

January 8, 2017
The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Reading 2: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



FROM THE DESK OF FR. LUDVIK

May Jesus be reborn in your heart and life during every day of the New Year 2017. May He radiate His presence from within you as sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, humble service, a compassionate heart and overflowing generosity. May the Holy Babe of Bethlehem bless you with health in body and soul and grant you a peaceful and blessed New Year. I assure you of my special prayers every day in the New Year.
Your Pastor —Fr. John J. Ludvik

LEADING OTHERS TO EPIPHANY

Joe Paprocki, Loyola Press

Today we celebrate the wonderful Feast of the Epiphany, when Jesus is revealed to all the nations as the Son of God. This feast contains so many messages and images. Here are a few:

- **The Magi do not travel alone.** Although they are from different locations, the Magi come together to seek the king. We recognize the wisdom in this, we do not travel alone. We are part of a vast community that supports, nourishes, and challenges us.
- **The Magi observe signs.** The Magi are led to Jesus because they are observant of a sign—the star. We are called to be observant of the many signs of God’s presence in this world.
- **The Magi seek direction.** The Magi are not too proud to stop and ask for directions from others so that they can find the newborn king. We are called to be constantly seeking direction through ongoing enrichment.
- **The Magi offer gifts.** The gifts that the Magi offer are of great value. Of no less value are the gifts that we offer to our Lord. We offer our time and talent to serve him, in essence, we offer our very selves.
- **The Magi departed by another way.** After encountering the newborn king, the lives of the Magi were forever changed. They followed a different way. We are called to ongoing conversion, that we may continue to follow a different way—Jesus—who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- **No doubt the Magi shared their epiphany with others.** Although Scripture does not tell us this, it is no great stretch to imagine that the Magi, who traveled so far at such great expense, shared the story of their epiphany with others. We are called to share our own epiphanies with others—those times when God has been revealed to us—so that those we encounter may be led to their own epiphanies of God, Emmanuel, who is truly with us.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers.

All those on the long term prayer list. Please submit 2017 long term prayer requests to Cindy Guillot at 253-862-9100.



NEW PARISHIONERS

“Welcome to our Parishes!”

Please take the time to register, registration forms are in the back of Church, in the Parish hall or at our Office. Please return filled out forms to the Office or place in the Collection Basket.

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on January 16th, a Federal holiday, commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.

EPIPHANY

“The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was.”
—Matthew 2:9b

POPE FRANCIS QUOTE

The destiny of every person is symbolized in this journey of the Magi of the East: our life is a journey, illuminated by the lights which brighten our way, to find the fullness of truth and love which we Christians recognize in Jesus, the Light of the World.
—Pope Francis, Community Life

SAINT QUOTE

“It is better to be a child of God than king of the whole world!” — St. Aloysius Gonzaga

DEVOTION OF THE MONTH
THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. After the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived her Child by the Holy Spirit, the angel Gabriel appeared to St. Joseph and instructed him that the Child’s name should be called Jesus, meaning “God Saves”. According to Jewish law, on the 8th day after his birth, a male child was circumcised, received his name, and became a full member of God’s covenant people. According to the old Roman liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus was celebrated on January 1st, eight days after Christmas, the same day that he was given his sacred name. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Mother of God on January 1st and honor the Holy Name of Jesus on January 3rd. For Catholics, Jesus’ sacred name is the object of a special devotion symbolized by the monogram “IHS”, (sometimes called a Christogram), which is the first three letters of the Greek spelling of Jesus’ name.



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday – Jan 9

Rosary 3:00pm
 Religious Education K- 6th 4:30pm
 Youth 7th – 12th/Confirmation Prep 6:30pm

Tuesday - Jan 10

Mass – Bill & Marieta Rumpza Happy 62nd 8:30am
 Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society 7:00pm
 Knights of Columbus 7:00pm

