

WHAT GIFTS TO WE HAVE TO OFFER THE CHRIST

CHILD

There is a story about a parish children’s Christmas pageant from a few years ago. Everyone was selected for the variety of roles and the costumes were all prepared. There was lots of practice, but as is often the case when young children take the lead, on never knows exactly what to expect. Such was the case that day as the Magi proceeded down the church’s main aisle, headed toward the manger and the Christ Child. Upon arriving, the leader of three turned to the congregation, and proclaimed in a loud voice, “We are the Magi, and behold, we come bearing gifts of gold, common sense and fur!” The Magi brought to Christ the gifts they could bring: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Today’s celebration of the Epiphany should encourage each of us to reflect on the gifts we can bring to Christ, so that he may put them to use in building his kingdom here on earth. The gifts don’t have to be wildly expensive, but they must come from the heart of who we are, and must be rooted in the unique way that each of us has been fashioned by God.

Consider Dorothy, who at eighty-four, was a widow who had grown tired of only talking about the world’s problems. She wondered what she could do to make a difference. She had heard about the plight of her community’s homeless, and decided that what she could do is to make them sandwiches. And so she did, taking the sandwiches to the local park where she knew a number of the homeless gathered daily. Engaging them in conversation, she discovered that many of the homeless wanted to work, but didn’t have a way to make or receive phone calls or to receive mail regularly. Some of them shared that even if they were fortunate enough to arrange a job interview, they didn’t have good clothes to wear or a place to shower.

She took their concerns to her friends, and in a short while, with all of them working together, they were able to secure safe shelter, have a general telephone, a general mailbox, a clothes closet that made available gently used clothing for free, and a place that would eventually be able to serve three simple meals each day. Dorothy is now ninety-four, and still going strong. The place she and her friends helped to create now assists hundreds of people annually.

What is the most valuable gift that each of us has to offer? A sense of humor? An ability to pray with others? Kindness, gentleness and patience? An ability to fix cars or computers? Musical talent? The ability to make others feel welcome? People such as Dorothy help us to know that each of us has a gift that can be offered to Christ. In making that concrete choice, we can help to make God’s presence known, and so the Epiphany continues.

In a few short moments, we will present our gifts of bread and wine, as well as our monetary gifts. As we do so, Christ will lovingly accept them and then return them to us, transformed into his body and blood. This is all the nourishment we need to continue to love and serve the Lord.

A LOOK AT OUR STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

As part of the 175th Anniversary Year, the first look at our stained-glass windows will take place on January 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Church. We will examine the significance of Window #2, the depiction of Mary Mother of God, located in the apse of the sanctuary, Fr. Dennis will give a description of the symbolism and liturgical significance contained in the window. Edmond Boudreaux will give a history of the Lopez family who donated the window. Please come for this one-hour presentation.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon Jan 08	Is 42:1-4, 6-7, Mk 1:7-11, Is 55:1-11, 1 Jn 5:1-9, Mk 1:7-11
Tues Jan 09	1 Sm 1:9-20, 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8, Mk 1:21-28, Mk 1:14-20, 1:21-28
Wed Jan 10	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20, Mk 1:29-39
Thur Jan 11	1 Sm 4:1-11, Mk 1:40-45
Fri Jan 12	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a, Mk 2:1-12
Sat Jan 13	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a, Mk 2:13-17
Sun Jan 14	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19, 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20, Jn 1:35-42



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Regular Collections</i>	\$	11,837.00
<i>New Year Collection</i>	\$	948.00
<i>Capital Improvement</i>	\$	165.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$	297.17
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$	1,709.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	14,956.17

FORGET YOUR TITHE? GIVE ONLINE!

We are excited to announce that Nativity Cathedral now accepts one-time and recurring donations conveniently from our website! To make a secure tithe/donation, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.nativitybvmcathedral.org/onlinegiving using any device
2. Choose One-time or Recurring donation
3. Select your preferred form of payment (electronic check or debit/credit card)
4. Enter your information
5. Submit your donation

Thanks in advance for your generous support as we launch this new and convenient way to provide for our growing and thriving parish community! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Pam Bozeman** at pamboze@bellsouth.net or **Fr. Colten Symmes** in the parish office at (228) 374-1717 or coltensymmes@gmail.com.

