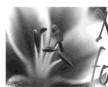


The Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

January 3, 2016

"I am the Light of the world....."



*Mass Intentions
for the Week*

January 2, Saturday, St. Basil the Great

12:05 Delfino Anthony Dinuno

5:15 Nicholas Kukorlo (L)

January 3, The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People of the Parish

9:30 Tom Fiordimondo

11:00 Ralph Berarducci (L)

12:30 A la Virgen Del Carmen

6:30 Pro Populo - For the People

January 4, Monday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:15 Essie Mae Rubin

12:05 Margaret Kerins

January 5, Tuesday, St. John Neumann

7:15 Frances Kaufman

12:05 Leone & Cuccurullo/Kenny families

January 6, Wednesday, St. Andre Bessette

7:15 John Borzillo

12:05 Peter Martelli

7:00 Mass in Extraordinary Form-Mass
of the Epiphany

January 7, Thursday, St. Raymond of Penyafort

7:15 Susan A. Shapley

12:05 Special Intention

January 8, Friday, Christmas Weekday

7:15 Lue Varria Willoughby

12:05 Ann Marie Meyer

January 9, Saturday, Christmas Weekday

12:05 Ramon Rubinos

5:15 Albert F. Stefan

January 10, The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People of the Parish

9:30 Quici, Galipo & Greco families

11:00 Helen W. Erdosy

12:30 A los fieles difuntos

6:30 Pro Populo - For the People

Dear Parishioners,

Today in the United States we celebrate the great Christmas *Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*. The traditional observance of this Christmas feast is January 6 but in those countries where the Epiphany is not celebrated as a Holy Day of Obligation it is transferred to the nearest Sunday. Christmas continues with the Epiphany of Jesus. Some people even refer to the Epiphany as "Little Christmas." The Epiphany of the Lord along with the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) are the principal observances of Christmas Time. The Nativity celebrates the mystery of the Lord's Birth and the Epiphany celebrates the announcement and promises of salvation with this Birth. We learn from the Epiphany Gospel that once the Three Kings—the Magi—encounter the Infant Savior "they departed for their country by another way." Our own celebration of the Birth of Jesus on Christmas Day and the days of Christmas Time are meant to impact us in so many ways—in our relationship with the Lord, the manner of our Christian lives, and our outreach to others. Perhaps today's celebration of the Epiphany gives us a pause to reflect on just how our Christmas celebration has made a difference in us for this New Year. Are we returning to our everyday life "by another way?"

This week on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, we celebrate the liturgical feast of our own Saint John Neumann. This saintly fourth Bishop of the Church in Philadelphia reminds us that we are called by Christ and his Word to live our ordinary lives in an extraordinary way. The Shrine of Saint John Neumann, located at Saint Peter the Apostle Church at Fifth Street and Girard Avenue, has recently been renovated to accommodate more pilgrims and provide for a truly spiritual experience. Perhaps this week you might be able to come to Mass at the Cathedral on January 5 or visit the Shrine to celebrate the Feast of Saint John Neumann. Let us ask this heavenly helper to intercede for all of us as we begin this New Year.

The Holy Door of Mercy at the entrance to the Basilica is only open at certain times for now. As I mentioned in previous Rector's Letters in the Parish Bulletin, the decision to pass through the Holy Door of Mercy is a serious decision, a decision to pass through Christ the Gate, to pass from sin to grace with the help of Christ. The Gift of the Indulgence associated with passing through the Holy Door of Mercy suggests that the Door be opened when the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist are available. So, the Holy Door is open all day Sunday and Saturday and also from 11:00 AM through to 1:00 PM Monday through Friday. The Holy Door is also open for all special events in the Basilica and when tour and pilgrimage groups are visiting the Basilica.

The second collection at Mass next Sunday will be directed to the support of the poor and the homeless in the Cathedral Parish. Thank you so very much for all of your goodness and generosity, especially at Christmas Time, to the Cathedral Parish in so many ways.

God bless you for Christmas and the New Year,
Father Dennis Gill



The Sanctuary Lamp Candle burns this week in the Cathedral Basilica for:

Geneva Lee Lichliter

Request of Chris & Betty Helsel

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Donations are accepted for intentions for the Sanctuary Lamp in the Basilica and the Cathedral Chapel. This candle burns perpetually as a reminder that Jesus is truly and really present in the tabernacle. If you wish to make the suggested donation of fifteen dollars for an intention for a Sanctuary Lamp, you may contact the Parish Office directly or place your intention and offering in the collection basket.

