

## January 2, 2011: The Epiphany of the Lord



Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." — Mt 2:1-2

Illustration from the Lactormery for "Magi" (1991, 1979) CCC.

### LITURGY

#### MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

**Sunday, January 2, The Epiphany of the Lord (Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12)**

8:00 am- Jim, Willie Mae & Jimmie Kahane

10:30 am- John & Frances Valigura

**Monday, January 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

**(1 Jn 3:22---4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25)**

7:00 am- Oscar Barta

10:00 am- Frances Blonar (H'ville Rehab)

**Tuesday, January 4, USA: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious**

**(1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44)**

7:00 am- Joe, Lillie, Katie & Sophie Muhlstein

**Wednesday, January 5, USA: St. John Neumann, bishop**

**(1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52)**

7:00 am- Buster & Anne Hale

8:05 am- Paul & Annie Henneke

**Thursday, January 6, Bl. Andre Bessette, religious (1 Jn 4:19---5:4/Lk 4:14-22a)**

7:00 am- Alice Kleiber

10:00 am- Special Intention (Stevens)

**Friday, January 7, St. Raymond of Penafort, priest (1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16)**

7:00 am- Dale Schulte

8:05 am- Kathy Gillar

**Saturday, January 8 (1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30)**

5:30 pm- Douglas Bludau

**Sunday, January 9, The Baptism of the Lord (Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17)**

8:00 am- Joe, Agnes & Frank Leopold

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of John & Frances Valigura by Bob & Lou Kubena.

Vigil Light: Special Intention (health).

Our Gift to God: Christmas Envelopes-\$10,322; Sunday Envelopes: \$5,753; Loose-\$3,920; Children-\$129; Manna-\$1,106.

Promise of Marriage: Heather Jansky & Josh Bujnoch on January 8.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Louis P. Mikulenska* of our parish family. *May he and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

Radio Broadcast Mass and Bulletin sponsors are needed. Radio Broadcast - \$50. Bulletin - \$80. If you are able to sponsor one or both, please call the Rectory as soon as possible. *Thank you!*

Calendar Membership: **Dec 23:** Sherry T. Henke-\$250;  
**Dec 24:** Jason & Kellie Haas, College Station-\$250.

*Please pray for vocations to the priesthood & religious life!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONDAY, JANUARY 3

-Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

-Ushers' Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in Church.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.

-Women's ACTS meeting, 7:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Family Center.

-K.C.'s General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., KC Hall.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

-CCD: Grades K-12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

-Scripture Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.

-Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Rm

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in church. The intention this month is *in Thanksgiving for 5 years of adoration here at Sacred Heart and for peace.*

-Holy Hour for priestly vocations, 7:00 p.m. in church.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m. in church.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

-Firefall, 5:00 p.m. in church. Parishioners are invited to join the youth in Eucharistic Adoration.

-Student/Sponsor Formation Mini Retreat, Family Center 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Among our sick:** Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Helen M. Appelt, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Marge Rehm, Renae Ross, Hubert & Mary Grahmann, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Danielle Grady, Carl Pederson, Mary Ann Koenig, John Pavliska, Rose Thumann, Dr. Michael Moore, Raymond Palmer, Theresa Steffek, Mary Ann Pustejovsky, John D. Henneke, Bill Gohlke, nursing home residents & the homebound.

### Fund Drive for house at 318 S. Texana: Goal \$40,000

Total Donations Received To Date \$29,775

Remaining Balance -\$10,225

**Note:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade CCD was inadvertently left off the January Ministry Schedule. Please note the revised Ministry Schedule for 8:00 a.m. Mass on Jan. 9, 16 & 23.

### First Thursday Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations.

Every First Thursday, the Church commemorates Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of his Body and of the holy Priesthood which is intrinsically tied to the Eucharist. Join us each First Thursday for a special Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the church from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for the intention of the priests and seminarians of our Diocese of Victoria and to pray for more good and holy priests for the service of our diocese.

