

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and
place.

May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

They were overjoyed at seeing the star,

and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his
mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then
they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they
departed for their country by another way.

Matthew 2:10-12

December 27 Collection

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Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

January 3, 2021



Bulletin printed in-house at:
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**Christmas: January 3rd
The Epiphany of the Lord**

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — *Pius Parsch*

The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. 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. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus

the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaias which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the Magnificat at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.



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In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time. ✝

Rev. Jerome Gaston LeDoux

February 26, 1930—January 7, 2019

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Pianist

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Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7 a.m.

Saturday — 8 a.m.

Saturday — 5 p.m.

Sunday — 10 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

Reconciliation (Confession):

Friday & Saturday Confessions
9:00 a.m. — noon

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri
10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

New Year's Prayer

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. Amen

May Mary help us discover the face of Jesus, Prince of Peace. May she support and accompany us in this new year; may she obtain for us and for the whole world the desired gift of peace! So be it!

Pope John Paul II (2003 Homily)

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Pope Francis



With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, January 4

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

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Tuesday, January 5

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

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Wednesday, January 6

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

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Thursday, January 7

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Friday, January 8

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Adoration: 8:00 a.m. — noon

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Saturday, January 9

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 8 a.m.

Mass: 5 p.m.

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Sunday, January 10

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 10 a.m.

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Vocation View

God's glory continues to shine in our world. You need to carry the light of Christ. Consider being a light for the world as a Church minister.

Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org

Weekly Readings

- 1/4— 1 JN 3:22-4:6; MT 4:12-17, 23-25
- 1/5—1 JN 4:7-10; MK 6:34-44
- 1/6—1 JN 4:11-18; MK 6:45-52
- 1/7—1 JN 4:19-5:4; LK 4:14-22
- 1/8—1 JN 5:5-13; LK 5:12-16
- 1/9—1 JN 5:14-21; JN 3:22-30
- 1/10—IS 42:1-4, 6-7 or IS 55:1-11; ACTS 10:34-38 or 1 JN 5:1-9; MK 1:7-11

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PARISH CORNER

January 1 is the World Day of Peace!

Every year on January 1, the Holy Father marks the World Day of Peace with a special message inviting all people to reflect on the important work of building peace. **This year's message** is the latest in a long tradition of messages for this day that began with **St. Paul VI** in 1967 and continued with **St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI,** and **Pope Francis**.

In his message for the 54th World Day of Peace marked on 1 January, Pope Francis offers the Church's social doctrine as a "compass" to foster a culture of care for peace in the world.

In his message for the Catholic Church's World Day of Peace, Pope Francis appeals to the international community and every individual to foster a "culture of care" by advancing on the "path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations." "There can be no peace without a culture of care," the Pope stresses in his message.

The Holy Father calls for "a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance." In this task, Pope Francis offers the principles of the Church's social doctrine as a compass on the path to peace.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

We have received several calls about the 2021 offertory envelopes. Great News!!! The envelopes arrived today! You can pick up your box of envelopes along with the 2021 St. Joseph's Calendar and a book from Catholic Dynamic on spiritual nourishment from the Parish Life Center between the hours of 10:00am-3:00pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are asking also to check with your neighbors and friends who can not come to office to be a good "Angel" and pick up for them. If none of these times are good for you, please let us know. (Just a reminder that Covid19 regulations are in effect. Masks are required as well as social distancing)

At this time, I want to send my deepest gratitude to all of our parishioners, associates, friends and visitors for their continued support. I especially want to thank St. Anne's Altar society and all the volunteers who beautifully prepared our altar. I want to thank St. Vincent DePaul, Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver Council 89, the lecturers, ushers and everyone who contributed to the spiritual success of our mass services. I thank all of you for your dedication and support of Our Mother of Mercy parish and I look forward to working with everyone in 2021 to help lift us ever so closer to our Lord and Savior who reigns forever!

May God Bless

Father Bart, S.V.D.

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CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Jesus teaches us how to pray

2609 Once committed to conversion, the heart learns to pray in *faith*. Faith is a filial adherence to God beyond what we feel and understand. It is possible because the beloved Son gives us access to the Father. He can ask us to "seek" and to "knock," since he himself is the door and the way.⁶⁵

2610 Just as Jesus prays to the Father and gives thanks before receiving his gifts, so he teaches us *filial boldness*: "Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will."⁶⁶ Such is the power of prayer and of faith that does not doubt: "all things are possible to him who believes."⁶⁷ Jesus is as saddened by the "lack of faith" of his own neighbors and the "little faith" of his own disciples⁶⁸ as he is struck with admiration at the great faith of the Roman centurion and the Canaanite woman.⁶⁹

2611 The prayer of faith consists not only in saying "Lord, Lord," but in disposing the heart to do the will of the Father.⁷⁰ Jesus calls his disciples to bring into their prayer this concern for cooperating with the divine plan.⁷¹

⁶⁵ Cf. *Mt* 7:7-11,13-14.

⁶⁶ *Mk* 11:24.

⁶⁷ *Mk* 9:23; cf. *Mt* 21:22.

⁶⁸ Cf. *Mk* 6:6; *Mt* 8:26.

⁶⁹ Cf. *Mt* 8:10; 15:28.

⁷⁰ Cf. *Mt* 7:21.

⁷¹ Cf. *Mt* 9:38; *Lk* 10:2; *Jn* 4:34.

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That, like the Magi, we generously share our gifts with the Lord, trusting He will provide all that we need.