

A SAVIOR FOR THE GENTILES, A FRIEND OF SINNERS AND THE HOPE OF SALVATION!

An epiphany is an event where something hidden is revealed. In this case, lying in the manger in Bethlehem, God reveals his Son in the flesh – as a priest, a king, one who is to die, and who will become a Savior for all people, including the Gentiles.

The sixtieth chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah details the rededication of the Temple at Jerusalem following the exile to Assyria. Having been plunged into the darkness of slavery for the better part of a century, the Israelites now rejoice because *Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.* Here, more than seven centuries before the coming of the Christ, we learn of events that will occur when He is born. Kings will come from great distances carrying gifts of gold and frankincense.

Saint Paul’s letter to the Ephesians reinforces the notion that God’s salvation was intended for all people, not just the chosen ones with whom he made his covenant in the Hebrew Scriptures. Sounding strange coming from the lips of Paul, a former Pharisee who would have had no love for non-Pharisees, let alone people who were not Jewish – he now throws open wide the doors to heaven to everyone, stating firmly that the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise. What God intends for one, he offers to all.

In Matthew’s Gospel, the Magi follow the light of the star from the Far East and Africa to arrive in Bethlehem. First, they stop at Herod’s palace in Jerusalem, where they show no respect to his kingship. Instead, they asked Herod, where is the newborn King of the Jews? This question would have caused great offense since Herod the Great traveled to Rome and, at great expense, bribed the Roman Senate to give him that title. He felt he needed to named “King of the Jews” if he wanted to be king over the Jews since he was not Jewish by blood. The Magi dismiss him and continue their journey. Whereas they showed no respect for Herod in his royal court, once they encounter the Christ Child they prostrate themselves, face down on the smelly ground in a barn, so immediate is their recognition that they are in the presence of greatness.

Then they open their treasures, two of which match perfectly with Isaiah’s prophecy: gold for Jesus’ kingship, frankincense in recognition that he is also a priest. The gift that stands out – the one that seems most unlikely at this impromptu baby shower, is the myrrh. This is a burial ointment, signifying that this child was born to give his life for others, as if the crib and the cross were cut from the same tree. One is never far from the other.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Jan 9	Is 42:1-4, 6-7, Mt 3:13-17
Tues	Jan 10	Heb 2:5-12, Mk 1:21-28, Heb 1:1-6, and 306: 2:5-12 and 305: Heb 1:1-6 and 306: 1:21-28
Wed	Jan 11	Heb 2:14-18, Mk 1:29-39
Thur	Jan 12	Heb 3:7-14, Mk 1:40-45
Fri	Jan 13	Heb 4:1-5, 11, Mk 2:1-12
Sat	Jan 14	Heb 4:12-16, Mk 2:13-17
Sun	Jan 15	Is 49:3, 5-6, 1 Cor 1:1-3, Jn 1:29-34



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$10,220.70
Nativity Maintenance	\$ 830.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 380.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$11,430.70
CASH NEEDED	\$14,400.00

SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUNDS

Our original goal of \$150,000 has been met. However, payments, as scheduled on current pledges, will not be completed until January, 2017. Please continue to use the orange envelopes for these payments. Likewise, many of you who did not pledge are participating by weekly or monthly gifts through the orange envelopes. Please continue your generosity. The response from you, our parishioners, has been extremely gratifying and will enable us to complete all the maintenance items delineated in our original appeal letter in January 2016. After our original survey of maintenance items, additional needs have developed. We assure you all funds received will be prudently expended.

TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE	\$168,808
PAYMENTS TO DATE	\$158,963
BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES	\$ 8,845

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*As we end the first semester of our school year, we give thanks for the many blessings that we have experienced. We ask God’s continued grace and guidance during the second half of this school year.

*Congratulations to Robert and Erica Gnapp, winners of our December \$3,000 raffle. The Gnapps have a child in our pre-k program.

*Nativity School parents are once again working with a group of boys and girls on basketball skills. Our thanks to Sam Burke and Ryan Canon for their willingness to take on this program.

*Nativity School Lego League has begun for students in Gr. 1 through 3. Each Wednesday, 20+ students gather after school to work/build with Legos and to develop teamwork and creative skills.

