

January 5, 2014: The Epiphany of the Lord



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, January 5, *The Epiphany of the Lord* (1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42)

8:00 am- Billy & Earline Chovanetz

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Monday, January 6, *St. Andre Bessette, Religious*

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

7:00 am- Joe & Helen Grafe

10:00 am- Recovery of Frances Bludau Kallus
(H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, January 7, *St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest*

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

7:00 am- Louis & Tillie Schott

Wednesday, January 8 (1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52)

7:00 am- Viola Jares

8:05 am- Living & deceased members of Victor & Mary Steffek Family

Thursday, January 9 (1 Jn 4:19--5:4/Lk 4:14-22a)

7:00 am- Bill & Helen Mitchon

10:00 am- Recovery of Terry Mitchon Bludau (Stevens)

Friday, January 10 (1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16)

7:00 am- Arthur Voelkel

8:05 am- Adolph Kraatz

Saturday, January 11 (1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30)

5:30 pm- Janie, Rudy & Stasie Billimek; Otilia & Jim Zissa; & Blake Whitfield

Sunday, January 12, *The Baptism of the Lord* (Is

42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17)

8:00 am- Larry Appelt

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Church Bulletin: In memory of James "Smokey" & Helen Appelt by their family.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: The Rosie Bludau Family in memory of Ben & Emilia Bludau.

Vigil Light: For successful surgery of Lucille Vasek.

Our Gift to God: Christmas: Envelopes-\$17,410; Loose-\$3,035; Children-\$64. **Dec. 28 & 29:** Envelopes-\$6,254.50; Christmas-\$485; Church Endowment-\$119; School Endowment-\$323; Catholic Ed.-\$690; Loose-\$4,195; Children-\$52.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Joseph R. Curley*, brother of Bill Curley of our parish family; and, *Dan Lannen* son of Curt Lannen. *May they & all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

-Evening Praise, 5:30 p.m., Church.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

-CCD: K-12th Grade, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

-RCIA Class, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Family Center.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

-First Penance Practice, 9:00 a.m., Church.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

-First Penance, 2:00 p.m., Church.

Among our sick: Donna Avant, Lorene Christ, Matt Pohler, Wilbert Kalinec, Mary Bonorden, Josephine Muniz, Vivian Janak, Bobbie Lee Drozd, Donna Steffek, Glenn Rabel, Lisa Grissom, Richard Grahmann, Colin Grahmann, Emil Hermes, Georgia Schaefer, Pat Hanslik, Leroy Loth, Barbara Kubena, Kathy Davis, Yvonne Muska, Russell Janak, Elrose Ehler, Marilyn Palmquist, Doug Blumberg, Terry Mitchon Bludau, Melissa Pilat, Andrew Pesek, Wilton Hrcir, Amanda Gutierrez, nursing home residents, & the homebound.

Welcome to the Parish: Mike & Cathy Rains; Carl & Anita Hobbs; and, Wilton & Shannon Pesek, & children Hunter, Aubrey & Wilton.

December Baptisms: Maren Joyce, daughter of Josh & Ashley Grahmann; Wilton Andrew, son of Wilton & Shannon Pesek; Matthew James, son of Mark & Kathryn Grahmann; and, Alexis Ann, daughter of Randall & Laura Duty.

SHCS Extravaganza, February 1, 6:00 pm-12:00 am, K.C. Hall. Tickets \$125 per couple (includes social with hors d'oeuvres, refreshments all evening, steak dinner & dance to live music by *Cactus Country*. Purchase tickets at School Office, S.H. Credit Union or the Rectory.

The Gabriel Project has been so blessed! People from all faiths are calling the hotline to volunteer, make material and monetary donations. 4,000 babies are aborted a day. We are taking steps to become a more well-known Ministry in order to do God's work – to save these babies and give them a chance for LIFE! Please help us continue His work by volunteering just a little of your time – **remember, just a few hours a month could save a life!** We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., 101 W. Convent (corner of Main & Convent), Victoria. A light supper is provided – everyone is welcome! Call Barbara 361-649-1612.

