

Epiphany: Even Pagans Will Adore

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, written shortly after the Jews returned from the Babylonian exile, we hear that the glory of God would be upon Israel to such an extent that even the Gentiles would come in pilgrimage to Jerusalem to pay homage to the Lord. The pagans (*Gentiles*) would bring their riches to pay homage to the God of Israel. This promise would be fulfilled with the arrival of the Magi. • In today's Responsorial we are again reminded that all, even Gentile kings, will recognize the splendor of the *King of Kings* and come to adore Him. This Psalm 72 foreshadows the Lord's coming, describing the perfect King of Israel: *filled with Solomon's wisdom and David's great warrior accomplishment to guarantee justice for all.* This King would be God's anointed, unlike any other king. The Magi's reverence of the Messiah, the Baby Jesus, fulfills this prophecy. • The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Magi to pay homage to the Baby Jesus. *Epiphany* means *manifestation*, for we are commemorating the day when the glory of God's Messiah was made manifest to the pagans (in the persons of the Magi). The Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They would have brought these products because they were easy to carry and valuable. Later authors found symbolic meaning in these gifts. They spoke of *gold* as a gift one would give a king, *frankincense* as an incense burned to honor a god, and *myrrh* as an ointment used in burials, foretelling how Jesus would save us from our sins, through His suffering and death on the cross. The Magi risked all to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews. May we likewise follow the Lord God wherever He leads us.

Prayer of the Week

Father of light, unchanging God, today you reveal to people of faith the resplendent fact of the Word made flesh. Your light is strong, your love is near; draw us beyond the limits which this world imposes, to the life where your Spirit makes all life complete. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in

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the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord is one of the oldest Christian feasts. *Epiphany* comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man. • Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East, where it has been held from the beginning almost universally on January 6. Today, among both Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, the feast is known as Theophany--the revelation of God to man. • Epiphany originally celebrated four different events, in the following order of importance: Baptism of the Lord; Christ's first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana; the Nativity of Christ; and the visitation of the Wise Men or Magi. • Each of these is a revelation of God to man: At Christ's baptism, the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God the Father is heard, declaring that Jesus is His Son. At the wedding in Cana, the miracle reveals Christ's divinity. At the Nativity, the angels bear witness to Christ, and the shepherds, representing the people of Israel, bow down before Him. At the visitation of the Magi, Christ's divinity is revealed to the Gentiles--the other nations of the earth. • Eventually, the celebration of the Nativity was separated out, in the West, into Christmas; and shortly thereafter, Western Christians adopted the Eastern feast of the Epiphany, still celebrating the Baptism, the first miracle, and the visit from the Magi. Thus, Epiphany came to mark the end of Christmastide--the twelve days of Christmas, which began with the revelation of Christ to Israel in His Birth and ended with the revelation of Christ to the gentiles at Epiphany. • Over the centuries, the various celebrations were further separated in the West. Today, the Christmas season concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, next Sunday January 13.

May the splendor of your majesty, O Lord, shed its light upon our hearts.

Meetings & Events

Weekend Retreat for Women

Join the women of Sacred Heart by signing up for the annual retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center on the weekend of January 11-13, 2019. Ask someone who has made the retreat and they will tell you they have never been more at peace with God and the world. A retreat once a year is a vital necessity these days. Consider giving the gift of a retreat to a loved one! • For more information please call Kim Paquette at 916-479-1736. Sign-up forms are also available in the church vestibule. You may register on-line at www.christthekingretreatcenter.org.

"Second Sunday" Social

Next Sunday, January 13 - 12(noon) to 1:30 pm in the Parish Hall All are welcome!

Words of Appreciation

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love (Saint Teresa of Calcutta). • Thank you to the many people in the various ministries who cooperated to make Christmas so special here at Sacred Heart! We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of volunteers.

Parish Mission

Save the Date! Mark your Calendar! Father Ryan is coming to give an inspiring and thought-provoking retreat to all parishioners! Beginning Sunday, February 10, 2019 and concluding Tuesday, February 12 Father Robin Ryan, Ph.D. a Passionist priest will give four presentations on the theme *Gazing on the Face of Christ*. You may recall Father's down-to-earth audio, six sessions presentations last year on *God and the Mystery of Human Suffering*. • Watch the bulletin for specific information about these talks. If you have any question contact Rita Spillane, Adult Faith Formation coordinator, at 916-452-4830.

Youth Group Update

The Sacred Heart Youth Group met just once in December, but made the most of it by hosting a fun-filled Christmas party. At the group's annual Christmas Party, members played Christmas trivia, enjoyed some treats, and took part in a fun-filled "White Elephant" gift exchange. • The Youth Group will be hosting two meetings in the month of January. The first meeting on Wednesday, January 9 will give members an opportunity to help plan out activities for the new year, so be sure to come loaded with good ideas. Our second meeting for the month will be held on Wednesday, January 23. The theme for our second meeting is still to be determined. • If you are a student in grades 8 through 12, please consider joining us for one of our upcoming meetings. All meetings are held in St. Anthony's Hall from 6:30-7:30 p.m. • If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sunderman at psunderman@sacredheartschool.net.

