

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2018

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NATIONS SHALL WALK BY YOUR LIGHT

"Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.'" These words are joyous news for those through the ages who worship Christ, but bad news to those who, like Herod, selfishly guard their own prominence and kingship. "Herod called the magi secretly . . ." Those who act in secret often have evil motives, and like Herod, are full of lies—" . . . that I too may go and do him homage." Herod has no such intent, but plans to murder the Christ child and, he thinks, protect his own rule. Evil is always at work in the world, but God protects the innocent, in this case sending the magi home by a different route rather than back to Herod.

YOUR HEART SHALL THROB AND OVERFLOW

The magi "were overjoyed at seeing the star." So many of the words of Isaiah positively glow at the prophecy of the shining light of Israel, Jesus. "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance . . . Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow."

Christmas day, with all of its light and glory, has passed, and yet we forget that the Christmas season continues until tomorrow. The glory of the Lord continues to shine and manifest the glory to all nations. We who are members of these nations of the earth should continue to celebrate and rejoice at the coming of the Lord into our lives. We are indeed the Gentiles who have come to worship Christ, and to be saved by his glorious appearance. Blessed be the God who reaches out to us in mercy and love, and may the joy of his coming fill our hearts forever.

Today's Readings: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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LAS NACIONES CAMINARÁN CON TU LUZ

"Unos magos de Oriente llegaron entonces a Jerusalén y preguntaron: '¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que acaba de nacer? Porque vimos surgir su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo' ". Estas palabras son alegres noticias para quienes a través de los siglos alaban a Cristo; pero, son malas noticias para quienes, como Herodes, egoístamente mantienen su propia prominencia y realeza. "Herodes llamó en secreto a los magos . . ." Aquellas personas que se comportan con secretos a menudo tienen motivos malos, y como Herodes, están llenos de mentiras; "para que yo también vaya a adorarlo". Herodes no tiene esa intención, sino que su plan es asesinar al Cristo niño y, él piensa, proteger su propia autoridad. El mal siempre está listo para actuar en el mundo, pero Dios protege a los inocentes, en este caso enviando a los magos de regreso a sus casas por una ruta diferente en lugar de regresar con Herodes.

TU CORAZÓN SE ALEGRARÁ, Y SE ENSANCHARÁ

Los magos "al ver de nuevo la estrella, se llenaron de inmensa alegría". Así que muchas de las palabras de Isaías positivamente brillaron en la profecía de la luz brillante de Israel, Jesús. "Caminaran los pueblos a tu luz y los reyes, al resplandor de tu aurora. . . Entonces verás esto radiante de alegría; tu corazón se alegrará, y se ensanchará".

El día de Navidad, con todas sus luces y gloria, ya pasaron, pero aun así se nos olvida que el Tiempo de Navidad continua hasta mañana. La gloria del Señor continúa brillando y manifiesta la gloria a todas las naciones. Nosotros que somos miembros de esas naciones del mundo deben continuar celebrando y alegrándonos en la venida del Señor a nuestras vidas. En efecto, somos los gentiles que han venido a adorar a Cristo, y a ser salvados por su gloriosa aparición. Bendito sea el Señor que en su misericordia y amor nos busca, y que la alegría de su venida llene nuestros corazones para siempre.

Lecturas de hoy: Is 60:1-6; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ef 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Joe & Cecilia Espinosa	Elisa Casanova	Rose Loa Gallegos
Pablo Rodriguez	Alexander Hernandez	Roxanne & Linus Joseph
Dolores Gonzalez	Pedro Caballero	David Colbath
Joe Moreno	Eric Nave	Victims of First Baptist
Clara Perez	Sofia Olivarez	Church of Sutherland
Rick Contreras	Deacon Jesus Rodriguez	Springs, Texas
Brandon Rivas	Rosalinda Rodriguez	Lisa Marie Rodriguez
Liz Quintero	Connie Cardenas	Linda Davila
Justin Rey Martinez	Rosalinda Esparza	Christine Rosales
Antonio Aguero	Cynthia Sandoval	Yvonne Neilon
Elvia Diaz	Ismael Montañez	Ricky Lopez
M/M Margarito Compean	Estella De La Vega	Yamil Traspeña
Roberta Bobbie Garza	Diana Calderon	John Ruiz
Frances Ramirez	Susan Perez	Evelyn Parra
Alex Tapia	Guadalupe Huerta	Coach Lisa Robertson
Norma Morgan	Arleen Soliz	Angie Perez
Laura Reyes Gutierrez	Alfredo Moreno	Julio Ugalde, Jr.
Mary Garza	Delia Lopez	Armandina Flores
Jose A. Ponce, Jr.	Abigail Rodriguez	Yvonne De Leon

