

The Epiphany of The Lord



Why We Do What We Do

We are called to look at ourselves as God sees us. Too often we look at our humanity from our perspective only. Rarely do we look at our humanity from God's point of view.

"The Word became flesh for us *in order to save us by reconciling us with God*, who 'loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins': 'the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world', and 'he was revealed to take away sins': (1 Jn 4:10; 4:14; 3:5)

"Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the good; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in the darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Savior; prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator. Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state?" (St. Gregory of Nyssa) (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 457)

"The Word became flesh so *that thus we might know God's love*: 'In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.' (1 Jn 4:9) 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.' (458) (Jn 3:16) "The Word became flesh *to be our model of holiness*: 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.' I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.' (Mt 11:29; Jn 14:6) On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father commands: 'Listen to him!' (Mk 9:7; cf. Dt 6:4-5) Jesus is the model for the Beatitudes and the norm of the new law: 'Love one another as I have loved you.' (Jn 15:12) This love implies an effective offering of oneself, after his example." (459) (Cf. Mk 8:34)

"The Word became flesh to make us '*partakers of the divine nature*': (2 Pt 1:4) 'For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God.' (St. Irenaeus) 'For the Son of God became man so that we might become God.' (St. Athanasius) 'The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods.'" (460) (St. Thomas Aquinas)

"It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature.'" (51; Dei Verbum 2; cf. Eph 1:9; 2:18; 2 Pt 1:4)


"God, who creates and conserves all things by his Word, provides men with constant evidence of himself in created realities. And furthermore, wishing to open up the way to heavenly salvation - he manifested himself to our first parents from the very beginning.' He invited them to intimate communion with himself and clothed them with resplendent grace and justice." (54; DV 3; cf. Jn 1:3; Rom 1:19-20)

"This revelation was not broken off by our first parents' sin. 'After the fall, [God] buoyed them up with the hope of salvation, by promising redemption; and he has never ceased to show his solicitude for the human race. For he wishes to give eternal life to all those who seek salvation by patience in well-doing.'" (55; DV 3; cf. Gen 3:15; Rom 2:6-7) "Catholic social teaching believes that human beings, created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26-27), have by their very existence an inherent value, worth, and distinction. . .

All human beings must see within every person both a reflection of God and a mirror of themselves, and must honor and respect this dignity as a divine gift." (Daniel Groody, "Globalization, Spirituality and Justice")



"Lord and giver of all life, help us to value each person, created in love by you. In your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn. We ask this through [Christ](#) our Lord. Amen." ("Prayer for the Dignity of Human Life," catholic.org)

	"2012" Weekly Budget.....	\$ 5,650.00
	Offertory collected December 25 th	\$ 6,073.04
	Difference	\$ 423.04
	Offertory collected January 1 st	\$ 4,621.48
	Difference	\$ 1,028.52

Second Collection

Second collection December 25 th "Catholic Charities".....	\$ 954.78
Second collection January 1 st "Solemnity of Mary".....	\$ 915.00

Campaign '12 Pledges:

Total donations made (from pledges) as of 12/18.....	\$ 116,342.00
January 1 st collection.	\$ 543.00
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$ 116,885.00

Next week's Second collection

Next week's second collection will be our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Your generosity is always appreciated.

Reflections on 10 Years



I was ordained a priest seven months when the Boston priest sex abuse scandal first appeared in the *Boston Globe* on January 6, 2002 (Epiphany Sunday). Within weeks it affected the whole country and would change the Church as we knew it.

It was not the first scandal of its type. When I was in seminary in New Orleans, I became aware of scandals from two Louisiana dioceses and the Diocese of Dallas that dated back to the 1970s and had come to trial in the 1980s and early to mid-1990s.

The huge differences of 2002 were first the scale of the scandal and second, I was a priest "on the front line" dealing with what others had done. The fallout was huge. An old scandal at the parish I was assigned resurrected. I went to Pittsburgh to celebrate a wedding and know my luggage was singled out and searched at the airport because I was in clerics (priest uniform).

Then in May of that year, a former seminarian was arrested and charged with abusing/molesting boys at my home parish. I knew the boys and their families. I knew the facts of the case. I knew the seminarian was guilty. And I became his chaplain at the county jail! Yes, I became responsible for his pastoral and spiritual care. Placed in the middle by God.

For the next eight months, I was his chaplain, before being transferred in February 2003, ironically, right before the trial. He maintained his innocence. I did not reveal what I knew. I focused on his spiritual and sacramental needs. And I kept that confidential while also trying to help the families who trusted me more than any other priest with what they were going thru. I maintained confidentiality on both sides and did the best I could under difficult circumstances. It is the hardest extended ministry situation I have ever had to deal with.

He would plead guilty. So would many others.

God kept me steady that year, telling me: "I want you to be one of the good guys." To help the Church go thru her darkest hour. The temptation to walk away was there. "I did not sign on for this." I don't think most people realize how hard it was on the priests who had done nothing. Who carried on when the priesthood was being turned upside down. "Like gold that's tested in fire." (Zech 13:9, I Pet 1:7) Whenever I think back, I remember the victims. And I pray that there will be no more. Ever.

The Epiphany of The Lord

January 8, 2012

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

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

Now it has been revealed that the Gentiles are coheirs of the promise.

