

January 7, 2018

Epiphany of the Lord Solemnity



Magi From The East Follow A Star

The persons who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn *King of the Jews* are shrouded in mystery. The Gospel says nothing about their home country, their status nor their names. The story of the Magi is a symbolic expression of the revelation of God to the whole world. God made the good news of Jesus' birth known to the Magi by a suitable sign, which guided their journey. The story represents the religious quest of all human beings for God. The Magi disappeared as mysteriously as they appeared in the story. God ordered them in a dream not to return to Herod. They departed for their country *by another way*. In a sense all our encounters with the Lord in the celebration of the Liturgy directs us too to return to our daily occupations by another way.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by Nancy & Thomas Petru in thanksgiving to God on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 13
4:30 p.m. Helen Pesek
Sunday, January 14
8:00 a.m. Fr. Lawrence Matula

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 40
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Gospel: John 1:35-42

2017 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2017 Assessment \$ 7,670.00
Contributions So Far \$ 6,590.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 1,080.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Nancy & Thomas Petru
Rosemary & Arthur Klekar
Virginia & Dennis Olsovsky
Josephine & Alphonse Kubenka*

We thank all those who have contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. With your generous donations we should be able to pay off the remaining debt to the bishop. We are counting on all who have not yet contributed to the fund so far to also help.

St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha



We thank the following for their recent donations:
Ellen & Arthur Mika, Dripping Springs, TX - \$25

To make a tax deductible donation towards *St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha* contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

Mass – January 20; February 3, 4, 10, 17 & 25
Altar Flowers – January 13-14, 20-21 & 27-28

Thank You Note

Dear Father Gabriel,

Thank you very much for hosting the Czech Christmas Mass. It certainly was a once-in-a-lifetime event for this area! I am glad it was written that way, because I made sure I went.

What a cultural event! The singers and music were amazing, as well as the sermon. That is was all in Czech made it even more unique and special to me, as for both my parents Czech was their first language. The translations in English handed out to everyone helped to keep me on track with what was going on because I understand only a little.

The reception afterwards was very enjoyable. Thanks to the ladies who worked making and serving the food and drinks.

I so appreciate you bringing this cultural event to our area. Beauty inspires beauty, and this was certainly an inspiring and uplifting afternoon.

Thank you!

Mary Ann

REFLECTION

The Manifestation of Christ to the World

Epiphany means “manifestation,” referring to the appearance of Jesus. The significance of this day is not just the arrival of the Magi, but also the coming of Gentiles to adore the coming of the newborn King of the Jews. The event recognizes Jesus’ rule over the entire world.

All the readings for today reveal, in a way, a different manifestation of who Christ is for all who believe. The first reading from Isaiah lays before us the image of light, proclaiming that our light has come, that it shines upon us, and that it is a beacon for all nations. In Saint Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul speaks of Christ as the one who gathers all to share in the same promise, the same inheritance, making them members of the same body. The gospel recounts the wonderful story of the Magi, who recognize the “newborn king,” and who come to worship him.

Led by a star the Magi come in search of the infant king. They represent all who search for truth in the wonders of creation and in the wisdom of their own cultures of origin. Because they searched with eyes of faith they were able to recognize the gift of God when they found him, even though Jesus did not conform to their initial perception of a king.

They came from the far corners of the earth. They were Gentiles who followed the light and who found the new king whose reign would bring justice and righteousness into human affairs. They returned home, enlightened by their visit to God’s place of revelation. Their encounter shows that in Christ the light of God is given to all people of goodwill: Jew and non-Jew alike.

ORIENTATION

The Epiphany of the Lord: The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The Solemnity of the Epiphany marks the apex of the Christmas Season. The Feast of Epiphany



celebrates the universal saving concerns of God, which are shown in Jesus. It attests to the universal scope of Jesus’ mission and God’s all-inclusive plan of salvation. All human beings have worth and dignity; all have value and are intended to enjoy God’s gift of salvation.

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK JANUARY 7-13, 2018

Many Journeys, One Family

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. This year’s theme draws attention to the fact that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

Unfortunately, in our contemporary culture we often fail to encounter migrants as persons, and instead look at them as unknown others, if we even notice them at all. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious or fearful of them. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as community members, neighbors, and friends.

Prayer

Merciful and Loving Father, we beseech you, open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality and refuge to immigrants who are lonely, afraid, and far from their homes.

Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst, to invite them into our communities as a demonstration of Christ’s love for us. We pray that when we encounter the other, we see in her the face of your Son, when we meet a stranger, that we take his hand in welcome.

Help us to live in solidarity with one another, to seek justice for those who are persecuted and comfort for those who are suffering,

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 7 – Betty Patalik
January 8 – Jeanette Henke
January 10 – Edward Bautigam

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



January 8 – Jenelle & Daniel Cerny

Pray for the repose of the soul of
Coreen Gertrude (Hunt) Motard
and for the comfort of her loved ones.
May she rest in peace.

