

FROM THE RECTOR...

EPIPHANY...FOLLOWING THE LIGHT!



The length of the Epiphany Season is determined by the date of Easter, which is early this year. The earlier Easter occurs...the shorter the Epiphany Season...and the longer the Trinity Season. We have three Sundays after the Epiphany this year...two Sundays shorter than last year...we should try to make the most of what the Epiphany Season teaches us. And because we are still celebrating Christmas...our beautiful Crèche stays in place through the Last Sunday after Epiphany.

In common usage...an *epiphany*...is the *experience of a sudden realization...offering a new and deeper perspective or understanding about a problem or event that has been studied and considered.* A person is said to have an *epiphany*...and suddenly the *light goes on!*

The word *epiphany* comes from the ancient Greek *epiphaneia*...meaning *manifestation or striking appearance.* Within Catholic Christianity...we celebrate the Epiphany...the *Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles...in the sudden and striking appearances* Jesus makes...God's revelation of himself to us in the human being Jesus Christ...the **Word made Flesh**...who lived among us and made God's love known to us.

We see the Light of the World in Jesus Christ because God has revealed him to us...we didn't figure it out on our own. There is a wonderful contemporary Epiphany hymn by Kathleen Thomerson (born 1934):

*I want to walk as a child of the light;
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world;
The star of my life is Jesus.*

Refrain

*In him there is no darkness at all;
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God;
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

What we can do this Epiphany Season is embrace Jesus the Light of the World...and let him shine in our hearts...and in turn we try to be epiphanies for him!

Father Craig Looney +

EPIPHANY POT LUCK BRUNCH...

We will observe the Feast of the Epiphany (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 107-109*) at the 9:00 AM Parish Sung Mass on Sunday 7 January. A potluck brunch will follow in Young-Wheeler Hall. Discussion Group will not meet. Please sign up on the sheet posted in the Narthex.



THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL...



The Conversion of Saint Paul (25 January) normally occurs during Epiphany. Paul's conversion on the Road to Damascus is recorded in Acts 9.1-19. It was for him...a *striking appearance* of the up close and personal kind. Knocked from his horse and left temporarily blinded...Paul heard Jesus tell him to stop persecuting the Church and get ready to go work for him. Paul the persecutor seems like an unlikely candidate to be the "Apostle to the Gentiles". But the light that initially blinded him ultimately opened up his eyes...he saw the Light...and he became the preeminent spokesman and pastor to the expanding Church in the Gentile world!

SPEAKING OF LIGHT...

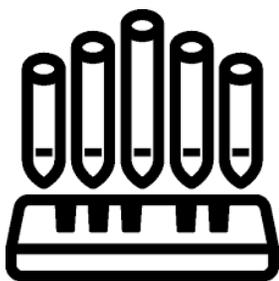


Gary Schick has replaced all of the incandescent lighting in Young-Wheeler Hall with LED lighting. He also replaced the old and cracked and faded lenses with new lenses. He previously installed

LED lighting in the Sanctuary...the lighting in the Nave was replaced last year and required bringing in a crew with special equipment to reach the light fixtures. The new lighting brightens the Parish Hall and gives off a warm inviting feeling. Thank you, Gary!

AND THE MUSIC GOES ON...

We all miss our former organist Thierry Spelle...he is doing well in Cleveland, Ohio. The Peterson Module we purchased several years ago and the hymns and Mass music Thierry recorded have given us an archive of music that covers the entire Church Year...and allows us to continue to enjoy the standard of music we are accustomed to hearing at Mass. Special thanks go out to Al Schick...our "Music Master"...for pushing the buttons that make the organ fill the church with beautiful music.



Pledge Letters for 2018 were mailed out to the Parish in December. If you have never made a pledge to the Parish...why not consider making one. Jesus tells us "our treasure is where our heart is" (Matthew 6.21)...everything we have comes from God...we should cheerfully give to the church from our heart. Please return your signed and dated Pledge Card by Sunday 14 January. This will give the Vestry time to finalize a Proposed Budget to present at the Annual Parish Corporation Meeting on Sunday 28 January.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Parish Corporation Meeting of Saint Joseph Parish will take place in the church immediately following the 9:00 AM Parish Sung Mass on Sunday 28 January 2018. Parishioners who are current on their 2017 Pledge and have completed a Pledge Card for are entitled to vote at the Annual Parish Corporation Meeting. Proxy voting is permitted.

At the Annual Parish Corporation Meeting we will review and approve the Minutes of the 2017 Meeting. We will hear reports by the Treasurer, Senior Warden and Rector. The Vestry will present a proposed Budget for the Year 2018 to the Parish. Vestry elections will take place...only pledging members of the Parish may serve on the Vestry.

Please make every effort to attend the Annual Parish Corporation Meeting. Coffee and fellowship will follow the meeting in Young-Wheeler Hall. The Discussion Group will not meet.

PRESERVATION OF THE AMERICAN EPISCOPATE...



28 January is the 40th Anniversary of the consecration of the first four bishops for the Continuing Anglican churches in Denver, Colorado. The Chief Consecrator was the Right Reverend Albert Chambers, retired bishop of the Diocese of Springfield (Illinois). It is through Bishop Chambers the Anglican Catholic Church received the Apostolic Succession. A lot has happened in the past 40 years. While Saint Joseph Parish will continue to avoid becoming mired in partisan politics...whether Church or secular...we should not hesitate to say the following prayer daily:

O GRACIOUS Father, we humbly beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church; that thou wouldst be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of him who died and rose again, and ever liveth to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

ABOUT THE PRE-LENTEN SEASON...

The three Sundays preceding Ash Wednesday are designated the "Pre-Lenten Season" in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Pope Gregory the Great (540-604, Pope from 590) mentions them in his homilies.



Liturgically, Pre-Lent is really an extension of Lent...the festal features such as the *Gloria in excelsis* and the *Alleluias* are omitted...and the liturgical color is violet...except for the Fourth Sunday in Lent called Refreshment or Mothering Sunday...when rose-colored vestments are used.

Father Massey Shepherd notes in the *Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*...the names for these Sundays were selected...because the First Sunday in Lent was called *Quadragesima*...the fortieth day...before Easter. *Septuagesima* and *Sexagesima* are approximately 70 and 60 days before Easter respectively...*Quinquagesima* is exactly 50 days before Easter.

Modern liturgical practice has abandoned the Pre-Lenten Season in favor of more Sundays after Epiphany or "Ordinary Time" (meaning sequential order).



SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM SING MASS & SERMON
COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP

WEEKDAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

*THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM We affirm that the Church of
our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are*

*determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order,
Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional
Anglican Church.*



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