

January 7, & January 8, 2012

# The Epiphany of the Lord

All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

## The Feast of the Epiphany

Greetings to you all! The Solemnity of the Epiphany is one of the oldest celebrations of the Catholic Church, probably older even than Christmas. The gentile Christians, who by the end of the Second Century AD made up the vast majority of the Catholic Church, recognized in the Epiphany a celebration of their status as recipients of the promises of Christ. This was the day, not Christmas, when there was an exchange of gifts, as a way of imitating the Magi, and rejoicing that they are co-heirs with the Jews.

Salvation has been offered to us, not because of who we are or even because of our actions, but because God wanted to bring happiness to all people. The significance of our existence flows from our union to God. As children of God we have the ability to show his presence to the world. That's what is important, the showing of God to the world. And that and that alone is what makes one person better than another, how well the person shows the presence of God to the world.

And you know, that is what the word "epiphany" means, the showing of the presence of God. The celebration of the Epiphany still remains a most important celebration for us who are not of Jewish ancestry. It is the celebration of what God has done for us as well as the call for us to show His presence to others. Today we pray that we might be epiphanies of his presence to the entire world.

So we begin a New Year by reflecting on how to recognize God's presence. Well, let us today pray that we might not only see God's presence, but also be epiphanies of God's presence to the entire world.

Merry Christmas,  
*Fr. John Gerth*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Confirmation preparation begins **TODAY** following their Religious Education class. Parents, Sponsors, and Candidates are required to attend the first class starting @ 12:30pm.

January 8, 2012	Class @ 11:30 after Mass (Center) Confirmation Prep @12:30 pm(Center)
January 15, 2012	No CCD Classes Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

## PRAY! INVITE! ENCOURAGE! AFFIRM! VOCATIONS

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which begins National Vocation Awareness Week, a special time in which the Church prays for the renewal and strengthening of vocations of dedicated people as married and single people, men to serve as priests, deacons, brothers, and women as religious sisters. The week of January 9-14 parish communities across the U.S. will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week. Let your life proclaim good news!

## LECTIO DIVINA

An invitation goes out to join us on Tuesday, January 17th (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month) in the Parish Hall from 6 pm to 7:30pm - Worship, Music, Intersession and Contemplative Prayer. Lectio Divina, a slow contemplative praying of scripture enables the Bible, The Word of God, to become a means of union with God. To practice Lectio Divina effectively is to cooperate with Gods grace in rooting out vices and allowing the virtues to flourish. The direction of spiritual activity is not outward but inward, down into the depths of the soul where the spirit is constantly transforming us and refreshing us into God's image. The active life is thus coming to see who we truly are and allowing ourselves to be remade into what God intends for us to become.

## ROSARY MAKING GROUP



Our rosary making group that meets on Wednesday mornings has just mailed off their first shipment of rosaries to Togo, Africa. Please join us anytime between 8:30 am and 11:30 am on Wednesdays and learn how to make rosaries. Once you learn you can make them at home. What a great way to get involved with the church and help us make rosaries for those that do not have them in other places. Don't worry about creative skills - you just have to know how to count to four. God bless.

## ST. RAPHAEL WOMEN'S RUMMAGE SALE

St. Raphael's Women's Annual Rummage Sale, Saturday, January 21st. Household items, toys, clothing, furniture, sporting goods, bikes, jewelry and collectibles, tools - something for everyone. 8:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Parish Center, 1376 Snell Isle Blvd NE, St Petersburg.