Bulletin and Radio Broadcast sponsors are needed. Please come by the Rectory at your earliest convenience. Bulletins-\$80 and Radio Broadcast-\$50.

From the Desk of Msgr. John

Thank you to all who participated in any way in the Christmas Masses to make these celebrations of our Faith truly beautiful and inspirational, especially the musicians, choirs and cantors.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the coming of the Three Kings. 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 – a reminder of the clay from which God created us – to mark over the front door (or all doors) the initials of the legendary names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar) and the numerals of the new year.

20 + C + M + B + 14

The initials also stand for the Latin motto “Christus mansionem benedicat” – “May Christ bless this house.”

This Wednesday, January 8th, marks the 8th anniversary of the beginning of our Adoration Chapel. Thank you to all who take time to visit with Our Lord on a regular basis and those who are available to fill in. This is truly a blessing for us as individuals, as Church and as community.

If you are not adoring already, you may call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224 to commit to this wonderful form of prayer.

Jacob Koether, a seminarian from El Campo, will be ordained a Deacon on May 24 and continue to study for the Priesthood. Jacob will be with us during this coming summer and then two weekends a month during the next school year.

May you all have a very blessed 2014!

CCD News ~~

Jan. 8: Classes resume.

Jan. 11: First Penance practice, 9:00 a.m., Church.

Jan. 12: First Penance, 2:00 p.m., Church.

Sacred Heart Catholic School News ~~

Jan. 6: Classes resume.

Jan. 10: Early dismissal at 1:00 p.m. Faculty meeting.

Sacred Heart Youth News ~~ Merry Christmas to all! As we begin the New Year we pray for the rebirth of Christ in our hearts and in our lives. We are excited to announce several great opportunities for our youth to participate in this year! Our first youth night of the New Year will take place on Jan. 12th. These youth nights, as always, will continue on the second Sunday of each month unless otherwise announced. The rest of the activities are listed below. God bless!!

Jan 25th: Rally for life, Austin, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (transportation details to follow)

Feb 14th: Youth Spectacular, Victoria.

Bi-annual nursing home visit (TBA).

June 27th-29th: Summer Youth Conference, Steubenville on the Bayou, Louisiana!!!

(More information coming soon!)

We will soon begin preparing contribution statements for 2013. Please contact your CPA or tax preparer to check if you need a statement for tax purposes. If one is required, please call the Rectory to request a statement.



Christmas Flowers Donors – Jerry & Mary Jo Janak in memory of the Ploch & Janak Families-\$20; Mary Ann Pavliska-\$ 20; Victor & Lucille Vasek-\$10; Marvin & Annette Grahmann & Family in memory of Russell Grahmann-\$15; Anita Barrera-Rocha-\$10; Bessie Dornak in memory of Phillip Chaloupka & Leo Dornak-\$20.

Guided Retreat, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., January 11, Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N.E. Water St., Victoria – Celebrating the Incarnation in Ordinary Time, Retreat Director Fr. Martin Iott, OP. A Guided Retreat includes at least two presentations, liturgy or prayer service, ample time for personal prayer, walking and reflecting. The Retreat Director offers reflection questions to enhance the retreatant’s personal reflection. Women and men are welcome. For information, visit the website at www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org or call 575-7111.

Retreat at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria for single Catholic women, 18-50 years old, January 11-12. For information or to register, call 575-7111, email isbsvoc@yahoo.com or go to www.iwbsvictoria.org.

Epiphany of the Lord –

"They prostrated themselves and did Him homage." The Magi were men of great faith. Their worldly position and power could have made them scoff at the sight of this humble infant. Their treasury of wealth could have blinded them to the true value of this child king. But instead these men placed themselves at the feet of Jesus in a gesture of complete submission. Then, as a sign of their devotion, they "opened their treasures" and offered this baby costly and precious gifts. Only a deep and sincere faith could justify such a surprising scene.

