

SECOND COLLECTION

This Sunday's Second Collection will be for Priest Retirement Fund.

Community Bible Writing Project

Fr. Robert would like everyone to be part of the COOL Community Bible Writing Project. All you have to do is to collect the Bible folder that is being handed over during the Sunday Announcement and continue writing (copying the scripture text from any Bible) from where the last person stopped. You write as much as you can during the week and return the folder the following Sunday to be handed over to the next person. In this way, we can call this handwritten Bible, COOL Bible. Our aim is to complete the Old Testament by December 1st 2012.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and COM classes (8th & 15th January)

Registration for the Sunday School and COM classes will take place today and next Sunday, from 10:30 - 11:30 am in the parish hall. Classes will commence on 29th January. Fr. Robert will also be giving the orientation for parents on 29th January from 10:30am - 11:00 noon. Please take note that the Catechetical Ministry is also in need of more catechists. If you are interested, please leave your name and contact details with the parish office staff.

Formation Workshop for Catechist (8th & 15th January)

There will be formation workshop for all Sunday School Catechists today and next Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided before the workshop.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

There will be a meeting of all parish pastoral council committee members and sub-committee members on Tuesday 10th January at 7:30 PM to discuss the upcoming 7th Vicariate Anniversary on 22nd January. Please think of some ideas for the Mass and the fellowship celebration.

Adult Faith Formation

Beginning this Thursday, 12th January, we will have the first of ten sessions of the CATHOLICISM Adult Faith program. This program explains not only what Catholics believe and why, but displays in breathtaking, visual details the richness of the church's global culture. May the Lord be with you as you embark on this journey around the world and deep into the Faith. The session will begin every Thursday at 7:30 PM in Fr. McClorey's room.

INFANT BAPTISM

The first Infant baptism for 2012 will be on Saturday, 14th January at 2:00 PM. Parents are reminded on the Pre-baptism class on Wednesday, 11th January at 7:30 pm. Godparents are also required to attend this class.

sion, a time of adoration and then a sending. Were they totally satisfied by the whole experience of stars, warnings, findings? They were somehow missioned by the encounter to go farther and further and deeper. Like the shepherds they were changed and yet returned to the desert-usual of life. The gifts which the Magi had presented represented what had been valuable to these seekers who left them at the "house" and leave by "another way." They have not so much found as they have been found and leave that place to begin the spreading the news of the finder they found. This is all a grand ending and beginning. The Magi-story is the revelation that mere human wisdom searches for more than it can understand. The wanderers, who have come from afar in distance and time, arrive, not at an idea or principle, but at the mystery of a Person. They are we as well. We would like to think of God, arrive at our own logical, reasonable concept of God. We would love to say that we have found God. If we determine who and what God is, then we would seem to control God. God would have to act accordingly. In prostrating themselves, the Magi admit their former human arrogance and surrender to the truth that until then, they had not been satisfied with the conclusions of their personal ponderings. The Epiphany is a grand revelation that God will not be found to satisfy human thinking. This seeking of us by God encourages us to live with the dissatisfactions of our hearts. Jesus has come among us and within us to accompany our spirits and not merely slake the thirsts of thought. We are invited to lay down our intellects, as precious gold, which they are. We, like the Magi, pick up our lives which have been met, found and sent off, the better for the finding. It can be assumed that, as with the shepherds before them, the Magi went back by "another way," not merely geographically. They return to a new and different way of relating with life. Their hearts and spirits are comforted and their minds, still turning these things over in wonder, not a bad way to journey. The seeking is God's labor, the being found is ours. For us finding is less lively than seeking. When we hear that we should seek and we shall find, what Jesus and the Magi teach us is that human finding will always lead to some kind of dissatisfaction and so the seeking re-begins. The Magi did not stay at the place to which the star guided them. Nobody who came to find Jesus, from the shepherds to those seeking Him within the tomb, were ever allowed just to stay nice and close to Him, the finder. He moved them along in their human-heart search. This too is not a bad, but rather holy way to journey. †

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC) for 2012

12th & 19th February ♦ 13th & 20th May
5th & 12th August ♦ 18th & 25th November

Couples wishing to get married are kindly reminded to prepare themselves at least six months prior to their wedding and to follow the Marriage Preparation Course schedule. Last minute weddings are very much discouraged as this would make it difficult for the coordinators of the MPC to conduct the course. This is a 2 full day course. Please take note that another requirement for a Catholic marriage is that the Catholic party must already received his/her Confirmation.



