

The Epiphany of The Lord



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Feast of the Epiphany

Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

Epiphany means "manifestation" or "appearance." It is not a common word – I can't think of any motion pictures or TV sitcoms that utilize this word in their titles. Theologically speaking, Epiphany means that God definitively manifests Himself in the human being, Jesus. In Jesus' words and works, and most importantly, in Jesus' example of self-donating love life, God appears and acts in human history. Jesus is God's Epiphany.

But, as we know, not everyone recognized God in Jesus and missed the salvation that Jesus made available. We often speak of God's revelation of Himself as taking place under the "veil" of human flesh – in Jesus. So God's self-manifestation has a hidden or mysterious quality to it – whether it is crib or cross or acts of compassion or forgiveness, the faithful person will be able to see God touching and transforming His people in these acts of love.

Recognition is at the heart of the Gospel. In the infancy stories, there are those who do recognize the Epiphany of Jesus: Simeon and Anna, the Shepherds, and the Magi, for instance. There are also those who do not recognize Him and attempt to get rid of Him, such as the innkeeper and King Herod. During His public ministry, we see the same drama being played out: those who recognize and embrace the Epiphany of God in Christ and those who reject it.

In our lives, too, that drama is being played out. One of the things that make it difficult for us to "see" Jesus in our world and in the events of our lives is that He is often present in ways that we don't expect. We know He is present in the sacraments but we often do not look for Him in the ordinary events of our lives and certainly not in our weakness and sinfulness. We know His Epiphany is often associated with "light" such as in Church and/or prayer or in loving actions, but we miss Him when we think He is not available to us - in our darkness, confusion and fearfulness. Epiphany – who recognizes and accepts His divine love and salvation and who doesn't - is the heart of our personal spiritual journey. Wise men and wise women still seek Him.

Christmas Generosity to your Parish – There's still time!

There is still time within the Christmas season which ends January 10, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, to make your annual Christmas offering to St. AJ. Hopefully, you will see the needs in the Parish that call out for your generous support and the need in your own heart to express gratitude to Almighty God by being a generous giver to His Church, your spiritual family. If you want to earmark your gift in a special way, in support of some particular Parish initiative, that would be most welcome.



Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, January 2

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*

Sunday, January 3

The Epiphany of the Lord

10:00AM Mass

No Catholic Forum after 10:00AM Mass – Resumes January 10

11:30AM Mass

5:00PM Mass

No 10:00PM Mass – resumes January 10

Monday, January 4

No 7:30AM Masses until Monday, January 11, 2010

No 1:00PM Masses at Drexel until Monday, January 11, 2010

12:05PM Mass in Church this week

Wednesday, January 6

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church will be open today.

Friday, January 8

No 7:30AM Mass

Saturday, January 9

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

January 3 – Feast of the Epiphany – Sat. Vigil Mass 5:30 PM

Sunday - 10 AM, 11:30 AM & 5 PM - NO 10 PM Mass

Jan. 10 – Baptism of the Lord. Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Holiday Schedule of Daily Masses

- The 7:30 am daily Mass is temporarily suspended during the Holiday break from Dec. 21 until Jan. 11, 2010, when it resumes.

- The 12:05 Noon Mass from December 28 until January 8, 2010 will take place in the Main Church. The Saturday 9:00Am on December 26 and January 2 will take place in the Main Church.

New Year's Resolutions

Perhaps you indulged on New Year's Day in the perennial practice of making resolutions - promises and commitments that will make this year better and more productive than last year - trying to take advantage of the grace of a new year to make some positive changes in your lives. Each year at this time, many people make good resolutions only to see them fall by the wayside after only a few weeks or even days. Perhaps some of yours are already in this category.

Usually our resolutions have to do with "self." We propose changes in our lifestyle that will help us achieve our goals. Perhaps we could be more successful in keeping resolutions that are other-oriented rather than those that are self-oriented. For instance, maybe some of these might trigger your imagination.

- Resolve to volunteer in some capacity that will help others
- Make a will
- Support a favorite charity
- Forgive your parents, either living or deceased, for what they did or didn't do, or couldn't do for you
- Increase you weekly donation to your Church
- Arrange to make a planned financial gift to your Church as part of your will
- Become an organ donor
- Attend Mass occasionally during the week
- Dedicate a Mass in memory of a deceased loved one
- Dedicate a Mass for the intention of a living family member or friend and attend the Mass yourself

2010 Calendars Available

Please take a 2010 calendar, available in the Jacobium Gathering Space, as long as supplies last. We are grateful to the owners of the New Deck Tavern, 3408 Sansom St., for again sponsoring our calendar. If you patronize them, please say thanks!