

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Journey of the Magi

The story of the Three Wise Men has inspired many poems, sermons, and reflections. In the 17th century, a famous and fashionable Anglican preacher introduced a new perspective to this gospel account. He began by saying: ***A cold coming they had of it.*** Subsequently, the 20th century poet, T. S. Eliot wrote "The Journey of the Magi." He stole Lancelot Andrewes' opening and followed with a development of Andrewes' idea: ***A cold coming they had of it / Just the worst time of the year / For a journey, and such a long journey / The ways deep and the weather sharp / The very dead of winter.***

Like Eliot's Magi, we discover that life's journey is full of discomfort and disruptions and questions. Faith has no easy answers. However, a new star casts a light that opens a new perspective. A new star promotes an inner shift of understanding. This change of view is so deep that a wise man experiences a restlessness that requires attention. Will we be wise enough to respond to that urgency? Common sense tells us that there will be confrontations with the Herods of this world. There will be engagement with unexpected angels with unexpected messages. The star will appear, disappear, and reappear.

We will wonder if we are wise men and women strong enough to abandon safety, home, and comfort in a tired, chilly world and go to Bethlehem.

Father Ricardo

FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICARDO:

We Are Apostolic

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the Church as a community of believers and the Mystical Body of Christ. Recently, Pope Francis described the Church as a "Field Hospital" in the war against evil. The Church is such an enormous and mysterious concept that there has to be multiple definitions and descriptions.

On December 16th, the ceremonies surrounding the consecration and installation of our altar reinforced, for me, the great claim of our Church that we are APOSTOLIC. We trace our beginnings to Peter's primacy and have come through the centuries without deviation through the bishops.

When Bishop James Navagh was appointed to this diocese sixty years ago, he started building churches, and in doing so, began the process of petitioning authenticated relics of martyrs from the Vatican. Every Catholic Church in the world requires the relics of martyrs to be the altar where the Eucharist is celebrated.

In our preparation for the consecration of our new altar, we removed our relics and discovered that we have two martyred saints in the depository. The first relic belongs to Pope Saint Clement. Saint Clement was Pope from 88 AD to his death in 99 AD. He is the second or third pope and is said to have been consecrated by Saint Peter. He is also a "Father of the Church."

The other relic comes from Saint Felicity, who was born c.101 and died c.165. During Felicity's imprisonment, before her execution, this saint kept a written journal, portions of which have been preserved. Her journal is credited with being the first example of what is called "Prison Literature."

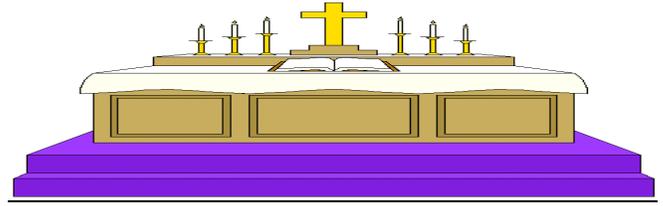
Perhaps as people of the twenty-first century after Christ, we limit ourselves to understanding our Church as a faith community of this time and this place. Our Lady of Fatima parish is one little part in the centuries of saved humanity. The very same faith that Clement and Felicity died for, we are asked to live for. They, and we, are the Church.

We are one, we are holy, we are catholic, we are apostolic.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

I am so grateful to so many of you who sent lovely personal Christmas remembrances to me with the most wonderful messages. There is a very poor proverb that ends with the phrase: "Words can never hurt me." That is ridiculous. Words are most powerful. During these recent weeks, I have received so many cards and comments of such support and encouragement that I have been bolstered in my pastoral vision, reassured that we

are moving in a good direction. Thank you for your generosity and most of all thank you for giving me the strength of your encouragement.



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

If you have not yet responded to the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal, there is still time to do so as the 2018 Appeal funds are used to support ministries and programs through the end of the diocesan fiscal year on June 30, 2019. Your gift is a great blessing.

SAVE THE DATE

Light of the World Program – February 2nd – 4:00pm

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Aidan Alvarez, Larry Ambrosino, Scott Anderson, Baby Grace Andrews, John Apgar, Madeline Beirne, Irene Boeren, Ray Bonomini, Maddy Brancato, Jerry Calcagno, Artie & Cathy Cohan, Tina Contento, Teresa Contento Alyssa Conticell, Aibhlinn Coyle, Elizabeth Copeland, Barry Crandall, Doug Crum, Nathanael Davenport, Alice DeLorenzo, Katie Drago, Roseann Dundonm, Jim Ecker, Jim Franco, Debbie Fuentes, Kay Gallo, Mike Gallo, John Gonzalez, Florence Guilfoyle, Barbara Hellwig, Bob Hojer, Joanna Horn, Dave Jansson, Jean Jones, Melissa Klimaszewski, Julianna Klinger, Carly Kosen, Emily Lewis, Brian Linke, Rose Martis, Fran and Larry Marsh, Patty McDermott, Robert McDermott, Kathy Nestico, Lisa O'Hanlon, Jennifer Oldham, Janis O'Neill, Eleanor O'Marra, John Orso, Lou Pra Sisto, Maura Reagan, Mary Reynolds, Linda Ross, Ron Shelly, Father Patrick Sullivan, Jim Scuderi, Alexander Truong, Mary Van Dyke, Russy Wright, Nick Zayatz.

PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD AND PRAY FOR THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY	JANUARY 6
8:00am	+Richard & Margaret Murphy & Cathy Dignan Req by Family
9:30am	+Patricia VanGorder req by Eileen & Bill Aquino
11:00am	+Anna Hauswirth req by Fran Rumsey
MONDAY	JANUARY 7
8:45 am	+Eileen Donohue req. by Legion of Mary
TUESDAY	JANUARY 8
8:45am	+Rose Mary Andreana req by Legion of Mary
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 9
8:45am	+Christopher Kaluski req. by his Mother
THURSDAY	JANUARY 10
8:45am	+Lorraine Budny req. by Gail & Brian Morton
FRIDAY	JANUARY 11
8:45am	Paul Corbutt req by Family -1 st Anni.
SATURDAY	JANUARY 12
8:45am	People of the Parish
5:00pm	+Joseph Albert Marhevka req. by Joseph & Janet Marhevka
SUNDAY	JANUARY 13
8:00am	+Patricia & Paul Corbutt req by Murphy Family
9:30am	+Eileen Donohue req. by the Ruiz Family
11:00am	+Patricia & Jim VanGorder req by Legion of Mary

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Sunday – January 6th - CCD Confirmation I - 11:00 Mass, continuing in Hall from 12:00 to 2:00

Monday – January 7th – CCD grade 8 – 7:00 to 8:30pm

Tuesday – January 8th – CCD grade 7 – 7:00 to 8:30pm

Saturday – January 12th – CCD SNOW DATE for Jan 5th