Gospel: Matthew 2:2

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Salvation is meant for all, if we are but willing to follow God's signs revealing the gift. This feast, in the Western Church, is one celebrating the universality of salvation. The magi call us to abandon our own directions and desires, and our own country and kinsfolk to find the Messiah. The magi were led to the manger in Bethlehem; we also are led to the Light that brings life and salvation.

We tend to be a "take charge" people. It is difficult for us to think in terms of following stars or believing dreams. Although that is probably not the way God leads us today, the challenge of the gospel is to recognize in our daily living the way God does lead us. Perhaps we follow God's lead by smiling to a stranger or being open to a new idea. Any new direction in our lives can be an inbreaking of the Light that saves. ~ Living Liturgy

Saturday, January 7th, 5:30 pm.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8th, 8:30 am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8th, 10:00 am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8th, 11:30 am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8th, 1:00 pm.....Valeria Torres (3yr. presentation)
Sunday, January 8th, 7:00 pm.....Our Parish Family
Monday, January 9th, 12:15pm.....Communion Service
Tuesday, January 10th, 12:15pm.....Communion Service
Wednesday, January 11th, 12:15pm.....Communion Service
Wednesday, January 11th, 6:30pm.....Rosary in English
Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00pm.....Rosary in Spanish
Thursday, January 12th, 12:15pm.....Communion Service
Thursday, January 12th, 12:15pm.....Prayer Group/Adoration
Saturday, January 14th, 5:30 pm.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 15th, 8:30 am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 15th, 10:00 am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 15th, 11:30 am.....Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 15th, 1:00 pm.....Isidro Chavez (RIP)
Sunday, January 15th, 7:00 pm.....Our Parish Family

Food for Thought

It is not by accident that the happiest people are those who make a conscious effort to live useful lives. Their happiness, of course, is not a shallow exhilaration where life is one continuous intoxicating party. Rather, their happiness is a deep sense of inner peace that comes when they believe their lives have meaning and that they are making a difference for good in the world. ~Ernest Fitzgerald

Stewardship



"To human beings God even gives the power of freely sharing in his providence by entrusting them with the responsibility of 'subduing' the earth and having dominion over it. God thus enables men to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for their own good and that of their neighbors. Though often-unconscious collaborators with God's will, they can also enter deliberately into the divine plan by their actions, their prayers and their sufferings. They then fully become 'God's fellow workers' and co-workers for his kingdom." (307)

Healing

"God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross.

"Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit

by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

"Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith: Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace so that we may act with justice and find peace in you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen." (USCCB, Augustinians)

Our Prayers are needed for:



Katie Dain-cancer, Lavere Dembicki-health, Brian Dingler-health, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Jean Satz-chrons disease, T.J. Rushing-tumor, JoAnn Silvers-health, Robert O'Brien Sr.-illness, Alice Nott-surgery, John Muysken-health, Dolores Maldonado-health, Karla Tatiana Hernandez Maldonado-recovery, Terese Zanol-cancer.

*Today we pray for the repose of the soul of Houston Evans. On Friday, December 30, 2011, Houston lost his battle with cancer and joined our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May his family and friends find comfort in their time of mourning?

Christmas decorating

How wonderful it was to walk into the church and see such beauty welcoming the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The time and effort that goes into preparing the Church for Christmas can be daunting, however, our volunteers make this task one of pleasure and joy.

The staff of St. Clement's would like to graciously thank our decorators for this event: Ginger Loy, The Shiney Family, Phuong & Timmy Nguyen, The Fleming girls, The Walravens, Ely & Carl The Powell Family, The Tracey Family, Paul Jastrum, and Glenn Gross.

We also thank our coordinators for this year's children's musical at the English mass: McCall Govinon & Autumn Lester, and Heriberto Moran and all those who helped to make our Adult Christmas drama in Spanish one to remember.

We most graciously thank our Seminarian, Jorge Carranza for organizing, training, and preparing our altar servers for this special event.

Lastly, to our Angel Tree Coordinators: Yesenia Gayton Gloria Carroll, and Olivia Sanchez, and all of our volunteers and numerous patrons for this project...we thank you. The Angel Tree is an enormous project that requires many hours and the help of a large portion of our parish family. Without your help we would not be able to provide this service to our parishioners in need. Your love and support helped us to bring joy to over 90 children this year.

We thank you all for the use of your time and talents. Whether you were able to help for 5 minutes or 5 hours your efforts helped to make this Christmas one of spiritual beauty and awe.

Archdiocesan News

The Office of Child and Youth Protection Victim Assistance Program is offering a **Trauma Recovery Group** for adult survivors of childhood trauma Tuesday evenings beginning February 21, 2012. Registration deadline is February 13, 2012. Group limited to 10 participants. **Location:** Cathedral of Christ the King 2699 Peachtree Road Atlanta, GA 30305 **Dates:** 9 Sessions - Tuesday nights from **February 21 - April 24, 2012 Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Cost:** \$25 per session (partial scholarships available). For more information please contact the **Co-Leaders @ 404-920-7554.**

January Respect Life Memorial: All are invited to attend the events commemorating the thirty-ninth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court rulings of January 22, 1973 that legalized abortion in America, including the Annual Mass for the Unborn on Monday, January 23, 2012 to be concelebrated by Archbishop Gregory and priests of the archdiocese at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.