Real faith often runs contrary to worldly wisdom. Without the firm belief that Jesus was the Messiah, it would seem absurd to travel all those miles and part with all that gold, much less to bow down in the presence of a poor child. But the eyes of faith can see much more than the eyes of the world alone. The Magi understood that all the prestige and possessions of the earth are nothing in comparison to the kingdom of heaven. They wanted to use their worldly wealth to give glory to the King of Kings, rather than for their own glory.

Taking the Three Kings as models, we can examine our own lives. Are we willing to "travel" for our faith, leaving our comfort zone for the sake of the Gospel? Are we willing to share our "wealth" to glorify God? Are we willing to submit our desires and plans to the authority of Christ? As we begin the journey of this New Year, let us resolve to follow in the faithful footsteps of the Magi.

Growing in FAITH™

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

January 2014

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Mother Seton

Wife, then widow,
Elizabeth Ann Seton
converted to

Catholicism despite rejection by her wealthy Episcopalian family and friends. With no means of support for herself or her children, she welcomed the invitation to open a Catholic school for girls near Baltimore.

Joined by like-minded women, the community became the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1809, and Elizabeth became Mother Seton. The community grew and so did their schools and orphanages marking the beginnings of the U.S. parochial school system.

Bessed are the peacemakers

The world sure could use more peacemakers. The key to becoming one is to practice forgiveness and offer peace. That way everyone around us will feel the love of Christ.

God's Laws

"Happy the man who meditates upon these things, wise the man who takes them to heart! If he puts them into practice, he can cope with anything, for the fear of the LORD is his lamp"
(Sirach 50:28-29).



Fall in love with God

From the moment God created you, he has been deeply in love with you.

He made you deliberately so he could love you. *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you"* (1 Jeremiah 1:3). What about you? Are you in love with God?

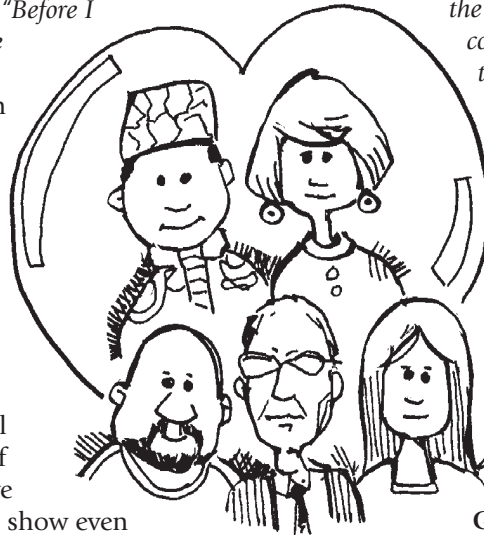
You have no secrets from God ... and he loves you anyway. We all have some small shameful part of ourselves that we are too afraid to show even our closest family or friends. God sees all you are and loves you infinitely anyway. *"I praise you, because I am wonderfully made ... My very self you know"* (Psalm 139:14).

God thinks loving thoughts of you all the time. *"How precious to me are thy thoughts, O God. How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand"* (Psalm 139:17).

Our bodies are holy because God put his precious life within us. *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Prayer is about falling in love with

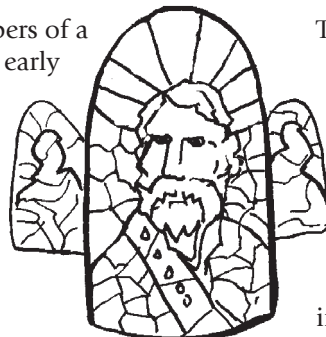
God. *"I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live"* (Psalm 116:1-2).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics honor saints?

