

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 14th
5 P.M. – Cecelia Kucera

Sunday, January 15th
7 A.M. – Julia Tomek
9 A.M. – John & Lucille Jalufka

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Is 60:1-6; Ep 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Your Gift to God: December 25th

Sweet Home	\$3,071
Building Fund	\$1,420
DSA	\$35
Koerth	\$452
Building Fund	\$11,036

Your Gift to God: January 1st

Sweet Home	\$1,594
Building Fund	\$1,420
Koerth	\$651
DSA	\$8

May God reward your generosity!

Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

Baptismal Preparation Class

The next Baptismal Preparation Class will be held Saturday, **January 14th at 9:00 A.M.** in the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room in Yoakum.

www.qpcatholicchurch.com

Make sure and check out the parish website for Queen of Peace and St. John the Baptist. A few of the historical pictures are there (still looking for pictures of the church interiors) as well as CCD/Faith Formation calendar, registration and weekly bulletin. There is also a link to the diocesan cemetery database for both cemeteries and links to Catholic sites of interest.

Projects Update

The rectory plumbing and electrical work continued downstairs this week. Windows began to be installed as well.

No date has been given yet for the installation of the protective frames and glass on the Church. All parts have arrived and we are simply awaiting the installer to schedule the work.

Unfortunately with the week between Christmas and New Year (and including most of this past week) there was no work done. Hopefully now with vacation times all complete work will get moving steadily and quickly to wrap up what is left...hopefully!

Annual Contribution Statement

Those who would like a statement of their envelope support contributions should call the parish office, 293-3518.

Online Giving

The company that provides our offertory envelopes has the ability to allow "online giving" for those who would want to utilize it. There is a link on the parish website that has more information. It offers the possibility of using this for a one-time gift or for setting up regular giving in place of using envelopes. There is an instructional video that provides extra information posted there as well. The donations/gifts given are deposited directly either in Queen of Peace or St. John the Baptist Church accounts--and can be done by bank transfer, electronic check, or using a credit card--and can be setup for single instance, weekly, monthly, etc.

*"We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage."*

TMIY Update

Each Wednesday morning the men gathered at the bright and early hour of 6:00 A.M. for breakfast, camaraderie, inspiration/reflection and discussion. All meetings concluded by 7:30 A.M. It was both a challenge and reward to be able to dedicate the best part of the day to focusing on what defines us: our faith! If you were not able to take advantage of this opportunity you are in luck! The next semester is now scheduled to begin **February 1, 2017**. And as all good Catholics recall...it will include the time of Lent...offering yet another way to better engage and deepen your faith. This is a new semester so it will be a great time to join us. If you are not sure just ask one of the men that attended the last semester to find out what they think.

Cemetery Inquiries

Anyone with questions regarding the Catholic Cemeteries should contact the local representatives for the Cemeteries.

Queen of Peace:

Harvey Matussek & J. O. Hermes

St. John the Baptist:

Gene Velek & Jerry/Joyce Kurtz

They can provide the needed information and help with locating available plots. They will also provide the needed details to complete a purchase/reservation and receive a deed for record purposes.

Chalking the Door: Blessing Your Home for Epiphany

20 + C + M + B + 17

Some background:

The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 17. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2016 is the year.

Blessing the Chalk

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

R. From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Instructions for Blessing the Home Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 17 while saying: The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and sixteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer: Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen "Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."