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage

The Retrouvaille Marriage Program offers help for struggling marriages. If you are struggling in your marriage, attending a Retrouvaille program could be the best gift to give to your spouse and family this New Year. The next program begins on the weekend of **February 12** at the **Family Life Center in Malvern, PA**. For more information, or to register for our upcoming weekend, visit our website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Saludo

Feliz Año Nuevo a todos ustedes. Que la gracia y la paz de Dios les acompañe a lo largo de todo el año que hoy comenzamos y que el Señor Jesús esté siempre con ustedes.

El Nuevo Año ha comenzado y sinceramente nos deseamos unos a otros todas las bendiciones de Dios: buena salud, bienestar, armonía en la familia, felicidad... Este día, al celebrar la fiesta de María, Madre de Dios, incluimos también, con seriedad e insistencia, deseos y plegarias por una paz, profunda y duradera, en un mundo acosado por la violencia, conflictos y luchas fratricidas, ya que María nos dio a Jesucristo, Príncipe de la Paz. Que nuestro sentido de justicia y unidad, de perdón y aceptación mutua, cree la atmósfera propicia en la que la paz pueda crecer en nuestros corazones, en nuestros hogares, en el mundo entero.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PARISH

Jan. 5 Augustine's Brothers - Prayer and Support Group for Men, Neumann Room, 7:00 PM

Jan. 6 Charismatic Prayer Group, Neumann Room, 6:00 PM

Jan. 6 Mass in Extraordinary Form - Epiphany, 7 PM

Jan. 7 Choir rehearsal, Chapel Hall, 7:30 PM

Jan. 7 Catechetical Session, Neumann Room, 7 PM

Jan. 12 Filming of Spanish Mass, Basilica, 6 PM

Jan. 12 Augustine's Brothers - Prayer and Support Group for Men, Neumann Room, 7:00 PM

Jan. 13 Charismatic Prayer Group, Neumann Room, 6:00 PM

Jan. 14 Choir rehearsal, Chapel Hall, 7:30 PM

Archbishop's Lecture Series

Living as a Christian in a Culture of Unbelief

Join Archbishop Chaput as he welcomes distinguished scholars who will present on the theme "Living as a Christian in a Culture of Unbelief." The dates are as follows:

Thursday, February 11, 2016:

Living as a Christian Family in a Culture of Unbelief
Speaker: Professor Melissa Moschella

All lectures begin at 7:00 PM and are held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in the Vianney Hall Auditorium, 100 E. Wynnewood Road, Philadelphia. Each lecture will be presented by guest lecturers. For more information: PhillyEvang.org/lectures. Lectures are free and open to the public.

Jubilee Year of Mercy – Jesus Christ, Mercy Incarnate

What is mercy? It is “heartfelt sympathy for another’s distress.” Mercy is a generous readiness to help others even if they have brought their troubles on themselves. Even more, mercy is loving compassion that is willing to forgive insults and injury. God is just, but we have the courage to ask him to help us in our misery and forgive us our trespasses because we know that he is “slow to anger and abounding in mercy” (Psalm 103:8). God does not treat us as our sins deserve, but invites us to repent and assures us of his willingness to forgive. As disciples of Jesus Christ who is “Divine Mercy incarnate,” we have confidence in God’s mercy. Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, drove out demons, and raised the dead. He sought out sinners, ate with them, and offered them forgiveness and new life in his kingdom. In parables, Jesus taught that the Father’s mercy exceeds all expectations and is bestowed on the most unlikely candidates. Jesus’ words were confirmed by his deeds. The Son of God assumed not only our flesh, but our burdens, our pain, and our sins. He took our part and our place, and freely laid down his life on the wood of the cross to redeem us. He displayed the astonishing mercy of God who “did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all” (Romans 8:32). Jesus admonishes us: “Be merciful just as your heavenly Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36). -Sr. Sara Butler, MSBT

How to Live It

This month, spend time prayerfully reading the Gospel of St. Luke, placing yourself in each of the stories. Listen to what Jesus says as if spoken to you and attend to his actions as if addressed to you. Allow Christ’s presence in the Word of God to transform your thinking and acting so as to more closely imitate Christ’s merciful love.