School Open House

Mark your calendars and join us for our annual Open House on January 27 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. All are invited and welcome. This is the kick off for Catholic Schools Week, celebrated throughout the Diocese of Sacramento. Students will be giving school tours, classrooms will be open and teachers will be available to visit. • Come and see all the wonderful excitement that happens at Sacred Heart Parish School!

2019 Church Calendars

The 2019 calendars are available for parishioners to pick up after Mass in the church vestibule. They have been made available through the courtesy of the Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services, a ministry of the Diocese of Sacramento. Be sure to read the message from Bishop Soto in front of the calendar. Feel free to take an extra one.

Parish School Now Accepting Applications

The School is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Applicants for Transitional Kindergarten must be 4 years old by September 1, 2019 and applicants for Kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1. We will also be accepting applications for 1st- 6th grades. • For more information, please contact the Parish School at 916-456-1576.

Please Do Not Park in Lot Across the Street

The small office building parking lot across 39th St. from the church has, until now, been available for weekend parking. However, the tenants now have shifts on the weekends and they need their parking spaces. Please be courteous and honor their request not to park in their lot at any time.

Security/Safety Committee

Sacred Heart's position on a major street and near a hospital sometimes results in a mentally ill person coming into the church. While most of these people mean no ill will, they can be frightening to our parishioners. On a rare occasion, they might be violent, able to harm themselves or others. To address these issues and draft a plan for how best to confront these situations, Fr. Walton would like to establish a committee of parishioners consisting of individual with any kind of law enforcement or public safety background, as well as mental health professionals. • If you are interested in joining this committee, please call Fr. Walton at (916-452-4136) or email him at (shchurch95816@aol.com) with your availability and contact information.

Children's Church

The program at the 9:30 am Sunday Mass resumes today. • If you are interested in helping periodically with the sessions, please contact Christie Montelongo at 916-455-5949. • You do not need to have a child in the program to volunteer. However, in keeping with Diocesan policies, all volunteers are required to be fingerprinted and complete the diocesan online *Safe Haven Program*.

Altar Society News

• Our thanks to Margarita Kennedy, Jackie Lofing, Bridget Parsh, and Tracy Swanson for giving their time and talent to our ministry. Margarita and Jackie will care for the altar servers vestments through March while Bridget and Tracy will provide and care for the flowers on the Blessed Sacrament Altar during January. • Members are invited to attend the next Altar Society meeting to be held on Friday, January 18 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall.

Sacred Heart Parish School and

Parish Religious Program Reconvene

The Christmas break went by very quickly; however, we are happy to have the school year resume. The Parish School resumes classes on Monday, January 7. The Parish's Catholic Faith Formation Program will reconvene on Tuesday, January 8 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

In Our Prayers

In Memoriam

Let us pray for all those who have died and are in need of prayer. May they enjoy light, happiness and peace.

Please Pray for the Sick

Bishop Francis Quinn, Rick Cwynar, Kang Simon Lee, Diana Zuniga, Suzy Riehl, Laurel Sunderman, Isabel Harper, Rouzbeh Daylami, Howard Huston, Mark Zane, Richard Honey, Josephine Davila, Dale Wooldridge, Donnal Anderson, Teresa Yeung, Nancy McGarry, Vivian Stolp, Rita Doherty, Patrick Valenzuela, Cheryl Halm Lincoln, Michael Fletcher, Grayson Kemp, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, Grace Grant, Robert Arkebauer, Libby Basurto, Dena Foster-Cook, Marie Schumacher, Ralph Goodall, Josephine Haddock, G.R. Gurley, Darren Stewart, Marge Mugartegui, Angel Curiel, Phillip Worth, Sonia Damiano, Barbara Cramer, Ava Grace Arnold, Karen Amnon, Mary Terese Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

**Daily Mass Intentions
January 6 - January 13**

Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Marie Moorefield (+)
	11:00am	Int...Loretta & Darryl Hall
Mon	8:00am	John Gilmore (+)
Tue	8:00am	Annita Jewell (+)
Wed	8:00am	Terence McCartan (+)
Thu	8:00am	John Silveira (+)
Fri	8:00am	Int...SH Altar Society Members
Sat	9:00am	Sergio Colacevich (+)
	5:30pm	Mary Ann Rich (+)
Sun	8:00am	Kenneth Belke (+)
	9:30am	Joshua Wingert (+)
	11:00am	For the People of the Parish