

EPIPHANY



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OF THE LORD



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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 2017

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

The Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord
 4:00PM Rodolphe St. Louis—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

The Epiphany of the Lord
 7:30 AM Erica Claire Rose—Memorial
 9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 10:30AM Lillian E. Healey—Birthday Remembrance
 5:00PM Rosalyn Dobbs—Memorial

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

The Baptism of the Lord
 7:30AM Fr. William F. Sears—Memorial

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Weekday
 7:30AM Robert "Bob" Belanger—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Weekday
 7:30AM James V. Lentino—Birthday Remembrance

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Weekday
 7:30AM Special Intention

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Weekday/St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Robert "Bob" Belanger—Memorial

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Weekday/BVM
 8:30AM Special Intention
Mass of Anticipation for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Ellen Simms—7th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Sperantino Almonte—Memorial
 9:00 AM Joseph Hirschberg—Memorial
 10:30AM Joseph & Lenore Meri & Ralph Buontempo—Mem
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church





Dear Parishioners:

Did you make a New Year's resolution? How is it going? I read that gym memberships surge in January due to the amount of people resolved to get in shape. Apparently it is a big money maker for health clubs as they collect new membership fees and the new members drop out quickly!

What about a spiritual resolution for 2017? Did you make one? Confession once a month? More faithful attendance at Sunday Mass? More time for family and less on career? How about more time for prayer? Perhaps even committing to stopping by Church once a day, or once a week, for some quiet time of prayer and reflection with the Lord? These are all good spiritual resolutions you can add to the usual resolutions we make, like getting in shape and stopping bad habits!

Bishop Tobin has declared 2017 to be a Year of Mary, here in the Diocese of Providence. This takes on particular significance for our parish which is under the patronage of Mary, under her title, Our Lady of Mercy. Perhaps we might resolve as individuals and as a parish to pray more for her intercession for our world, our Church, our Parish, our family and our community. We might also try to pick up our Rosary Beads more often and turn to our Lady for her help and guidance in 2017.

Let each one of us resolve to make this new year a year of prayer. Let us pray for more than simply our own needs and concerns. Let us turn to Our Lady of Mercy and resolve to pray once a day for her powerful intercession this year. In this Year of Mary for our local Church there is no better intercessor than the Mother of God, Mary our Mother!

Pray for those you know and those you don't. Pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Tobin, and Bishop Evans. Pray for the clergy and religious of OLM. Pray for the priests of the Diocese of Providence. Pray that more young men and women might answer God's call to serve the Church as priest and religious. Pray for Deacon Brian Morris from this parish who is to be ordained a priest of Providence this June.

Pray for world leaders. Pray for peace among nations. Pray for our new President, our new Congress, our new General Assembly and all our newly elected leaders. Pray for wisdom justice, and charity. Pray for all refugees, migrants, and the many victims of war and violence. Pray for an end to terrorism and hatred of any kind.

Pray for marriages, that they will be strengthened. Pray for families who are struggling and parents who are overwhelmed. Pray for mothers. Pray for unborn children. Pray for fathers. Pray for those who grieve the loss of a loved one.

Pray for those who feel they are alone and who suffer in silence. Pray for those people we often forget and those we often overlook or even avoid. Pray for the homeless, the jobless, the addicted, the mentally ill and all those who suffer in any way. Pray that the new year might truly give them a new beginning.

Pray for people who live in hope, that they never lose hope. Pray that more people will come to know Jesus Christ, the hope of the world. Pray that Catholics who have fallen away from the faith might come back to Mass and the Sacraments. Pray that more of us might spread the Gospel of Joy with our words and deeds.

Yes, by all means let us resolve to drop some pounds and give up some bad habits this year. But, also resolve to make 2017 a year of more prayer. May it be a year truly dedicated to our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as we turn to her in prayer and beg for her most powerful intercession.

St. John Vianney reminds us: *"We do not have to talk very much in order to pray well. We know that God is there in His holy tabernacle; let us open our hearts to Him; let us rejoice in His Presence: This is the best prayer."*

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the end of the Christmas Season. Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world. Having been made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem, Christ is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has always 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.

Fr. Connors and Fr. Ricci have returned to Rome to resume their studies. We thank them for their priestly service to our parish during the Christmas Season. It was a joy to have them here and we were truly blessed. I have again resumed my duties lobbying at the Statehouse this past week, please pray for my work there!

Happy Epiphany! Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!!! Resolve to pray more in 2017!

Father Healey



Why does the Church celebrate Octaves?

“But wait, there’s more,” to quote Billy Mays. When it comes to celebration, festivity, holiday, and the like, the Church always wants us to know that there is more. For instance, Christmas day is not really one day of joy, celebration, and leisure, but eight days. This means that December 25th is Christmas day; December 26th is Christmas day, and so on. In Her liturgy, during the octave, every day is treated the same as on December 25th. This means that all the prayers are repeated.

I am sure kids would love to know this, since in their minds that would mean Santa would come eight times! The “octave” of Christmas ends on the eighth day after Christmas, which is January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The end of the octave is the capstone which ties together all the different aspects of the mystery of the Incarnation. Interestingly in the older tradition Christmas season (or Christmastide) lasted until the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.