Wednesday - Jan 11

Mass – Marieta Rumpza by the family 8:30am

Thursday - Jan 12

Mass 8:30am
 AA Meeting 7:00pm

Friday - Jan 13

– St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Mass 8:30am

Saturday – Jan 14

4th Degree Knights of Columbus 9:00am
 Confession 3:30pm
 Mass 5:00pm

Sunday - Jan 15

Mass at OLOL 8:30am
 Mass for parishioners/intentions 10:30am



~TONIGHT~ January 8th EPIPHANY PLAY

A tradition at St. Aloysius and Our Lady of Lourdes is the celebration of the Epiphany with a presentation of the Christmas event by the children of our parish and a Lasagna Dinner (salad, bread, and dessert) prepared by the Knights of Columbus, a great way to come together as a parish and celebrate the Christmas Season. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm, so please come early at 4:45 pm to choose a

table or purchase a glass of wine. Prices for dinner are \$8 for a single adult, \$15 per couple, and \$25 per family. The Epiphany Play will begin at 6:30 pm.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Troubled Marriage? Hope is a Phone Call Away. Are you struggling in your marriage? You are not alone. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) can help. Retrouvaille is Catholic in origin and is endorsed by the Seattle Archdiocese. Retrouvaille is a community of volunteers committed to helping hurting couples heal their marriages. The Retrouvaille program offers couples the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine their lives in a new and positive way. No matter what is causing the hurt, couples can find healing. For confidential information about, or to register for our upcoming program beginning February 10-12, 2017 call 206-706-2608 or visit our website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.



HELP WANTED

We need a crew to help UN-decorate St. Aloysius Church! Sunday January 8th after the 10:30am Mass. All tall persons are definitely encouraged to assist with those high spots.

MASS FOR LIFE 2017

This is scheduled for Monday, January 23rd at 9:30 a.m. at St. Martin's University in Lacey. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the vestibule. Departure from St. Rita's will be at 8:00 am, returning by 2:30 pm. St. Rita of Cascia is located at 1403 S. Ainsworth Ave., Tacoma.



SACRED HEART RADIO Connected in Christ

Turn to Sacred Heart Radio AM 1050 to hear news and views from a Catholic perspective. With an engaging mix of local and national shows, and subjects ranging from prayer to parenting to current events, there is something for everyone. Sanctify your commute! Tune in to AM 1050 today. Try out the beautiful new Sacred Heart Radio app. It's available for iPhone and Android. Take Sacred Heart Radio with you wherever you go!
www.sacredheartradio.org

PLEASE TAKE A COPY OF THIS BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

You Know You Overdid Christmas and New Year's Dinner When . . .

- Paramedics bring in the Jaws of Life to pry you out of the EZ-Boy.
- The "Gravy Boat" your wife set out was a real 12' boat!
- You receive a Sumo Wrestler application in your e-mail.
- Friday you set off 3 earthquake seismographs on your morning jog.
- Pricking your finger for cholesterol screening only yielded gravy.
- A guest quotes a Biblical passage from "The Feeding of the 5000."
- That rash on your stomach turns out to be steering wheel burn.
- Your arms are too short to reach the keyboard & delete this.

FISCAL YEAR REPORTS FOR 01-01-17

St. Aloysius	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Weekly Revenue	\$3,789.00	\$2,963.00	\$826.00
Fiscal YTD	\$89,911.52	\$80,001.00	\$9,910.52
Our Lady of Lourdes			
Weekly Revenue	\$794.00	\$790.00	\$4.00
Fiscal YTD	\$22,488.40	\$21,330.00	\$1,158.40

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK JANUARY 8-14, 2017 CREATING A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

The theme for National Migration Week 2017 draws attention to Pope Francis' call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. In the homily given at his first Pentecost as pope, he emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith: "For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others."

With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and instead look at them as others. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious of their intentions.

"National Migration Week is an excellent opportunity to highlight Biblical tradition and our mission to welcome the newcomer," said Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration. "While the observance is only a week long, it is a vital time to show welcome, compassion, and solidarity with our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters."

As part of the 2017 National Migration Week celebration, the Justice for Immigrants (JFI) coalition will be launching a new website that will feature news, background materials on migration policy issues, and ways for individuals to get involved. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as children of God who are worthy of our attention and support. More information about the Catholic bishops' JFI campaign please visit the JFI website: www.justiceforimmigrants.org or the USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week> for details about the many programs offered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Position: The Catholic Bishops and the Church support humane immigration reform. We must reform our broken system that separates families and impedes due process.

Refugee Protection Position: USCCB is the largest private refugee resettlement agency in the United States, helping to resettle more than one million refugees in the United States since 1975.