Quote from Catholic Tradition:

“In this way the cross of Christ, on which the Son, consubstantial with the Father, renders full justice to God, is also a radical revelation of mercy, or rather the love that goes against what constitutes the very root of evil in the history of man: sin and death. The cross is the most powerful condescension of God to man...The cross is like a touch of eternal love upon the most painful wounds of man’s earthly existence...”

–Pope St. John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia* 8

To continue reflecting on this theme, consider one of these resources!

- **Recommended Reading for the Month:** Gospel of St. Luke
- **Lighthouse Catholic Media CD:** *Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told*, by Dr. Brant Pitre

Basilica Tours



A guided tour of the Basilica is available **after the Sunday 11 AM Mass**. Please meet in front of the side altar of the Sacred Heart, which is to the right of the Main Altar.

Proveer ayuda. Creando Esperanza. Para su beneficio.

Servicios Sociales Católicos - BenePhilly puede ayudarle a solicitar programas de beneficios valiosos que usted a lo mejor está perdiendo. Nuestros asesores expertos le ayudarán a averiguar cuáles son los beneficios a los que usted podría calificar y le ayudarán a través del proceso de solicitud. Nuestro servicio es GRATIS.

Casa del Carmen 267-331-2500
Southwest 215-724-8550, x7



Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers:

Cynthia Brach, Barbara DiPipi, Cindy Kiefer, Dave McNichol, Maryann Kehl, Pearl Basser, Helen Ferris, Oscar Rodriguez, Enrique Rodriguez, Linda Watson, Randy Burbage, Rosa Maria Santos, Amy Fife, Theodore Barry, M.D., Marissa Kostrzewa, David Kaplan, Marilyn Mullen, Kathleen Aponik, April DeMatto, Paula Cohen, Janice Holshin, Lauri Mitchell, Maryann Healy, Darren Gardner, Barbara Elaine, Nicholas Tiziano, Christopher Browne, Darren Gardner, Laura Emerson, Regina Carberry, Patrisha Bollinger, Anna Marie Burgio, Jeanine Tingeter, Bobby Mitchell, Shirley King, Thomas Sabol, Doris Davison, Nancy Tomaszewski, Therese & Bob Black, Robert & Marguerite Grant, Andrés Castillo, Antoinette Gonnella, Bryon Hoch, Ryley June Nazario, Kim Whybrew, Josephina Bianco, Richard J. Mott, Charlotte McLaughlin, Sheila Kendall, Shahidah Kendall, Ralph Berarducci, Winifred McKeon, Teddy Beaver, Robert Honish, Molly Suján, Nicole Carey, Ann Reilly, Mary Ellen Foyle, Bernard Thompson, Larry Ross, Samada family and those in nursing homes or hospitals and all the sick. Please call the Parish Office with the name of anyone who is sick, to be included in our prayer list.

Thank You to our parishioners and visitors who gave so generously through our Giving Tree to:

Mercy Hospice
Women of Hope
St. John's Hospice
Hispanic Catholic Ministry
St. Francis Inn Ministries
Sacred Heart Home

Each of these organizations are very grateful they were able to make Christmas special for the families and residents of their missions.

"Day of Reflection on God's Merciful Love"
Saturday, January 9 - 9:30 AM to 4 PM

Open your heart to receive the blessings of Pope Francis' Extraordinary Jubilee Year! It is a time to ponder God's mercy, know and receive it ourselves, and resolve to be "missionaries of mercy" to others. This program will include two Bible studies, theological reflection and a refresher course on the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy. It concludes with Eucharistic Adoration and an opportunity for sacramental Reconciliation.

Mother Boniface Spirituality Center
3501 Solly Avenue, Philadelphia
267-350-1830

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Financial Support of the Cathedral Parish is the duty of our parishioners. Here at the Cathedral Parish we are greatly supported as well by our many visitors.

This sacrificial offering—which benefits all—is greatly appreciated. Please consider an increase to your weekly offering. The operation and maintenance of the Cathedral Basilica and Parish is approximately 20,000 dollars a week.