*All are invited to a prayer service for peace on Friday, January 13th at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym.

SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Jan 14 4:00 pm 1. Gerrie Weldon 2. Gayle Mavar 3. Liz Joachim 4. Kathleen Coskey 5. Jim Coskey	Jan 14 4:00 pm Rose Anne Kimbell	Jan 14 4:00 pm Simon Randall Sabree Sander
Jan 15 7:00 am 1. Marcia Mayfield 2. Danny Kavanagh 3. Colleen Kavanagh	Jan 15 7:00am Joe Koonce	Jan 15 7:00 am MaKayla Pfarrer Alec Ryan
9:00 am 1. Nanette Burke 2. Linda Bourgeois 3. Judy Trahan 4. Belinda Corley 5. Bobby Weaver	9:00 am Liz Wilkinson	9:00 am Justin Useforge Jamey Useforge Terrene McDonnell Cameron McDonnell
11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Deacon 3. John Sherman 4. Marianne Sherman 5. Brad Butterfield 6. Susan Toche 7. Linda Welter	11:00 am Daliance Kirkland-Ross	11:00 am Michael Pfarrer Greysen Ross McRae Ross Aidan Tarrant
5:30 pm 1. Jim Shugart 2. Teresa Ballenger 3. Annette Luther	5:30 pm Matthew Manint	5:30 pm Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Nicholas Arguelles Jacob Arguelles
	CANTORS Jan 14 4:00 p.m Billy Endicott	
	Jan 15 9:00 a.m. Dennis Burke	
	CHOIR 11:00 am	

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 10 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
 - RCIA at 6:00 p.m., SHC
 - BINGO Mania, 5:30 p.m. - Bingo Hall
- Jan 11 - **Cleaning Team “D”**
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
 CCD Classes at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan 12 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for January 10th. Bradberry (Thomas & Catherine), Cloud (Brandon & Emily), Collins (Shaniel & Shelly Ann), Corley (James & Karen), Gnapp (Robert & Erica), Hargrove (Roger & Stephanie) and Ladnier (Samantha). **REMEMBER!** If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The SVdP provides assistance each Tues from 9-11:00 am. Your continued support helps to ensure the SVdP is able to provide support for those in need.

2017 CALENDARS

The 2017 Calendars are in the back of the Cathedral for purchase. Each calendar is \$3.00 and all proceeds strengthen the presence and mission of the Catholic Church in under-resourced Catholic communities across the United States.

Mass Intentions

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Jan 9	Eileen McAuliffe	Chester Balias Fly.
Tue	Jan 10	Andrew/Jackie Gilich	Gabe/Doris Kosovich
Wed	Jan 11	Mary Collins Wilson	Collins-Sims Fly
Thur	Jan 12	Joshua Bozeman	Mercy Cross Six
Fri	Jan 13	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	Jean Kridle
Sat	Jan 14	8 – Dan Williams	4 Norine Baltar
Sun	Jan 15	7 – Ann/Harry Schmidt	9 - For the Parishioners
		11 – Sam Ardoline	5:30 - Helen Ross

SANCTUARY CANDLE

This week’s candle is lit in memory of Johanna Egers, on the anniversary of her death. With love from her children.

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Barbara Kridle Maynard, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Joe Powell, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Gwen Gollotte and Clair Sekul Hornsby.

R.C.I.A.

This week the RCIA class will be learning about the first three Commandments with Deacon David Allen, and Summer Canon will be leading our Prayer Service. Please pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as we approach the Easter Sacraments and they continue their journey of faith together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are held on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

NOTRE DAME RETREAT

Father Dennis will be away from the Cathedral Parish from Friday, January 6th until Wednesday January 11th, while giving a Second Theology to Notre Dame Seminary students. Please keep the seminarians in your prayers.

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

When planning a baptism, marriage, or for subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you attend Mass. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of Mass attendance. The parish registration form can be found online at www.nativitybvmcathedral.org, or at the entrance of the Cathedral in the vestibule.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holy Hour will be on Thursday, January 12th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., with reflections with Father Dennis.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA TOURING STATUE

Our Lady of Fatima Statue has been in our Cathedral since Friday and will be here until 6:00 p.m. the Sunday.