St. Joseph Parish January 8, 2012-January 15, 2012	
<b>Sunday 1/8</b> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i> Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12	Vigil Mass @ 5:00pm (Church) <b>Fr. Joseph Costello +</b> Adult Faith Sharing @ 9:00am (Center) Mass @ 10:00am (Church) <b>Willie Mae "Dear" Johnson+</b> CCD – 11:30 (Center) Confirmation Class @ 12:30pm (Center) Fellowship Time @ 11:30am (Hall)
<b>Monday 1/9</b> <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i> Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Mk 1:7-11	Mass @ 8:00am (Church) <b>Bert &amp; Joan Imfeld SI</b> Tai-Chi Exercise Class 6:30-7:30 (Hall) FAST @ 6:30pm (Center) Parish Council @ 7:00pm (Church)
<b>Tuesday 1/10</b> 1 Sm 1:9-20 & Mk 1:21-28 Mk 1:14-28	<b>NO MASS</b> Choir Practice @ 7:30pm (Church)
<b>Wednesday 1/11</b> 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Mk 1:29-39	Mass @ 8:00am (Church) <b>Elizabeth Ann Bolton +</b> Rosary Making @ 8:30 (Center) Bible Study @ 7:00pm (Hall)
<b>Thursday 1/12</b>  1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45	Mass @ 8:00am (Church)  Breakfast Group @ 8:30am (Hall) Bible Study @ 9:00 am (Hall) Legion of Mary @ 6:30pm (Hall)
<b>Friday 1/13</b> <i>St. Hilary, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</i> 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22 Mk 2:1-12	Mass @ 8:00am (Church)
<b>Saturday 1/14</b> <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>  1 Sm 9:1-14, 17-19, 10:1 Mk 2:13-17	Mass @ 8:00am (Church)  Confessions @ 4:15pm (Church) Vigil Mass @ 5:00pm (Church) <b>Elizabeth Burke +</b>
<b>Sunday 1/15</b>  1 Sm 3:3-10, 19 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42	Adult Faith Sharing @ 9:00am (Center) Mass @ 10:00am (Church) <b>Emily &amp; John Kronyak+</b> No CCD Fellowship Time @ 11:30am (Hall)

Servers for Sat, January 7 & Sun, January 8	
<b>Vigil Mass, Sat, 5pm: Reader:</b> Andy Durey <b>EM:</b> Bob Bowie-Susie Ajoc <b>Sunday, 10am: Reader:</b> Bob Shannon <b>Altar Servers:</b> Emmanuel Eke-Alissa VanWanzele-Faith Magdael <b>EM: Host:</b> Mary Hornickle <b>Cup:</b> Theresa Ferrebee-Barbara Ellison-Stella McGraw-Paul Petrocy <b>Servers for Sat, January 14 &amp; Sun, January 15, 2012</b> <b>Vigil Mass, Sat, 5pm: Reader:</b> Michael Flaherty <b>EM:</b> Betty Pokorny-Elaine Normile <b>Sunday, 10am: Reader:</b> Jerry Junevicus <b>Altar Servers:</b> Ciera Lynch-Clara Lawton-Anderson Eke <b>EM: Host:</b> Stella McGraw <b>Cup:</b> Maria Salley-Gene Poplawski- Denise Grant-Mary Hornickle	

Tithing the weekend of December 24, 2011 & January 25, 2012	
Loose Collection	2,438.00
Envelopes	2,937.00
Christmas Day	2,527.00
Parish Improvements	1,160.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,062.00</b>
December 31, 2011 & January 1, 2012	
Loose Collection	1,007.00
Envelopes	2,136.00
Christmas Day	700.00
Solemnity of Mary	560.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,403.00</b>
<i>Thank You for Your Generosity!</i>	

**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE**

by Carolyn Drzycimski

**Black Rice**

This superfood has more antioxidants than blueberries. One spoonful of this nutty flavored-grain which has no sugar and more fiber than the equivalent amount of blueberries, can be cooked like brown rice or crushed and sprinkled over cereal or added to cookie batter. It is sometimes called "Forbidden Rice" because in ancient China only nobles were allowed to eat it.

**JUBILEE MASS OF THANKSGIVING**

The Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Robert Lynch honoring couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate 25, 50 or more years of marriage during 2012 will take place at St. Jude Cathedral on Sunday, February 12th at 3:00pm. A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will follow. You **MUST** pre-register no later than Monday, January 24th at the parish office, 822-2153.

**ONE NATION UNDER GOD**

"Lord, bless the men and women of our military as they answer the call to serve our nation and defend our freedom. Protect them, particularly those in harm's way. Most of all let them know your love: that you are with them and will never forsake or abandon them. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior." Amen.

**PRAYER LIST**

**Please pray for our sick**

- Ella Clark - Mikki Considine - Eugene Danzey
- Elizabeth Waters - Erick Melvin, Jr - Linda Drzycimski
- Mary Linqanti - Mary Murray - Joanne Greenslade
- Rosanne Parker - Kathryn Davis - Sharmel Sandy
- Michael Meister - Mary Kilionski - Jill Rush
- Gerry Braun - Gabriel Smith - Pauline Thurston
- Leo Holland - Renee Hobbs - Ivy & John Beckford
- Jerry Lehman

If you know of someone that needs to be on our prayer list please contact the Parish Office (727)822-2153