Perpetual Adoration - An adorer is needed on Fridays at 3:00 p.m. Please call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany. We celebrate the welcoming by Jesus of the Magi, the wise men representing the Gentiles. He revealed Himself to them as the Messiah. Just as Jesus welcomed the Magi, we welcome others into our lives and our homes in the name of Jesus. An old Catholic custom is the blessing of the home at Epiphany, especially the doorways. We can bless ourselves and the rooms of the home with holy water. We use chalk to mark the numerals and letters over doorways. The chalk reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we were made. The numerals consecrate the new year. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar – and also stand for the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (“May Christ bless the house”).

**20 + C + M + B + 11**

On the Feast of the Epiphany 5 years ago, 2006, we began Perpetual Adoration here at Sacred Heart. Immediately after the special Mass we processed with the Blessed Sacrament to the Adoration Chapel and officially began the Adoration.

Adoration takes place each week from Sunday at 6:00 p.m. until Friday at 6:00 p.m.

We have over 300 people signed up for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which enables us to do this. Our parish is extra blessed for this great way of honoring Our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Many of our Adorers are getting older or are sickly and are not able to adore on a regular basis. I would encourage those who are not committed to an hour a week to seriously consider this, especially younger couples and individuals. The hour spent with Our Lord each week is extremely rewarding.



**The Youth ConneXion**

*Kris Hermes 798-0655*



**Jan. 9:** Firefall, 5:00 p.m. in church. Youth Social, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) in the Youth House.

**Religious Education (CCD) ~ Office 798-3124**

**Angela McConnell, Coordinator**

**Jan. 5:** Classes resume.

**Jan. 9:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade youth involvement at 8:00 a.m. Mass.

**Jan. 29:** First Penance practice at 9:00 a.m.

**Jan. 30:** First Penance, 2:00 p.m.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N.E. Water St., Victoria – Centering Prayer Retreat, Saturday, January 15, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Registration begins 9:15 a.m. Mass-8:30 a.m. in Convent Chapel. Call 575-7111 to register.

“Come & See” weekend for single Catholic women (18 to 50 yrs of age), Jan. 15-16, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria. For information or to register, call 575-7111 or email [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com).

**Sacred Heart Catholic School ~ Office: 798-4251**

**Jan. 3:** Classes resume.

**Jan. 10:** Student Council Blood Drive in front of Sacred Heart Day Care, 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Feb. 5: Extravaganza!** Tickets now available for purchase at the school office, Sacred Heart Credit Union & the Rectory. \$125 per couple. (*Great Christmas gift!*)

**Support SHCS** by purchasing a \$5 raffle ticket for the Catholic School Sweepstakes sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance. All monies from the sale of the tickets go to our school. Grand prize 2011 Ford F150, 2011 Ford Fusion or \$20,000 prepaid VISA card. Secondary prizes are prepaid VISA credit cards: (2) \$5,000, (2) \$2,500 & (5) \$1,000. Tickets may be purchased from SHCS students, at the school office or the Rectory. Tickets sold thru January 7, 2011. Drawing held on January 29, 2011.

Gabriel Project Angel Workshop/Training, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., January 15, St. Robert’s Church Hall, El Campo. RSVP by Jan. 13 to Barbara at 361- 649-1612.

Welcome to the Parish: Christy & Jeffrey Wilson, & daughters Harley & Heather; and, Chad & Lisa Alex, & children Rebekkah & Joshua.

December Baptisms: Whitley Claire, daughter of Chris & Erin Lyons; and, Landyn Brooke, daughter of Frankie & Laura Migl.

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

The wonder and fascination implicit in the appearance of a star and of Magi with their exotic retinue and precious gifts usually overshadows the prophetic words that are found in today's Gospel. Matthew's mash up of Micah 5:1 and 2 Samuel 5:2 represents a method on his part to portray Jesus as the true Messiah and king who is born in accordance with the Scriptures. In alluding to the prophet Micah's oracle about Bethlehem, Matthew has the chief priests and scribes of the people respond to Herod's question with: "from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." It is the last part of this quote that comes from 2 Samuel at the time David was anointed king of Israel.