Unaccompanied Children and Families from Central America Position: Unaccompanied children arrive at our borders without their parent or legal guardian with them. Most are fleeing grave violence, gang recruitment and are seeking to reunify with family in the United States.

- Catholics are called to stand with new American immigrants as our brothers and sisters. This is who we are. This is what we do.
- We belong to the same Church no matter where we're from. Our Catholic identity isn't based on where we live but on our faith in Jesus Christ. We're one family, and the Catholic Church is always our home.
- In Pope Francis we have a leader from Argentina, a country of immigrants. He is the son of immigrants and a native Spanish speaker. These issues are close to his heart.
- Immigration is about real people who are trying to find a better life and a new beginning. As Pope Francis stated, "Each migrant has a name, a face and a story."
- Welcoming immigrants is part of the Catholic Social Teaching and reflects the Biblical tradition to welcome the stranger.
- The Catholic Church has been welcoming immigrants to the United States since the nation's founding and has been integral in helping integrate into American culture.
- Refugees are the most rigorously screened population coming into America. This screening happens before they ever set foot in our country.

"Closeness to the poor, the refugee, the immigrant, the sick, the exploited, the elderly living alone, prisoners and all God's other poor, will teach us a different way of resting, one which is more Christian and generous."

– Pope Francis

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION WORTH KEEPING

Alan Scott --<http://catholicexchange.com>

It's that time of year again. Time to make New Year's resolutions! Actually, that's the easy part. The hard part as we all know, is sticking to them. But yet, as each year ends we start to believe and hope for the possibility to improve our lives, that change is possible, that quite possibility, we're not going to be stuck in the same old rut again this year. While I love the optimism of New Year's resolutions, unfortunately, the enthusiasm and hope often fades within weeks, and our efforts at self-improvement come to a whimpering end. Why? Many times we either take on too many resolutions or for the ones we do take on, our hearts are not really in them as much as we had thought. Perhaps they don't last because they are more superficial in nature and lack a depth that can effect a real change within one's soul.



I'm going to lose weight. I'm going to exercise every day. I'm going to travel more. I'm going to get more out of debt. For example, these resolutions are not bad resolutions – they are good. My point is, perhaps we can try resolutions this year that are more interior and lasting – more character-based. Perhaps as a first step, a good (and maybe the only) resolution this year would be to make an important goal – a goal that is much deeper and life changing. Some examples of goals could be to work on an important defect that for us is noticeable – or even noticeable to others.

- I am going to try to work on better controlling my anger this year.
- I am going to try to be more patient this year – especially with myself and those closest to me.
- I am going to work on my willingness to reach out to others in need past my comfort zone.
- I am going to be more kind to my neighbors, and always give them the benefit of the doubt, instead of judging them, which I so easily fall into.

These are just a few examples of goals that are extremely worthwhile and will bring a peace and happiness to you and those around you. We should have a willingness to take legitimate joy in those things that God has given to us, and a willingness to sacrifice those things that God is asking of us. And if we work hard and do our best to be faithful to these New Year's resolutions, we will develop habits that lead to holiness.

Habits that will lead to a true, sincere love for God.

Habits that will lead to a better and more authentic “me.”

When we live for God and for those around us, we can't help but become a better person. Because that is what God desires from each of us. And if you succeed, you'll look back next year and realize that not only have you done much better in sticking to a New Year's resolution, you'll realize that you're a different person – a better person.



So perhaps this year we can focus on creating long-lasting habits – habits of virtue – that will lead to a whole lifetime with God as our center, versus attempting to reach short-term goals that come and go with our changing likes and dislikes. The person that spends their life honoring and glorifying God each day finds His perfect peace, along with a firm and lasting happiness. Because a relationship with God means so much more than any earthly accomplishment, more than any human praise, more than any worldly satisfaction. There can be no better resolution in our lives, than to spend it more with Him and according to His desire for us.

Peace and God bless you all for a wonderful New Year ahead.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

"Let them fly with utter confidence to this most sweet Mother of mercy and grace in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts, and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared; nothing is hopeless. Because, while bearing toward us a truly mother affection and having in her care the work of our salvation, she is solicitous about the whole human race. And since she has been appointed by God to be the Queen of heaven and earth, and is exalted above all the choirs of angels and saints, and even stands at the right hand of her only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. When she asks, she obtains. Her pleas can never be unheard."

— Blessed Pope Pius IX