (Rom 12:17). In fact, Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to forgive the evil of another person. Why?

So that I do not become bitter and embroiled in emotional drama and disaster. Forgiveness of an evil committed against me frees me from being possessed by that person. It frees me from being enslaved in fear of that person. It empowers me to rise from the hurt, pain, and damage done so that I can look at the person with pity and more importantly with mercy.

However, the reason why we need to love our neighbor even if they have committed evil against me, or know they are struggling themselves with a certain sin, is that I need forgiveness for I too am evil. I too sin.

Forgiving others allows me to overcome my feelings of anger, bitterness, or revenge and eventually brings healing to the hurt and wounds. In my need to forgive, I realize what Jesus has done for me. He has loved me – unconditionally. He has forgiven me.

As we learn to love our neighbor, we also see the value of each person – no matter how broken, shattered, or derelict.

Christianity is a religion of dignity and we love each other as we ourselves need to be loved because each human person is created in the image and likeness of God. We are all worthy of dignity, even if we do not live a dignified life.

In fact, showing dignity and respect to another person is the only responsible way to enhance, improve, and encourage another to grow in their own self-dignity. Hence, John teaches poignantly (1Jn4:20)

If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God: whom he has not seen. 21 This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

We have been given the love of God which is an unconditional gift. Since it is a gift, I must give it away.

Many today are filled with hate, resentment, and envy; all three destroy a person from within. Terrorism is nothing other than envy which destroys the good of another. Entitlement is another form of envy for a person believes they deserve more respect. Love of neighbor corrects both for we treat each other as brothers and sisters. We treat each other as I want to be treated: As Jesus treats me!

Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Jan 9	6:00 PM	Kotz	Baptism		Carol Dale	
Tue Jan 10	9:00 AM	Kotz			Mark Ostenfeld	
Wed Jan 11	5:30 PM	Nome			Charlotte MGuire	Rosary
Thu Jan 12	5:30 PM	Nome			Anton Toupat	
Fri Jan 13	5:30 PM	Nome			KNOM	
Sat Jan 14	5:30 PM	Nome	Ordinary Time		R. Froehle Fam	
Sun Jan 14	10:30 AM	Nome	Ordinary Time		St. Joseph	

**The kings of Tarshish
and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring
tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him. (Ps 72)**

**How many stars there are in the sky! And yet the Magi
followed a new and different star, which for them shone
all the more brightly. They had long peered into the great
book of the heavens, seeking an answer to their questions
– they had restless hearts –, and at long last the light
appeared. That star changed them. (Francis)**

Submission: To offer homage to another, to enter into a commitment.

Submission is a dirty word today for we recoil at the thought of submission, especially as we have seen so many persons abuse and exploit their power and authority cruelly taking advantage of others. From fathers, mothers, police, priests, and public officials, even presidents and the popular misuse their position to manipulate people to submit

Submit literally means to engage in the mission of the other. Sub-mission means to be a smaller part of a greater mission. To put it in a paraphrase:

To be part of a great purpose.

Today this idea is strange, for people see only self-affirmation and taking care of the one's own needs as their only purpose in life. Present-day Americans, we tend to see only self enhancement, individual rights, self-affirmation, and self-esteem as essential, all else being offensive and victimization.

Homage was the reason and purpose of the quest of these Magi who are pagan priests who study astrology to find the meaning and purpose of their lives. Much like astrology today people study the stars and the zodiac signs to determine their purpose their mission in life. Zodiac followers submit to their fate.

The Magi submit, that is they commit, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolizes worldly power, incense symbolizes the transcendent, and myrrh symbolizes the pleasures and sufferings of life. They worship as Isaiah prophesied:

"Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord" (Is 60:6).

In contrast, King Herod, a devious, lying monarch, demands homage. He wants the world to worship him; but Herod's power is pagan power rooted in selfishness.

Satan demands homage too. Jesus in the desert 40 days is tempted by Satan. If only Christ would fall down and give Satan homage, he would give Him worldly power.

However, those who worship self-power are doomed to lie, cheat, and be corrupted in order to have it. Tragically they end up not possessing power but being possessed by it. Herod, so self-possessed, murders children. That event is known forever in infamy as the Slaughter of the Innocents.

. It is part of our nature to submit; that is to be part of a great mission! Satan will ask us to offer him homage for we were made to submit. He did this to appease the real god Herod worshipped — Satanic Power

However, Jesus comes and asks us to be part of his Mission: the Salvation of the World. He does not demand homage, but offers us a reason to worship Him. Look at the healing miracles. A leper approached Him and did Him homage, saying: "*Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.*" The Canaanite woman, whose daughter was tormented by a devil, falls down on her face and does Him homage, asking that He heal her daughter. In the Garden of the Resurrection, Mary Magdalene embracing the feet of the risen Jesus offers homage for Jesus cast out from her 7 demons. She knew satanic power. But she submits to divine power.

Do you submit to divine power?

The Eucharist is divine power. Reading the Word of God, gives us divine power. Obeying the commandments, receiving the sacraments, and serving the needy are all ways we submit. We do homage when we submit to the Catholic Church.

Many Catholics complain and want to serve God their way, to choose to submit to the things they agree with. Some think that Sunday Mass is optional. It is ok to break one of the commandments. I can choose my religious beliefs. Its my right!

This type of homage is satanic. It deceives us to think I am serving God, but serving God my way – not his way. The Magi submitted to God completely just as the Leper did, just as the Canaanite woman did, just as Mary Magdalene – just as Jesus did in the garden: *Not My will, but Your will be done.*

**And as for "getting something out of Mass"
What could possibly surpass receiving His very own
Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity?**

Mothers are the strongest antidote to our individualistic and egotistic tendencies, to our lack of openness and our indifference.

A society without mothers would not only be a cold society, but a society that has lost its heart, lost the "feel of home". A society without mothers would be a merciless society, one that has room only for calculation and speculation.

Because mothers, even at the worst times, are capable of testifying to tenderness, unconditional self-sacrifice and the strength of hope.

I have learned much from those mothers whose children are in prison, lying in hospital beds, in bondage to drugs, yet, come cold or heat, rain or snow, never stop fighting for what is best for them. Those mothers in refugee camps, even the midst of war, unfailingly embrace and support their children's sufferings.

Mothers who literally give their lives so that none of their children will suffer. Where there is a mother, there is unity, there is belonging, belonging as children.

Celebrating the feast of the Holy Mother of God makes us smile once more as we realize that we are a family, that we belong. Within a family, we as persons find the "climate", the "warmth" that enables us to grow in humanity, and not merely as objects meant to "consume and be consumed".

To celebrate the feast of the Holy Mother of God reminds us that we are not interchangeable items of merchandise or information processors. We are children; we are family; we are God's People.

We are the Family of Our Father!

