



January 6, 2019 Epiphany of The Lord

UPCOMING DATES

Wed Jan 9, Finance Committee Meeting 4 PM
 Tues Jan 22, St. Colman Guild Meeting 4 PM
 Wed Feb 6, St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting 1 PM

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 4 pm: All parishioners
Sat 5 pm: John Seymour+
Sun 9 am: John Seymour+ req. by Mark & Michelle
Sun 11 am: For the victims of abuse by clergy, for healing and reconciliation.

PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS

Who are ill or in pain: Nilda Falero, Don Schaffert, Lawrence Peterson, Claudette West, Alan Barich, Ed Copeland, Andrew Cebalo, Nina Cantacessi, Posie, William Donnellan, Ernest Souder, Robert Cebalo, Kathleen Sheridan, Sister Gabrielle, Virginia Loosli, David Cross, Helen Johnson, Billy Henthorn, Steve Arcia, Jim & Mary Crowther, Lorelie Fulwider, Fr. Andrew Metcalf, JoAnn Coules, Dinah Smith, Lorna Marie Hastings, Laverne Jones, Joanne & Bill Rodgers, John Breig, Linda Schmidt, Michell Jackson, Jim Ward, Nini Sanchez, Jacqueline Donovan, Art McNulty, Terry Devlin, Mary Hall Smith, Stan Moorman, Maggie Nelson, Stella Dunne, Nina Cantacessi, John Hoffman, Mary Tamargo, Don La Plante, Sarah & David, Ed Fulwider, Vicki Gonzalez, Jesus Chavez Torres.

Who have been called to Eternal Life: Evelyn Shuster, John Seymour, George Ayoob, Charlie Marbach, Joe Mercieca, Elaine Benson, Suzi Schaffert, Janet Guidotti, Keith Poulsen, Doris Porras, Helen Leseberg, Bette Campbell, Margaret Maher, Carole Williams, Fr. Philip Ryan, Joseph Kobler, Rebecca Jane Ruiz, Janine Bekker Carrig, Margie Sanchez, Matthew Gonzalez, Billy Ferree, Tom King, Tom Kelly, Axel Avera, Victor Theander, John Sanchez, Don Covello.

READINGS

Is 60: 1-6
Ps 72: 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13
Eph 3: 2-3a. 5-6
Mt 2: 1-12

PASTOR'S DESK

From your study of Ancient History, some of you may remember reading about the Medes and the Persians. The Medes tried unsuccessfully, through military means, to seize control of the Empire. *When they failed, most of their leading people abandoned the quest for military and political superiority to become scholars.* They became the leading authorities of the time in many fields, including medicine, philosophy, religion, and astrology. Because of their devotion to the search for truth they often were called the "Wise Men." The Magi in today's Gospel lesson were Medes. This is why we call them the "Three Wise Men." And it was to them that there appeared a star.

When we reflect on the story of the Three Wise Men, it is important for us to remember that the star was up there for everyone to see. We cannot identify with precision which star it was that guided them to the place of Jesus' birth. Scripture scholars and astronomers have developed certain theories about what caused a certain star to shine with particular brilliance at that time. But they are only theories. Whatever the cause, the real lesson of the story is that it was the "Wise Men from the East" who were able to read the meaning of the star and to follow it. The Epiphany event is a beautiful example of God pouring out His love for us. The Wise Men's lifestyle of searching, questioning, learning, being open to new possibilities for their life, is one of the strong traditions of the Bible.

When the Magi went into the place of Jesus' birth and "saw the Child," they were looking into the face of

Love itself -- the Love of God, in the flesh -- and they knew they had found what they had been searching for. That was two thousand years ago. Some forty thousand years ago, in the bleak uplands of Southwestern Asia, there lived a Neanderthal Man with a significant body handicap in that Ice-age world. He had lost an arm. Yet, there is evidence that he was cared for. Someone, or some group of human beings, in that hard, violent, stony world, loved this maimed creature enough to cherish him. We have a stereotype view of ancient man as a hairy, mindless brute. But these ancient men decorated their caves with drawings and carvings that reflect compassion and concern. The evidence is clear that worship and love are as old as human life itself. The man who lost an arm forty thousand years ago was not abandoned but cared for by other members of his little society. By the Grace of God, the Neanderthal Man had been given a true glimpse of the awesome Mystery of Life and Love.

On this first Sunday of the New Year, like the Wise Men of old, we have come to pay true homage to our King of Kings. Like the astrologers of old, we come as gift-bearing people. With God at the center of our lives, we pay homage to the King of Kings through our gifts of heartfelt compassion, patient understanding and genuine concern for others. Our greatest gift to the world in this New Year or any other year is the gift of self. And this is the homage we pay to Him: to love another as He has loved us.

Have a lovely Feast of Epiphany!

Fr. Luis

PS: January's Financial Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday the 9th at St. Huberts at 4 pm because I will be at a workshop in Benbow the following Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you benefit from the use of a chair lift installed at the stairs in front of St. Elizabeth church? Please let us know at ChurchElizabeth@comcast.net or call the office at (707) 869-2107

Catholic Cursillo fellowship gathering

The Catholic Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Santa Rosa invites all Catholic Cursillistas to an Ultreya from 2 to 4 p.m. January 19 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. If you are a Catholic who has ever lived a Cursillo weekend, or if you are interested in learning about the Catholic Cursillo Movement, you are welcome to attend this Ultreya.

Gathering 2:00, Small group sharing 2:15, Witness Rollo and Reflection 2:45, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction 3:15, Refreshments and Social 3:30.

For further information call:
 Molly Touchette at 707-292-8389
 Olga Dorado at 707-755-0022

Stay current on Youth & Young Adult ministry events in the diocese: www.sryouth.org & www.CatholicYA.org

"I'm Home Alone," a free program offered by Catholic Charities. Registered clients receive a telephone call once a day, 7 days a week available. You will receive a phone call by a trained volunteer in the morning. If the caller fails to receive an answer after three attempts throughout the day, then a predetermined designated contact will be notified. There are brochures available at St. Elizabeth and St. Catherine. Or you may call Tonya O' Claire at (707) 486-8749 for additional information.

Name A Pew

St. Elizabeth's outdoor church has been in existence since the late 30's. In fact, there were a number of others, but over time parishioners dwindled and so did the masses, some stopping service and some closing altogether.

The Guerneville church has maintained its presence but not with some cost and much community support. Over time, floods, overgrowth of vegetation and lack of maintenance have taken its toll. We are trying to restore some of the pews and stabilize the benches and have now a drive called "Name a Pew".

You can have your family name or anyone you'd like remembered and select the location you would like the plaque placed.

Your donation of \$300 per plaque will be used strictly for the upkeep of our outdoor church.

PARISH DONATIONS

Period reflected: Dec 29 – Dec 30

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| St. Elizabeth 1 st collection | \$1,072.00 |
| St. Elizabeth 2 nd collection | \$405.00 |
| St. Catherine 1 st collection | \$204.00 |
| St. Catherine 2 nd collection | \$89.00 |
| St. Colman 1 st collection | \$145.00 |
| St. Colman 2 nd collection | \$139.23 |

Thank you for your generosity! \$2,054.23

Is the Lord's work one of your heirs?

To be placed on our Sunday Bulletin email list, send your request to: ChurchElizabeth@comcast.net

The deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday at 5pm. Submit them (proofread and spell-checked) via email or the following meetings at St. Hubert's Hall:

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting (1st Wednesday at 1 pm)
Finance Committee Meeting (3rd Wednesday at 4 pm)
St. Colman Guild Meeting (4th Tuesday at 12 pm)