

January 6, 2019
The Epiphany of the Lord

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:

This year we celebrate Epiphany on its traditional day, as January 6 happens to fall on a Sunday. Falling twelve days after Christmas, this was regarded as enough time for the magi to travel to Bethlehem from foreign lands. With their arrival, Jesus is now manifested to the outside world. Just as the star in the East symbolized the light of Christ shining for the whole world to see, we are called to manifest Christ in our lives so that others can realize the GOOD NEWS wherever we go.

We can equally say God's grace has traveled like (Isaiah prophesied) light from Jerusalem attracting caravans from across land and sea. So, you and I are called to make manifest Christ's light wherever we find ourselves. This is Saint Paul's guiding mission – to bring Christ to all people, "that the mystery was made known ... that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body" (Ephesian 3:3, 6). The Magi journeying from a foreign country in the East is also what is being proclaimed to us today in Matthew Gospel.

I wish to say that it was a great pleasure for me to experience my first the Christmas and New Year celebration here in our parish. I think the celebration of my Installation ceremony on Saturday, December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception last year, did set the tone for our Church celebrations. A special thanks to all who donated money to buy flowers to decorate our Church during this important celebrations. Thank you for such a wonderful support at our Tri – Lingual Mass. As I am planning to take a break to visit my aging mother in Nigeria on Tuesday, I would like you to remember my family in your prayer. Reverend Fathers, Felino Reyes, Fares Hattar and Human will be available to assist with any pastoral needs when I am away on vacation.

As I mentioned in our last week's bulletin, our new Parochial Vicar, Rev. George N. Okoro, MSP will be resuming his assignment here in February. Please keep both of us in your prayer in our pastoral work here in the parish.

Our Religious Education Program started again this Saturday, January 5, 2019. Please parents and guardians, contact the Parish Office, if you have any concern.

How and where do I find the hope brought by the light of Christ that the Epiphany invites us to have?

Marriages: *In order to provide sufficient time for the Marriage Preparation Course, please call the parish office and ask to speak with the pastor at least six months in advance of the wedding.*

Collection : *Last Sunday, December 30, 2018 our weekly collection was \$3,821.00*

Thank you for your generosity in our Christmas Collection which was \$5,765.00

2nd Collection: *The 2nd collection next Sunday January 13th will be for the Catholic Communications & the Catholic University.*

The Epiphany of the Lord:

In much the same way that a movie director shots "Lights!, Camera!, Action!" our epiphany acclamation is "Light!, Inclusivity!, Epiphany!" Epiphanies are manifestations of a divine or supernatural being. The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ manifests the light of God shines on our world, a loving light that is utterly inclusive. Ephesians proclaims: "the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel" (Ephesians 3:6). A faithful Jew in Jesus' day would find these words unthinkable, but they are not unthinkable to the God whom Jesus revealed. They can challenge our world, which often wants to exclude some of God's children. So in other words we should always extend respect and love to those who think or act differently than we do in social, political and even religious matters. In fact the more deeply we come to understand their ways of thinking through such courtesy and love, the more easily will we be able to enter into dialogue with them. These words renew the meaning of Epiphany for our day and time. God is utterly inclusive.

Parish Membership: *Every family or single adult to be considered active members of St. Mary's must be properly registered in the parish, receiving and regularly using the weekly donation envelopes. Only in this way can the parish issue documents attesting to parish membership and Catholic practice, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. Also if you have moved and still want to continue as a parishioner of St. Mary's please stop by the office with your new address so that we may make the appropriate changes. Thank You*

*****Parents if you still owe money for registration or the Communion fee or Confirmation please stop by the office to settle you bill this month or your child will not be able to receive their sacraments.**

January 2019:

12th Religious Education Classes

19th Religious Education Classes

21st Monday **Confirmation Retreat 9:30am to 2:00pm Parish Hall**

26th Religious Education Classes

February 2019:

2nd Religious Education Classes **2nd Meeting of Confirmation Parents 11:30 am in the School Cafeteria ~ ALL PARENTS MUST ATTEND!**

9th Religious Education Classes

16th **No** Religious Education Classes

23rd Religious Education Classes

**Mass Schedule for the week of
January 6, 2019 to January 13, 2019**

**Mass are daily at 8:15 and 12:05 in English and in Spanish on Thursdays at 7:00pm
Below are the Special Intentions for this week**

Sunday, January 6, 2019; The Epiphany of the Lord:

7:30 am– For the Parishioners

9:00 am– Joaquim Neto

Mirta Rocafort

11:00 am– Celina Antao

Esther & Eduardo Rodrigues

Monday, January 7, 2019:

12:05 pm– Beatrice Zamborsky

William Zamborsky

Tuesday, January 8, 2019:

12:05 pm– Domenico Aceto

Gina Aceto

Wednesday, January 9, 2019:

12:05 pm– Giulietta Aceto

Gina Aceto

Thursday, January 10, 2019:

12:05 pm– Domenico & Giulietta Aceto

Gina Aceto

Friday, January 11, 2019:

12:05 pm– Patrick Grealish

Wife

Sunday, January 13, 2019:

7:30 am– For the Parishioners

9:00 am– Joaquim Neto

Margot Navarro

11:00 am– Celina Antao

Eduardo & Alejandra Rodrigues