The Church has octaves for several historical, liturgical, philosophical, and spiritual reasons. Historically the eight days can be traced to Jewish festival customs (e.g. the circumcision of the Jewish boy was on the eighth day and this was our Gospel for January 1st). God is said to have created the universe in six days, rested on the seventh, and then redeemed the world on the eighth day.

I am fairly sure that all of us would agree that part of being human is having celebrations, holidays and leisure. Josef Pieper in his *Leisure: the Basis of Culture* agrees and for him “the most festive festival it is possible to celebrate is divine worship.” The Church understands human nature. So the reason why the Church has us celebrate Christmas for at least eight days is to give us plenty of time to celebrate and to feast. One day is not enough to celebrate and take in the great mystery of the Incarnation. It would be like walking into St. Peter’s Basilica and walking right out.

We need to be like Mary who pondered all these things in her heart. Of course if we view the liturgy and the Mass more as an obligation than as a festive celebration in which we truly engage in celebration, then the Christmas Octave will seem inconsequential to us. This idea of the liturgy is changed both by trying to understand what the Mass truly is (changing what our mind knows) and also by removing attachment to sin (changing what our will desires so that we desire rightly). I hope that all of us can reorient our minds and desires and live liturgical lives.

If you have a question about the Catholic Faith , email your questions directly to Father Barrow at associate@olmparish.org

Weekly Collection

December 25, 2016

Weekly.....	\$17,565.00
Electronic Giving.....	\$2,034.50
	Total=\$19,599.50

Christmas.....	\$28,641.50
Christmas Flowers.....	\$2540.00

January 1, 2017

Weekly.....	\$9,580.50
Electronic Giving.....	\$1,519.50
	Total=\$11,100.00

Holyday.....	\$3,939.50
Outreach.....	\$2,136.00
Annual (Final).....	\$101,912.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

Thank you for your generous support!

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Weekend: Building & Grounds Collection
Next Weekend: The Catholic University of America

Thank You!

2017 OLM Parish Calendar

We thank the Carparco Family of the Hill Funeral Home for their generous sponsorship of our 2017 OLM Parish Calendar. This beautiful Catholic calendar can be picked up by the doors of the Church as you leave Mass.



Religious Education NEWS

- All RE Classes resume this weekend at regular times. Welcome back!!
- NO RE Classes next weekend due to the MLK Holiday.



- Monday, January 9: School Mass at 8:15am
- Monday, January 9 at 7:00pm: OLM School Board Meeting in School Library
- Tuesday, January 10: Mobile Loaves & Fishes for 6th Grade
- Monday, January 16: No School for the MLK Holiday

Discover the OLM Advantage!
www.olmschool.org



Outreach Update

The OLM Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items. Please deposit all donated food in the box in the Church vestibule.

- For more information, contact OLM Outreach Director Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



Wise Men Still Seek Him

Attention Women of OLM Parish *Looking for Some More Spiritual Nourishment?*



Join us as we study St. Teresa of Avila's *Way of Perfection*, twice a month beginning on January 11, 2017 at 12:30pm. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the OLM

Parish office at 884-4968 or via email at parish@olmparish.org



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). For those interested in becoming Catholic, receiving Sacraments or simply interested in learning more about the faith, please join us **this Sunday, January 8** after the 10:30am Mass in the Rectory Conference Room. **This week's topic: The Communion of Saints.** For questions please contact Fr. Barrow at 884-4968 or by email at associate@olmparish.org.

Epiphany of the Lord



The solemnity of the Epiphany which celebrates the manifestation of God to humanity began in the Eastern Church in the third century.

Called *Theophany*, it was primarily a feast of the baptism of the Lord, but it also incorporated themes of his nativity, the visit of the magi, and the marriage feast at Cana.

The church of Rome adopted this celebration in the fourth century and focused it on the adoration of the magi since it already had a feast of the Lord's nativity in place.

In the United States, we observe the Epiphany on the Sunday between January 2 and 8, but there are places where it is celebrated as a holy day of obligation on the traditional date of January 6.

A BLESSED



EPIPHANY

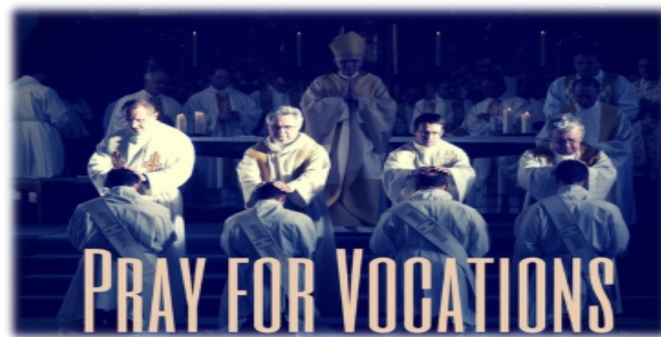
This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.



*Congratulations to
our newly baptized:*

Caroline Kate Jelinek,
and her parents, Ronald and Kate.

*"Dearly beloved, this child has been
reborn in baptism. She is now called
a child of God, for so indeed she is."
—The Rite of Baptism*



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioners **James Golden, Theresa McCaffrey and Mary Picozzi** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here last month.

May they rest in peace.