We tend to think of kings as omnipotent rulers who are in charge of everything. But the biblical dimensions of kingship involve a different set of realities. The king is shepherd and protector of the people. His power - that is, the loyalty of his forces to him - is to be used to ward off enemies and to care for the tribes that the LORD has entrusted to him. When the king fails in this duty, especially when it comes to protecting the poor, it is then that the LORD pronounces judgment against the king. This newborn King of the Jews in Matthew's Gospel comes to shepherd and care for His people. He will save us from the enemy: sin and death.

This day, the Epiphany, is one of the great baptismal feasts of the church (after Easter and Pentecost). The early church saw in this celebration its own call to put on Christ, who is priest, prophet, and king. When we were anointed at our baptism we were given that very charge: to be a king like Christ. So how will you care for the poor today? How will you shepherd God's people? 2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2011

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Mass matters

Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." (John 6:53). Don't miss a single Sunday or Holy Day opportunity to have Jesus' life within you.

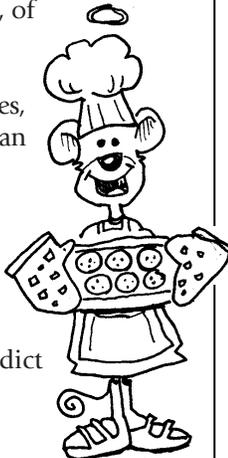
### Tough times?

God will help you through whatever tough times you face. "God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Lean on him.

### The Holy Father on joy

"The Holy Spirit gives us joy. And he is joy. Joy is the gift in which all the other gifts are included. It is the expression of happiness, of being in harmony with ourselves, that which can only come from being in harmony with God and with his creation."

(Pope Benedict XVI)



## Find a way to the real world

As real as this life seems, it is just a stopover. The real world for us is Heaven and the eternity we hope to spend there. A sure way to get there is to live a holy life on Earth.

**Follow the model.** When Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6), he meant for us to follow him and live as he lived. Jesus didn't retreat from the world. He ate, slept, worked, and cared for friends and family, much like we do. Search the Gospels for clues to how you can imitate Jesus in your own life.

**Eliminate distractions.** Are there thoughts or activities which hold your attention longer than they deserve? For

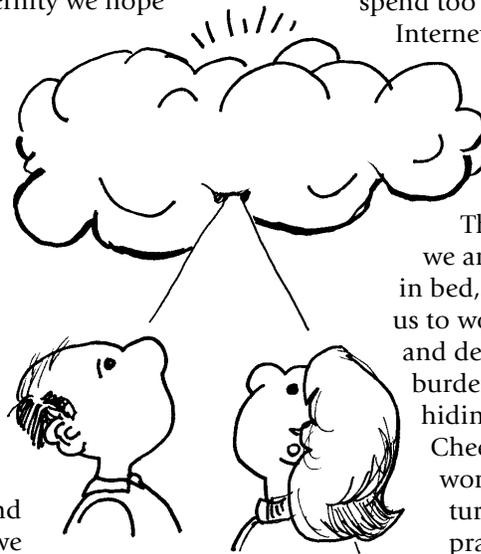
example, do you watch more television than you should, or spend too much time on the Internet? Cut back and give the time you save to God in some way.

**Embrace the tough stuff.**

There are days when we are tempted to stay in bed, but God intends us to work (Genesis 2:15) and deal with our burdens instead of hiding from them. Cheerfully handling work and suffering turns problems into prayers.

**Look over your shoulder.**

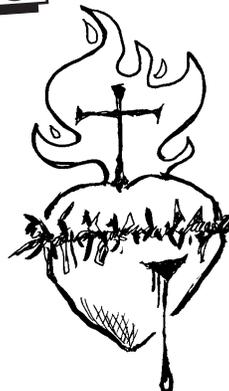
God is with us each minute of every day in a very real sense. Become more conscious of his presence and you will increase his influence over your actions.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### What does the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus mean?