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

CONTRIBUTION REPORT THIS WEEK

DECEMBER 30 - 31, 2017

5:00 PM	-\$ 892.29	(125)
8:00 AM	-\$ 275.31	(061)
10:00 AM	-\$1,314.34	(135)
12:00 NOON	-\$ 887.00	(110)
New Year's Day Mass	-\$ 705.23	
Religious Education	-\$ 395.88	2nd Collection
2017 Gift of Giving	-\$ 200.34	
Mail In	-\$ 357.00	
TOTAL COLLECTED	-\$5,167.04	

Second Collections

- *January 7, 2018 - Capital Improvements
- *January 14, 2018 - Good Samaritans of SJB

2017 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 12-30/31, 2017	\$ 200.34
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 5,630.55



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 6

5:00 p.m. † Frances Soikowski - Family
 † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
 † Ninfa Villanueva - Share the Word

Sunday, January 7 - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00 a.m. † Telesfora Martinez - Rose Rodriguez
 † Eloy Alvarado - Family
 † Cesar S. Lopez - Wife & Family
 † Micaela Vargas - Hernandez Family
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño

10:00 a.m. † Lionel Medina, Sr. - Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 † Trinidad & Olivia Garcia - Maria Arzola
 † Maria Elena Martinez - Family

12:00 p.m. † Jo Ann Medina - Family

Monday, January 8

Tuesday, January 9

12:00 p.m.
 For Health Coach Lisa Robertson

Wednesday, January 10

8:15 a.m. † Mary Helen Garcia

Thursday, January 11

12:00 p.m.
 For Health Avelina Banda

Friday, January 12

12:00 p.m. † Robert B. Mata

Saturday, January 13

5:00 p.m. For All the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, January 14

8:00 a.m. † Ernestina Huerta - Husband & Children
 † Cesar S. Lopez - Wife & Family
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño

In Thanksgiving Las Guadalupanas

10:00 a.m. † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Guadalupe Lopez - Family
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 † Maria Elena Martinez - Family

12:00 p.m. † Roman Gabriel Garcia - Mom

In Loving Memory

We pray for the souls of our dearly departed who have passed from our parish community:

† **Raymond E. Rosales**

Sanctuary Light

† **Daniel Traspeña, Jr.**



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a Happy New Year 2018!

May the year 2018 allow us to be the agents of love, hope, compassion, understanding, healing and mercy. May our kind gesture, either spiritual or material, embody the spirit of the year 2018 rooted on Christmas' spirit which allows us to be joyful in anticipation of the second coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. We are ultimately grateful to God for sharing his only begotten son Jesus Christ and for the new year 2018.

I am grateful to all of you who donated more than a \$1 every weekend for the purpose of assisting individuals and families in need of receiving a Christmas celebration. Our community has generously raised \$15,630.55 and served 30 families. Thank you for inspiring me and in providing for those in need. I am extremely proud of my parish community and will always be honored to be your Pastor. I hope we continue to be as generous as we have been these past two years by continuing to donate toward *Christmas Gift of Giving*.

Our sanctuary has been greatly improved by the addition of a new wooden crucifix ordered from Italy that is placed in the center of the altar against the wall above the Tabernacle. Two new stands have been added, the Tabernacle is placed on one and the other upon which reposes the statute of St. John Berchmans. A special sanctuary lamp has been suspended beside the tabernacle. The crucifix, that previously hung above the altar, has been placed in the chapel. We, as parishioners, are requested to respect and care for our sanctuary especially by handling religious items that inspire us to get close to God with the ultimate of care.

I invite all of you to join me in the Best of Greece Pilgrimage to walk "In the Footsteps of St. Paul." We will visit Athens, Corinth, Delphi, Thessaloniki and Philippi. Please sign for a 9 day pilgrimage to Greece from April 9th to 17th, 2018 for \$3,229 per person which includes round trip air from San Antonio, first class/select hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, entrance fees, comprehensive sightseeing and much more. Join us for this trip of a lifetime!

I welcome our new chairpersons for our Fall Festival 2018: Rosario and Jaime Gomez Sarah and Richard Sustaita, Sylvia and Ken Lore, Angie and John Diaz. We pray for our new co-chairpersons to be successful in their endeavors. Let us be supportive of their ideas and campaigns.

