

From Your Pastor

The Epiphany of the Lord



In the western Christian tradition, January 6 (or the nearest Sunday) is celebrated as the Feast of Epiphany.

The Feast goes by

other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day.

Epiphany is a highpoint of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the Twelfth Night. This is an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special King's Cake as part of the festivities of Epiphany (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some church traditions, only the full days are counted so that January 5th is the Eleventh Day of Christmas, January 6th is the Twelfth Day, and the evening of January 6th is counted as the Twelfth Night.

In traditional Christian churches Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the Church year, rather than just a day. The Season of the Church Year associated with Christmas actually begins with the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas Day. Advent is marked by expectation and anticipation in preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus. The Christmas Season begins with Christmas Day December 25, lasts for Twelve Days until Epiphany on January 6, and concludes in the Catholic Church with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 11. (If you were

wondering when to take your Christmas trees down this year, January 11 is the day.)

The term *epiphany* means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In the Catholic Church, the Feast of the Epiphany remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings' Day, or the night before, is the time for opening Christmas presents. In some Eastern churches, Epiphany or the Theophany ("manifestation of God") commemorates Jesus' baptism, with the visit of the Magi linked to Christmas. In some churches the day is celebrated as Christmas, with Epiphany/Theophany occurring on January 19th.

As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian brotherhood and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God's children.

Copyright © 2008, Dennis Bratcher, CRI/Voice, Institute, with adaptations.



God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of David Kupris, the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND. If you know someone in the parish who is elderly or infirm and not able to come to Mass, please give Patricia McShane a call at the rectory (617-782-5774) and we will arrange for them to have someone visit them regularly with Holy Communion.

RCIA: Are you not Catholic, but thinking about becoming one? Or would you just like to learn more about our Faith? Please call Patricia at the rectory to let us know.

CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST: As we take a moment to reflect on the year past and pray for a hopeful future, we would like to remind you that the yearly Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical care and financial need of the priests of the Archdiocese. If you have not done so already you may include your Christmas envelope in the collection today. Thank you for your continued generosity to the Church.

NEW ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BOXES are now located at the doors of the church. The donations you make through these boxes are greatly appreciated and are sorely needed to aid in the ministry to the poor. The next St. Vincent de Paul meeting will be Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS will meet on Tuesday, January 6 at 1:00 pm in the Knights of Columbus Hall. There will be a Baby Shower for Pregnancy Help and a Yankee Swap.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will meet on Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 pm in the K of C Hall. All members are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in joining please speak to a Knight before the meeting.

THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE acknowledging the major donors of the St. Columbkille Restoration Fund (1996-1999) has been placed in the foyer of the church to the right of the elevator. Once again, and on behalf of us all, I want to express special thanks to those who are remembered on the plaque for giving gifts of \$1,200.00 or more to the Restoration Fund. As I researched this project over the last year and a half, I also became very aware of every one of you who contributed a gift to this important fund. Though your gift may not have been as large as some, I know it came from the heart – and it is that spirit that makes us the great parish that we are. Thanks to all our contributors!
Msgr. Fay

MSGR. FAY WILL CELEBRATE THE CATHOLICTV MASS on Monday, January 5 at 9:30 AM. The CatholicTV Center is behind St. Patrick's Church at 34 Chestnut Street in Watertown. You are very welcome to be at the TV Mass. It is always nice to have a community from the parish. Please be at the TV Center by 9:00 AM on the morning of the Mass. You can call Patricia McShane if you have any questions.

JANUARY DONATIONS WERE MADE TOWARDS the hosts in loving memory of Hugh & Agnes McShane and Christine McShane- Cornell by Their Family.

THE 2010 MASS BOOK is available. The donation for an arranged Mass is \$10.00 There are also openings for memorial donations for the Hosts, Wine and Candles for months in 2009. The donation for these memorials is \$50.00. To arrange Masses please call or visit the rectory during regular office hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

BRIGHTON-ALLSTON 2009 CALENDARS are on sale at the rectory for \$10.00 during regular office hours. It is not too late to get one of these great collector's calendars. This year's calendar is dedicated to Brighton-Allston Women of Vision, both past and present. There are many familiar faces and interesting stories.

JANUARY 4, 2009

**A Sermon of Pope St Leo the Great
(d. 461)**

*The Lord Has Made His Salvation
Known to the Whole World*

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ.

A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judaea only, but in the whole world, so that his name may be great in all Israel.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, who has made us worthy, in the words of the Apostle, to share the position of the saints in light, who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you.

This is the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised.

This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms,

JANUARY 4, 2009

when he said: All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name. Again, the Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

+++++

Prayer for Marriage

Heavenly Father,
through the intercession of the Holy Family,

Help us treasure the gift of marriage
that reflects the love of Christ for the Church,
where the self-giving love of husband and wife
unites them more perfectly
and cooperates in your plan
for new life created in your image.

Help us support men and women
in their vocation of marriage,
especially in difficult times
when they join their sufferings to the Cross.

Help us uphold the institution of marriage in our society
as the place where love is nurtured and family life begins.

Help us acknowledge that our future depends on this love
and on your providential care for us. Amen.

Please pray daily for the vocation of marriage.

Nihil Obstat: Reverend Mark O'Connell, J.C.D.
Imprimatur: Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM, Cap
Archbishop of Boston
May 15, 2007

END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: **Saint Columbkille**

CHURCH CITY: **Brighton**

ROUTING CODE: **W**

RUN NUMBER: **15**

FILENAME: **03-0479.06b09**

PHONE NUMBER: **617-782-5774**

FAX NUMBER: **617-782-7283**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Patricia**

CURRENT FORMAT: WNS Format -- 6th Column is copy

Comments:
