

January 5, 2020

The Epiphany of the Lord

Dear Parishioners,

For the Feast of the Epiphany, we hear this week from St. Peter Chrysologus. He is a Father and Doctor of the Church who lived in the 5th century. He was a famous preacher as his name signifies "golden worded".

"In choosing to be born for us, God chose to be known by us. He therefore reveals himself in this way, in order that this great sacrament of his love may not be an occasion for us of great misunderstanding.

Today the Magi find, crying in a manger, the one they have followed as he shone in the sky. Today the Magi see clearly, in swaddling clothes, the one they have long awaited as he lay hidden among the stars.

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

So the Gentiles, who were the last, become the first: the faith of the Magi is the first fruits of the belief of the Gentiles.

[...]

Today, as the psalmist prophesied: The voice of the Lord is heard above the waters. What does the voice say? This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.

Today the Holy Spirit hovers over the waters in the likeness of a dove. A dove announced to Noah that the flood had disappeared from the earth; so now a dove is to reveal that the world's shipwreck is at an end for ever. The sign is no longer an olive-shoot of the old stock: instead, the Spirit pours out on Christ's head the full richness of a new anointing by the Father, to fulfill what the psalmist had prophesied: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

Today Christ works the first of his signs from heaven by turning water into wine. But water has still to be changed into the sacrament of his blood, so that Christ may offer spiritual drink from the chalice of his body, to fulfil the psalmist's prophecy: How excellent is my chalice, warming my spirit."

We linger here at Christmastime to wonder ever more deeply about the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Come let us adore Him, Fr. Flum

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

On the feast of Epiphany, when the homes are blessed, the initials C+M+B are written over the doorway, what does this mean?

Answer: Epiphany is celebrated in various ways by different nationalities and cultures. These customs and traditions lend a distinct feel and meaning to our celebration. In many Slavic traditions, Epiphany is observed by marking the year on the mantle of the entrance to a room or home. In the center are the initials of the traditional names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The purpose is to ask God's blessing on the home, marking it as though the wise men had come and found therein the Christ Child. Coincidentally, the initials could signify "Christus Mansionum Benedicat" or "Christ blesses the house". It reminds us of the marking of the doorways in Egypt with the blood of the lamb so that the angel of death would pass over. God's blessing comes to each home as a source of protection and grace. In some places, Epiphany is celebrated much like a mini-Christmas. Gifts are exchanged in memory of the gifts of the wise men and special meals are prepared. In any event, the manifestation of Christ as the light of the world is a time to seek God's blessing and rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us and to all the world.

MASS INTENTIONS

Table with 4 columns: Day, Date, Time, Intention. Rows include Saturday 01/04/20 5pm Ann Proctor +, Sunday 01/05/20 8am Doris B. Reiss +, Sunday 01/05/20 10am Parishioners & their families, Sunday 01/05/20 11:30am Rachel Makle, Monday 01/06/20 8am Brenda Martinez, Tuesday 01/07/20 8am Deacon Scott C. Stuart +, Wed. 01/08/20 8am Phyllis Schock +, Thursday 01/09/20 8am Doris B. Reiss +, Friday 01/10/20 8am Frank Schock +

Let's March for Life!

Please sign up in the back of church if you are interested in attending the March for Life 2020 on Friday, January 24th with St. Michael's and St. Dominic's. Depending on how many people go, we may join another parish's bus, or if we have enough participation, we will make our own travel arrangements!

Every child should be received gratefully and with love. Stand up to defend these innocent little ones in the womb; stand up to defend mothers and fathers who are lied to, who are told that their child is no child at all, and that committing the atrocious crime of abortion will give them happier lives. If we do not stand up, we will have to answer to Almighty God.

Lord, have mercy on us, and on the whole world.

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

Table with 2 columns: Offering Name, Amount. Rows include St. Michael's Offertory Collection \$3,163, St. Michael's Christmas Collection \$5,478, St. Dominic's Offertory Collection \$1,519, St. Dominic's Christmas Collection \$1,395

NATIONAL PRAYER SERVICE

The 26th Annual National Memorial for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers will be held the morning of the March for Life, Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC, 1776 D St., NW (18th and D St) Free Admission, no ticket required. Mass at 7:30am (Doors open at 7am). Interdenominational prayer service 8:30am to 10:30am. March of Life rally follows. Visit www.nationalprayerservice.com for information.

WHAT IS THE YOUTH RALLY AND MASS FOR LIFE?

The Youth Rally and Mass for Life, held annually at the Capital One Arena in downtown Washington, D.C., occurs in conjunction with the annual National March for Life held around the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, which made abortion legal in this country. The Rally encourages youth who participate in the national March for Life as disciples of Christ and promoters of the Gospel of Life. It is the largest annual archdiocesan event, which has grown to become a national (even international) event with pilgrims traveling from as far away as the U.S. Virgin Islands and Australia. For more information about the Roe v. Wade court decision and others that have shaped the current legislation allowing abortion through all 9 months of pregnancy for any reason, visit:

http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/abortion/roe-v-wade.cfm.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

Saturday 01/11/20 5pm

Rosary Leader: Joe Sobnosky

Server: April Luzano

Lector: Claude Boswell EMHC: TBD

Sunday 01/12/20 8am

Rosary Leader: Ron Smith

Server: Dan Wilson

Lector: Jeanine Wilson EMHC: TBD

Sunday 01/12/20 11:30am

Rosary Leader: Alice Williams

Server: Kayla Aure

Lector: Chris Patterson EMHC: TBD

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Joe Aviles, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Dorothy Dunston, Kathy Fisher, Mabel Hamilton, Florence Henderson, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Michael Mohun, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Betty Proctor, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may they be joined to the Heart of Jesus.

Readings for the week of January 5, 2020

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Readings. Rows include Mon 1/06/20 1Jn 3: 22 -4: 6/Ps 2/Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25, Tues 1/07/20 1Jn4:7-10/Ps 72/ Mark 6: 34-44, Wed 1/08/20 1Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72/Mk 6:45-52, Thurs 1/09/20 1Jn 4:19 -5: 4/Ps 72/Lk 4: 14-22, Fri 1/10/20 1Jn 5:5-13/Ps 12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk: 12-16, Sat 1/11/20 1Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149/ Jn 3: 22-30, Sun 1/12/20 Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29/Acts 10: 34-38/Mt 3:13-17



October 18 to 27, 2020

3,855.00 Per Person

(Based on Double Occupancy)

For more information or to get a copy of the full itinerary and registration contact the Bread of Life Center for Peace at: (301) 475-7139 or email: pilgrimage@breadoflifecenterforpeace.org. You can also stop by Heavenly Presents located at: 22697 Washington Street (on the square), Leonardtown, MD -- ask for Pat!

A gift to the parishioners of St. Michael and St. Dominic

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Live your Faith - Challenge of the Week

Sign into your Formed account and watch "The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas", an intriguing, insightful, and inspiring look into the birth of Jesus Christ, Messiah.

"Join us in prayer that as a nation we may stop wandering in the wilderness of the culture of death and enter into "life in abundance" (Jn 10:10) through our faith in Jesus Christ and our proclamation of the Gospel of Life."

www.youthrallyandmassforlife.org