May God bless you always,

Father Fidèle Okitembo Dikete, Pastor
 fr.fidèle@stjohnberchmans.com

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm - Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading - The Gentiles are copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel - The magi were overjoyed at seeing the star (Mat 2:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38
Tue: 1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20;
1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wed: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thu: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Fri: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Sat: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sun: 1 Sm 3:3-19; Ps 40:2-10; 1 Cor 6:13-20; Jn 1:35-42

Events of the Week ~ January 7 - 14, 2018

Sunday, January 7 - CCD CLASSES RESUME

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church
10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church
2:00 p.m. KOC Bingo - Cafeteria

Monday, January 8

12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Women of the Bible - Cafeteria

Tuesday, January 9

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Guadalupe Meeting - Cafeteria
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group

Wednesday, January 10

8:15 a.m. Mass - Church
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite
7:00 p.m. ACTS Core Meeting - Cafeteria

Thursday, January 11

12:00 Noon **Communion Service** - Chapel
6:00 p.m. PTC Meeting - Cafeteria
6:30 p.m. Ultreya English - Room 22

Friday, January 12

12:00 Noon **Communion Service** - Chapel

Saturday, January 13

5:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

Sunday, January 14

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church
10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church
12:00 noon **Mass** - Church



THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2018

Offertory envelopes are available for pick up at the entrance table of the church after all masses. If you have any questions, please contact our Parish Office at 210.434.3247.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

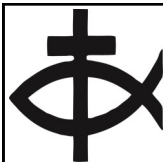
Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord;
National Migration Week;
Julian Calendar Christmas
Monday: The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins
Saturday: St. Hilary; Blessed Virgin Mary

CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

Our parish is always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church. We also want to remind individual group ministries that are assigned, to fulfill your commitment on Saturdays. The past several months we have had only a couple of individuals show up on their assigned weekend and in some instances **NO ONE AT ALL!** We thank you for your time and commitment in this important ministry!

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries:

January 13, 2018 - ACTS
January 20, 2018 - Santoyo/Martinez Families



ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS

ACTS Core will be seeking new CORE members.

Qualifications: Must be an active parishioner and have served on two ACTS teams. **Term will begin in February 2018.**

If interested, please contact Richard Sustaita, ACTS Core Facilitator at 210.413.0065.



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to osantoyo1104@gmail.com and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidele. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner at St. John Berchmans Church, please contact our Parish Office at 210434-3247 to fill out a registration form.

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Solemnity of the Epiphany reminds us of the three mysteries that are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration for the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast of Cana.

Epiphany focuses on the revelation/manifestation that Jesus' light has dawned for all people. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore him. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh portend the manner in which Jesus' light is so spread to the whole world. Myrrh, a perfume used for burial, foreshadows his death. Gold is a gift for royalty and frankincense for holiness.

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Today's feast bring to a fulfillment of all the purposes of Advent Christmas season.

THIS MONTHS LITURGY AT A GLANCE

In January, we have several very significant solemnities. During the second week of the month we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, which is a feast of calling and universality. On this occasion, we also celebrate National Migration Week. In God's community there are no foreigners, and there is a revelation of God for everyone. The remaining weeks in January represent the return to Ordinary Time and in this first month of the year, they are insistently focused on the personal and community call from God to follow our own vocation and become missionary disciples.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Tuition Assistance application open January 1, 2018 (Early Round)

Hope for the Future provides need-based tuition assistance for Catholic and non-Catholic students who meet eligibility requirements and enroll in one of the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Tuition is prioritized by financial need and based on available funding. Early Round FACTS application opens January 1, 2018. For more information contact Hope for the Future, 210.734.9112.

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2018

JANUARY -

Religious Minorities in Asia

That Christians and other religious minorities in Asian countries may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.



OBLATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Through the Continuing Education department, they will be offering a workshop entitled: **Broken Body, Healing Spirit: Lectio Divina and Living with Illness beginning Tuesday, January 9 - Tuesday, February 13, 2018.**

During the six weeks of this class, we will explore ways to live prayerfully and honestly with chronic, progressive and/or terminal illness. We will practice gratefulness and kindness towards our bodies, and recall that even in illness we are "marvelously made" (Psalms 139:15). Session will include quiet prayer, lectio divina, teaching and community building. There will be several speakers and registration cost is \$60.00 for the series. For information or to register by phone, contact Noemy at 210.341.1366, ext. 212.

GOD'S PROMISE TO ALL PEOPLE

Today Isaiah reminds the people of God that the land shall be restored to their possession, they shall rejoice to see their people return from the bondage of exile, and that they shall be a light to the nations. In other words, through the people of Israel, the Savior shall come to all people who seek God with a sincere heart. This brings joy and the radiance of God's glory to all the world and to all people everywhere. Through the fidelity of the people of God, and through God's fidelity to them, all people shall become God's children and rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is there something I realize that I changed after encountering the Lord? Is there something I realize now that I should change?