

THE EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 2023

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a

ALL SHARE IN THE PROMISE

Picture a nativity scene in your mind's eye. The scene likely includes figures arriving on camels, some elaborately dressed, with jeweled boxes containing precious gifts. These magi arrived from distant lands to pay homage to the Christ Child. We know little about the magi, but we do know that these visitors were not Jews. They represent people of all nations who will be drawn to the Lord. "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance." The Good News of Jesus cannot be limited to one people; all share in the promise of God's mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — All the nations will worship you, Lord (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrive looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory Development

Last Week's Collection	\$2,838.00	\$1,594.00
Number of Families contributing	95	80
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (1 Week)	\$4,359.00	\$4,359.00
Received to Date	\$2,191.00	\$1,594.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$2,168.00	\$2,765.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$329.00	\$329.00

Thirty-three ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$10.00	10.00

One person made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

POOR BOX totaled \$70.00.

8 **CHILDREN** contributed \$37.00.

BAA totaled \$125.00.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY COLLECTION totaled \$173.00

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When young Caridad Mercader decided to escape her dull life as a housewife and mother, she moved to Paris and joined the Communist party working in the underground. Later, she sent for her young son and trained him in intrigue. He grew up to be an assassin. Too late Mrs. Mercader saw her exciting world crumble and she was left in disillusionment. Her son in prison, her dreams crushed, now stooped and old, she confided to a friend.

"We have been deceived. This is not paradise. It is Hell."

Millions have echoed Mrs. Mercader's frustration. Too late many learn the lure of the bright lights and the sound of exciting music is cotton candy melting in disappointment when taken. In it is no substance but only that which is harmful.

The wise Proverbist noted,

"Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel." (20:17) It is the wise man who refuses to be swept up with the enchantments of sin and sets his goals on pleasing Christ.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

New Year's Resolution

- *Laugh a little louder*
- *Smile a little bigger*
- *Love a little deeper*
- *Pray a lot harder*
- *Walk through life a little slower*

BANNS OF MARRIAGE The Banns of Marriage are announced for the third time for John Patrick Carroll and Gianna Carroll.

PATH OF HONESTY

THE BIGGEST ADVANTAGE OF WALKING ON THE PATH OF HONESTY IS THAT THERE IS NO CROWD. ENJOY THE PEACEFUL JOURNEY OF LIFE WITH ALMOST NO TRAFFIC IN 2023.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

INTERESTING CHURCH BILLBOARDS

- Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake. Snake didn't have a leg to stand on.
- As you pass this Church be sure to pay a visit as when at last you are carried in, God won't ask, *"WHO IS IT?"*
- Speak well for your enemies. After all *YOU* made them!

KEY TO HAPPINESS

The Key to Happiness is to be able to change

- ❖ Pain into Pleasure,
- ❖ Darkness into light,
- ❖ And Sorrow into Joy.

This can only occur if we have the COURAGE TO CHANGE.

THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER

When you pray, God listens.

When you pray, storms get stilled.

When you pray, doors open.

When you pray, relationships get restored.

When you pray, sickness is healed.

When you pray, strength is renewed.

When you pray, answers come.

Don't lose faith about what you are praying for today.

God is faithful. His answer will come at the right time.

JOKE OF THE WEEK Before a pastor began to preach one Sunday morning, he thought he should explain why he had a Band-Aid on his chin. "As I was shaving this morning I was thinking about today's message when I lost my concentration and accidentally cut my chin with the razor." He then went on to preach the longest message of his life.

After the service one of the teens greeted the pastor and said, "Pastor, next week why don't you think about your shaving and cut the sermon."

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:* The Epiphany of the Lord
- Monday:* The Baptism of the Lord
- Tuesday:* First Week in Ordinary Time begins
- Friday:* St. Hilary
- Saturday:* Blessed Virgin Mary; Julian Calendar New Year

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:* For the repose of the souls of Jim Boy and Mary Riley and for the repose of the soul of Barney Sarge Riley on his Birthday.
- Tuesday:* In honor of St. Lucy for a special intention.
- Wednesday:* For Rose Marie Smith on her Birthday.
- Thursday:* In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory.
- Friday:* For the repose of the soul of Barney Pole on his Birthday.

THE REASON HE CAME

*Oh, Star of Wonder, You truly are,
Your glory outshines the brightest star.*

*Sent to the earth so dark and drear
To save mankind whom You hold dear.*

*Born in a manger, but yet a King,
God's plan would cost Him everything.*

*Let the bells ring out today,
For Jesus who sleeps upon the hay.*

READERS

- Sat. Jan. 7th, 4:00 P.M. Cathy Lisa & Reed
- Sat. Jan. 7th, 7:00 PM. Natalie & Christina Apple
- Sun. Jan. 8th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Blue
- Sat. Jan. 14th, 4:00 P.M. Macy & Julie Ann
- Sat. Jan. 14th, 7:00 PM. Leah & Dayna
- Sun. Jan. 15th, 10:00 A.M. Lauren Ashley & Taniel

READERS - WEEKDAYS

- Monday - Theresa Hun
- Tuesday - Macy
- Wednesday - Julie Ann
- Thursday - Lauren Ashley
- Friday - Christina

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

- Monday - Theresa Hun
- Tuesday - Jack's Mary Rita
- Wednesday - Julie Ann
- Thursday - Betty Jo
- Friday - Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKEND

- Saturday 4:00 P.M. January 7th
- Right Winnie Ann
- Left Bridget Rita
- Saturday 7:00 P.M.
- January Kim Gallon & Rita Weaver
- Sunday 10:00 A.M.
- January 8th January 15th
- Nora Ned's Rose Marie

FANTASTIC MESSAGE.....! (MSG)

How can you "SM_LE" without "I".
How can you be "F_NE" without "I".
How can you "W_SH" without "I".
How can you be "N_CE" without "I".
How can you be a "FR_END" without "I".
"I" am very important! But this "I" can never achieve "S_CCESS"
nor can "LA_GH" without all of "U"... And that makes "U" more important than "I".

THINKING

**What others think about you is not important.
What you think about others means everything.**

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.