There are NO “Gloria in Excelsis & Sanctuary Choir rehearsals this coming week of January 8th. There will be rehearsals for the Nativity Children’s Choir, Cantor Academy and the CCD Choir this week at their normal times. For more information, please contact: TERRY D. MADDOX: Office: 228 967-7. 230 Cell: 251 406-1454. E-Mail: terrydalemaddox@gmail.com

ENTRANCE HYMN	# 107
OFFERTORY	# 108
COMMUNION	#104
SENDING	# 95

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Jan 13 4:00 pm 1. Jim Compton 2. Dale Dorcik 3. Ann Kavanagh 4. Sondra Ahern 5. Andrea Gilich	Jan 13 4:00 pm Julie Capuano	Jan 13 4:00 pm Sabree Sander Sam Burke Cole Burke
Jan 14 7:00 am 1. Danny Kavanagh 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Linda Stewart	Jan 14 7:00 am Marcia Mayfield	Jan 14 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer Wyeth Stewart Alex Stewart
9:00 am 1. Bobby Weaver 2. Linda Bourgeois 3. Nora Ziz 4. Belinda Corley 5. Rocky Greathouse	9:00 am Liz Wilkinson	9:00 am Terrene McDonnell Cameron McDonnell Amy Gollot IV McKinzy Mathis
11:00 am 1. Johnny Williams 2. Sondra Williams 3. Linda Welter 4. Ben Eastman 5. Edith Richardson	CANTORS Jan 13 4:00 pm William Endicott/Choir	11:00 am Annabelle Landry Veronika Landry Julia Landry
5:30 pm 1. Teresa Ballinger 2. Angela Cannon 3. Mary Townsend	Jan 14 9:00 am Phil Frisby/Choir	5:30 pm Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Taylor Yasar
	11:00 am John Weltre	

MASS INTENTIONS

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Jan 08	Maria Ly Thi Khuyen	Gerrie Weldon (S.I.)
Tue	Jan 09	Collins-Sims Fly.	Barbara Kridle Maynard
Wed	Jan 10	Irene Collins Tucei	Jean Kridle
Thur	Jan 11	John Begue	Gaspar/Mary Pisarich
Fri	Jan 12	Josh Bozemen/Mercy Cross Six	Barbara Kridle Maynard
Sat	Jan 13	8_Norine Baltar.	4 Gabriel/Doris Kasovich
Sun	Jan 14	7-Maria Ly Thi Khuyen	- 9:00 _F.T.P.
		11:00 am Tommy Sliman	5:30 Walter Blessey

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS
 Gerrie Weldon, Lehmon Skrmetti, Buddy Pullen, Annette Luther, Macklin Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Kim Wilkerson, Pete Skrmetta, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Mabel Viator, Michael Zorich, and Karen Skremetta.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Happy Mardi Gras season to all! Nativity Students are taking orders for King Cakes (from Cheeky Monkey) through January 12th. For more information about ordering please call Cheryl at the school office (432-2269) or speak with a Nativity School parent.

*Over the last few years, Nativity School has invested over \$70,000 in upgrading technology for the school. As a way to continue this effort, Nativity School hold its annual **DISNEY Vacation Package RAFFLE**. The kickoff for the event is scheduled for mid-January. Remember, only a limited number of tickets are sold! For more information or to reserve a \$75 ticket, please contact the school at 432-2269.

*Need some excitement? Don't mind noisy events? Our January pep rally might be just the thing for you! The Nativity Cheer Squad will host a Pep Rally at 2:15 in the school gym. All welcome to attend.

*Nativity boys and girls are participating in the Catholic School's Basketball league again this year. Mr. Warren Davis, assisted by Sam Burke and several other parents, are coaching the students. For game times, dates and locations, please visit nativitybvm.org.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY AT NATIVITY BVM

What if you know where all of your money was going each month? What if you were debt-free investing and making wise spending decisions? With Dave Ramsey's class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. If you're interested in learning more about the class, contact Alicia Tarrant, at aliciasouthtarrant@hotmail.com, or call/text 228-273-9026. The 9 week class starts this Sunday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the RCIA room in the SHC. Class materials are approximately \$100.00 and can be purchased by visiting the class like at <https://fpu.com1053404>. You may also visit daveramsey.com.

ANNUAL SEMINARIAN RETREAT

Fr. Dennis will be away from the Parish from January 7th until January 12th giving the Second Theology Retreat to the seminarians of Notre Dame Seminary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 09** Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC BINGO
 RCIA at 6:00 p.m., SHC
- Jan 10** Cleaning Team “B”
 CCD 5:30 p.m., SHC
- Jan 11** Greenbriar Mass at 10:00 a.m.

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for Jan. 9th: Riojas (Ramon & Amy), Ryan (Megan), Sminicht (Ron & Dustie), Skrmetti (John & Dhiana), Smith (Scott & Alexandra), Snyder (Tommy & Alexandra) and Spears (Michael & Emily). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

CCD

Happy New Year from all of the CCD teachers! CCD classes will meet each Wednesday during January from 5:30-6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing all of the students!

RCIA.

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.