The Offertory Collection for the weekend of 12/20/15 was \$13,216. Again, many thanks for your goodness and generosity!



Readings of the Week

Monday: January 4

1 John 3:22—4:6/Psalm 2:7bc-8, 10-12a
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: January 5

1 John 4:7-10/Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8
Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday: January 6

1 John 4:11-18/Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday: January 7

1 John 4:19—5:4/Psalm 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17
Luke 4:14-22a

Friday: January 8

1 John 5:5-13/Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday: January 9

1 John 5:14-21/Psalm 149:1-6a, 9b
John 3:22-30

Sunday: January 10

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/Psalm 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

**CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS
THIS WEEK**

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Thursday, January 7, 7:00-8:30 PM

Neumann Room

(entrance from the rear of the Basilica)

The weekly catechetical session is primarily for the adults among us who are preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments. However, anyone interested in the topic for better understanding and faith formation is most welcome to attend. Anyone seeking more information on the reception of the Sacraments or assisting as a sponsor, please call the Parish Office.

Young Adult Group

Friday Evening Bible Study: Please join us for Bible Study every Friday from 7:00-8:30pm in the Neumann Room (room entrance is from the outside on the back-side of the church). Room Change Update – on Friday, Dec 18 we will be meeting in 222 17th St. Room #1301 (the tall building behind the Cathedral). Our group gathers to reflect on the readings and the Psalm for the upcoming Sunday. Upcoming Bible Study Date:

January 8

**there will not be Bible Study on New Year's Day (1/1), we will resume on January 8

Food & Fellowship: Our group meets for dinner on the **second Sunday of each month directly following the 6:30pm Mass** at Con Murphy's (1700 Benjamin Franklin Parkway). Our next Food & Fellowship will take place:

January 10

If you are interested in the Young Adults of the Cathedral Parish as well as receiving the most up-to-date information on our group's events please e-mail:

youngadults.cathedral@gmail.com. Please search for our Facebook page (search: Young Adults at the Cathedral).



Cathedral Custom Rosary

These beautiful custom made rosaries from Italy are still available. Chose from a Bohemian Glass brown or pearly/green shade. The Crucifix is the same one that appears on our Main Altar, There is also an exact replica of our Main Altar and images of SS. Peter and Paul and our Cathedral crest. The Cathedral Rosary can be purchased in The Cathedral Shop.

Living Stewardship Now

KINGLY GIFTS

This day in many parts of the world is called Three Kings Day because of today's Gospel reading about the visit of the three kings or magi to see the child Jesus. The church's name for the day, Epiphany, is based on a Greek word that means "to reveal" or "make visible." Here, the child Jesus is honored not by his own people—and certainly not King Herod—but by strangers from afar. Only Matthew's Gospel tells their story. There are not many details about the magi, but pious legends have built up around them over the centuries. A modern version is the operetta *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, which used to be seen on television at this time of year. The Jewish hope for centuries had been that a Messiah, God's Anointed One, would be sent to the Jewish people to save them from their sins and deliver them from their enemies. But here we see that God reveals the Son not just to the Jews but to the Gentiles, people like us who are also seeking a Savior, one whom they recognize with joy. We have expected the Savior all through Advent; we have celebrated the wonderful gift of his birth during Christmas; and now, in this new calendar year, what gifts will we present to him in return? New Year's resolutions often include a decision to work off all those extra pounds that we have gained from all our feasting and celebrating. That is all well and good as far as it goes, but why not resolve to do something extra for those you love and something more for the community in which you live? Show the love of God that is at work in your heart, or as Saint Francis of Assisi is thought to have said, "Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."

Living Stewardship Now

Kingly gifts:

- ... for God: Love God, receive the sacraments, pray, study God's word.
- ... for the Church: Serve in a parish ministry, contribute to the offertory, support the missions.
- ... for your community: Recycle, conserve natural resources, vote.
- ... for family and friends: Make time for children, keep an open door, relax together.
- ... for yourself: Eat good food, exercise, develop your abilities, and be thankful!

The Cathedral Shop

The Cathedral Shop is now open every Saturday from 11 AM to 7 PM and every Sunday from 10:30 AM. The Shop will be closed during Masses and weddings.

Come visit!