The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of Christ's love for us. It is often a heart surrounded by flame, pierced by a lance, topped by a cross, and circled by a crown of thorns.



Jesus' love for us burns bright and intense like a flame. His heart is pierced by the lance representing our sins and the crown of thorns and the cross remind us of the death he suffered to bring us life.

## Tune out the world and tune into God

In our noisy world, it can be hard to hear God's voice over the din. Yet, listening is as important as talking during prayer. *"By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies"* (Isaiah 30:15). Try these ideas for some quiet listening in your day:

**Quiet sight:** during daylight hours, go to a window and look out. Ask God to help you see the familiar sight with new eyes. Discover something you hadn't noticed before.



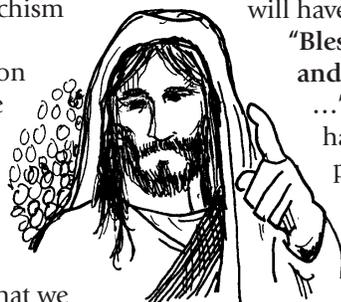
**Quiet reading:** Bring your Bible or devotional reading to a quiet spot. Read at least 10 verses and take 15 minutes to meditate on them. Be still and allow God to speak to you by whatever means he chooses.

**Quiet retreat:** several websites offer mini retreats as a way to enter into quiet prayer during your day. This is especially helpful if you spend a lot of time during the day in front of a computer screen. See [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com) and click on 3-minute retreat, for an example.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 5:1-12, paths to happiness

God wants us to be happy. When he created us, he put into our hearts the desire to be happy (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1718). During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes – guaranteed ways to obtain peace here and happiness in Heaven.



**"Blessed are the poor in spirit ..."** Recognize that we need God to compensate for our weakness. Depend upon his help.

**"Blessed are they who mourn ..."** God knows what you need even better than you do. Trust him to strengthen you and bring you comfort.

**"Blessed are the meek ..."** Jesus is meek and gentle. Imitate him and you will have everlasting peace.

**"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness ..."** Peacefully accept whatever happens knowing that Jesus promises to give you courage.

**"Blessed are the merciful ..."** Mercy is love in the face of sin and injury. If we show

mercy, we are guaranteed mercy. Perhaps the real secret to happiness is remembering that when we follow Jesus, there will always be a happy ending.

### Q Can I be forgiven & for the bad things A I have done?

God loves us so much that he is ready to forgive anything we have done. Jesus said, *"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners"* (Matthew 9:13). He knew we would sin and need forgiveness. The key is to ask.



As difficult as offering forgiveness to others can be, forgiving ourselves may be even harder.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God. But second to that is to *"... love your neighbor as yourself"* (Mark 12:31). That means he wants us to behave in a loving way toward all people God created – including ourselves. Forgiveness is critical.

The first step is to ask God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Don't worry that you may shock the priest by what you tell him. If he has been a priest for any length of time, he won't shock easily. When you finish the penance he gives you, resolve to avoid sin and start fresh. If God is ready to forgive you, can you do any less?

### Feasts & Celebrations

**January 17 – St. Anthony the Abbot (355).** Born to a rich family around 250 A.D. in Egypt, St. Anthony gave up his riches to live a life of simplicity in the desert. He is the founder of monasticism.

**January 21 – St. Agnes (258).** At a young age, St. Agnes pledged chastity for Jesus. Reportedly she was turned in for being a Christian by a suitor whom she refused to marry. She maintained her chastity and her faith and was executed as a result.

**January 24 - St. Francis de Sales (1622).** As bishop of Geneva, St.

Francis bolstered the faith of others by his writings and works. For the laity, St. Francis wrote Introduction to the Devout Life, which is as applicable today as it was in his day.

**January 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas (1274).** St. Thomas was a Dominican teacher and scholar. He is considered by the Church as the preeminent spokesman for the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation.



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