Our Lady of Immaculate Conception NEWSLETTER

Website: www.clicseria.com

Issue 2012/2

For Private Circulation Only

8th January, 2012

DAY	FEAST	READINGS	TIME
Mon 9	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6 v 3; 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11	6:15 AM
Tue 10	1ST WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK I)	1 Sam 1, 9-20; Mk 1, 21b-28.	5:30 PM
Wed 11	1ST WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK I)	1 Sam 3, 1-10, 19-20; Mk 1, 29-39.	6:15 AM
Thu 12	1ST WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK I)	1 Sam 4, 1-11; Mk 1, 40-45.	5:30 PM
Fri 13	1ST WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK I)	1 Sam 8, 4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2, 1-12.	6:15 AM
Sat 14	1ST WEEK, ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK I)	1 Sam 9, 1-4, 17-19; Mk 2, 13-17.	6:15 AM
Sun 15	SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (PSALTER WK II)	1 Sam 3, 3b-10, 19; Ps 39, 2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10. I Cor 6, 13c-15a, 17-20. Jn 1, 35-42.	8:00 AM 5:30 PM

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, January 8

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

Jesus is God's epiphany, God's self-disclosure. In Jesus, all people can walk in God's ways as sons and daughters of God. Though Jesus illuminates the path to God, not everyone follows it. The Herods of the world, who rule through domination and violence, are greatly disturbed by threats to their wealth and power. The dark clouds of fear and terror they create obscure the path to peace. Only the wise ones — women and men who can see with the eyes of the heart — are able to perceive God's appearance on earth. They speak God's words to the downcast: "Look up and see!" Hearts that are broken throb with joy and gratitude. When we raise our eyes, we see God's glory and walk by God's light. No longer do we follow the paths of the world; we take another route, guided by the light of Christ, who leads us to our true home.

For Reflection: How can I reveal God's light to others? What gifts can I offer them today?

The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



Reflection

Secrets are exciting and when one is shared with you, that energy changes to intimacy and a sense of being special. When the information becomes public and generally known, that specialness is dimmed. Israel had a long history of being intimate and special through the covenants made by God. They were not exactly secrets, but the "one God" was sharing with this one nation, information, or revelation of who this "one God" was. Their history was a continuous intensification of their own image and the image of God for them. They were promised a Messiah and in the past weeks, we have heard of the miracles and fruitfulness which would accompany His arrival. What we hear in today's First Reading is a prophecy which foretells that this Messiah, this kind of secret, is going to be shared beyond the borders of Israel. The nation will still be special because people from the sea to the desert will come to visit the glory of God manifested in Jerusalem and Israel. The riches of other lands will come in recognition of the presence of a new brilliance which has shined upon this little place or spot of the earth. This, along with other prophecies, moves the secret more outward making the whole world bright and enlightened by the Light of this new revelation. God claims all people as special and as belonging to this "one God." Today's Gospel is unique to Matthew who presents Jesus as both the one who is to come and the one who has come for all. The Magi represent the "beyond" or distant lands and peoples to whom the Christ will offer His universal wisdom. These "Wise Men" also represent the former ways of thinking, wondering, and philosophizing. They come in a sign of surrender to this new "epiphany" or display of this "one God" who is for all and is now known as the God who does the seeking and the finding. The Magi are the figures of the world who did the seeking for and the finding of God. The Light is initiated by God and this Light is meant for the whole world. As with the shepherds, these wise men continue in a liturgical manner. They arrive, having wandered in faith, have an offertory proces-

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