Christians are members of a large family. From the early days of the Church, there have been members of the faithful who have strived to live in the kingdom of God here on Earth and see its fulfillment in Heaven.



These holy people have allowed themselves to be emptied out and to be filled with the love and grace of Christ.

The Church holds up these brothers and sisters of ours as examples to help us follow in their paths.

Make one change for God this year

When making New Year's resolutions this year, consider one change that will bring you closer to God. Here are some ideas other Catholics have used to strengthen prayer, serve the poor, and evangelize our faith ...

Norma felt her prayer life growing stale, so when her parish asked for adorers for the perpetual adoration chapel, she jumped at the chance. Now, Mondays at midnight, Norma can be found in the presence of the Eucharist. She said, "I really look forward to my peaceful hour



each week. It's just me and Him."

Peter's law practice is incredibly busy, but he takes an afternoon off every month to work at the local soup kitchen serving hot meals to the homeless and working poor. When asked why he said, "Jesus said, 'When I was hungry, you gave me to eat.'"

JoAnn's children are grown, yet she teaches a religious education class at her parish. "What better way to spread our faith than to children? That's where I can do the most good," she said.

from Scripture

Matthew 4:12-23, The common call.

The way Jesus gathered his followers seemed almost casual. For example, he passed the Sea of Galilee, saw Andrew and Simon and called to them. It sounds as if the men dropped what they were doing, left their homes and livelihoods to follow Jesus after very little thought. There must have been something very arresting about Jesus and his call to them.

Scripture makes it clear that discipleship means leaving everything behind and surrendering to the will of God. He will provide whatever a disciple

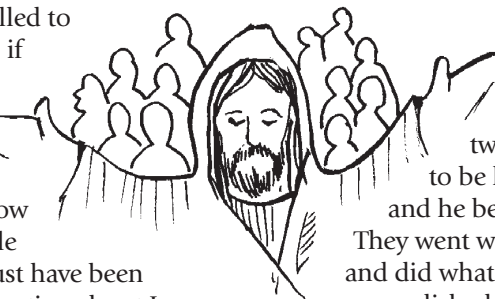
needs to follow him but nothing comes before our relationship with God and his call to us. The compelling part of

his call is the chance to serve him and be close to him.

Jesus chose twelve special people to be his closest followers and he became their leader.

They went where he told them and did what he asked, and accomplished amazing deeds in Jesus' name.

Jesus is still calling people to be his disciples and work amazing deeds in his name. In fact, he has called each of us to be his disciple.



Q & A Are there qualities that would make me a better Christian?

Actually, when you were baptized, made your First Communion, or got



Confirmed, the Holy Spirit conferred gifts to help you grow in strength and holiness. Recognizing these gifts and nurturing them will certainly make you a

better Christian.

Wisdom: This gift helps us stay focused on God's will and his plan for us.

Understanding: Lets us grasp truths. It means seeing with the heart and the mind.

Counsel: Also called "right judgment," counsel enables us to weigh alternatives to make the right choice.

Fortitude: The ability to remain firm against pressure. (Also called courage.)

Knowledge: A person with knowledge sees more than one dimension of an issue to determine the right path.

Piety: Helps us think of ourselves as children of God and be eager to serve him.

Fear of the Lord: The wonder and awe God inspires encourages us to respect him and all his creations.

The more you use these gifts, the more you will grow in faith and holiness.

Feasts & Celebrations

January 17 - St. Anthony (356). Anthony was a wealthy young man when he heard and followed Christ's call to "sell all you have, give it to the poor, and follow me." Afterwards he went into the desert to live as a hermit and dedicate his life to prayer. Others followed making him the founder of Christian monasticism.

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 31 - St. John Bosco (1888). St. John Bosco combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance to teach young men and women how to unite their spiritual life with their work and play. He opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales and provided workshops for boys in shoemaking and tailoring. In 1859, he founded the Salesians who were committed to education and mission work.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)