



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

LOOKING IN THE RIGHT PLACES

“Appearances can be deceiving,” as the saying goes. As we celebrate the *epiphania*, the “appearing” of the eternal Word of God on earth, this is still true.

What rapturous foresight must have filled Isaiah as he wrote the words we hear today. How, for four hundred years, they must have filled the hearts of the people of Israel with hope for the day when God’s glory would shine on them. How deceived some must have felt when the glory of God came to them in the lowliest and humblest of human lives.

We have many expectations about how the divine presence will appear among us. But we can also set ourselves up, through these expectations, to miss the divine glory when it truly appears. We get caught up in looking for the star, forgetting that the star is not the divine sign, the babe is. It may take a persistent journey for us to come upon the true appearance of God’s glory in our lives: Jesus Christ. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



WORK CREW: Volunteers are required on Sunday, January 10 immediately after the 11:00 a.m. Mass to take down the Christmas decorations. As we will be carrying the parts of the manger scene to the basement storage area, the assistance of some younger volunteers would be very helpful. Refreshments will be served following the project.

Living Stewardship Now

Are you bringing Christ to others beyond your family and parish? Thank you for your support to the parish over the past year and for your contributions to needs beyond the parish including the special diocesan collections, the School Sisters of Notre Dame Children Outreach Project in Kenya (\$15,270), the Syrian refugee relief fund (\$26,466), and the Nepal earthquake relief (\$25,742).



OUR SENIORS' SOCIAL GROUP will resume Tuesday, January 5, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., in the parish hall. All are welcome!



Our Lady of Lourdes Church

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PASTOR:	Rev. Edward (Ted) Hughes
DEACON:	Rev. Mr. Phong Hoang
SEMINARIAN:	Christopher Tracey
PARISH YOUTH CATECHIST:	Paula Rush
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:	Bette Honsinger Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES:	Saturday 7:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday 3:00 p.m. Vietnamese Martyrs Community Rev. Hanh Van Tran, O.M.I.
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:	By appointment – please phone the parish office
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:	Wednesday, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to noon
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:	By appointment – please phone the parish office
BLESSING OF EXPECTANT PARENTS:	Last Sunday of each month after all Masses
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:	Church door collections – last Sunday of each month

Announced Mass intentions for the week of January 3 to 9, 2016

Monday	8:30 a.m.	Tom Rocca – Antonietta Rocca
Tuesday Beechwood Manor	10:00 a.m.	Patricia Neuert – Estate
	7:00 p.m.	Drew Weir – Dorothy & Bill Lawlor
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Special intention of Martha Kuntz – Anne Ellig
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Joyce Wewita – Monica Fernando
Friday	8:30 a.m.	Deceased of August Chapeski Family – Johnny Chapeskie
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Fernando Ribeiro; Joseph Brick

Offertory collection for Sunday, December 27, 2015: \$8,273.20

Budget Review

Cumulative financial objective –52 Weeks @ \$7,500.....	\$390,000.00
Actual weekly contributions	390,900.99
Over (under) objective	900.99
Christmas donations to date	\$36,545.25

UPDATE ON PAYMENTS FOR PIPE ORGAN

This Christmas provided an opportunity to use our pipe organ to reflect the joys of the season. Here is an update of the status of our loan from the diocese. Any donations received through the blue Pipe Organ Fund envelopes or other donations designated as being for the pipe organ go directly toward the loan from the diocese. This past year we also received a bequest which also went toward our loan repayment. Thanks to all who continue to contribute to this fund.

Loan as of January 1, 2015:.....	\$329,703
Less:	
Contributions through the Pipe Organ Fund envelopes:	\$23,837
Contributions from original pledges:.....	5,550
Bequests, special & memorial donations, regular offerings:.....	<u>150,316</u>
Total payments towards loan in 2015.....	- <u>179,703</u>
Loan as of December 31, 2015:.....	\$150,000



SOME YEAR END HOUSEKEEPING. . .

- **ENVELOPE #400:** The person who used envelope #400 during 2015 is asked to please contact the parish office to confirm contact information.
- **A PYX** is a small, round, metal receptacle used to carry the Eucharist. These are often given to family members to take Communion to their loved ones who are unable to come to church. If you have one at home that you are no longer using, please drop it by the parish office.

BAPTISM: During the month of December, the following children became members of God's family in the sacrament of baptism:

Jack Henry Inoque Joshua Christian Moussa MacKinley Joan Pequegnat

ORNAMENTS FROM THE TREE OF LIFE: Those who had a child baptized or a loved one called to Eternal Life (and buried from Lourdes) in 2015 may pick up their angel or cross after any weekend Mass beginning January 16/17 in the work sacristy behind Our Lady of Lourdes' altar

Christmas 2015

Reflections at Christmas remind us that blessings are given both to those who give and those who receive. May each of us continue to be grateful and open to the many graces brought into our parish and our lives during this past holy season through what we have given and what we have received. With sincere and prayerful thanks to . . .

Liturgical Ministers: ministers of the Word; extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist; altar servers; ushers; the music ministry including those who sang in the Christmas Eve family choirs;

Liturgical Decorating Crew: the official "Tree-of-Life Cutters" and the family that donated the tree; the work crew who helped prepare the church inside and out; those who will take the Christmas decorations down (January 10); the people involved in preparing the beautiful nativity scene; those who handcrafted the angels and crosses;

Christmas Scripture Dramatization (5:00 p.m.): the children who participated in the Christmas pageant, our parish youth catechist and the volunteers who assisted; those who worked behind the scenes both before and after the pageant;

Outreach: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and all who supported their work through donations, (the 2 toonies and a loonie collection - \$6,161); the Waterloo Knights of Columbus who provided toys for children in need; the support (\$15,270) for the Notre Dame Children Outreach in Kenya through "The Bowing Angel"; the bakers who provided the delicious cookies for our shut-ins and individuals at nearby assisted-living residence, those who prepared the tins for delivery, and the ambassadors of good will who delivered the cookies; those who delivered white poinsettias to the bereaved;

Additional Contributions: those who donated floral tributes in memory of loved ones; the parish staff; our seminarian intern; the custodians; the parishioners for your many gestures of kindness including all those special treats brought for the parish staff.

Regular Ongoing Parish Financial Support: all who sustain the parish and its ministries through regular donations, bequests, and special collections.

I am very grateful to all of you, the people of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Your spirit of faith, your sharing of "time, treasure and talent", your goodwill, and the joy that your presence brought to our Christmas liturgies, made Christmas at Lourdes very special indeed. May the blessings of all gifts, both given and received, affirm the deep faith and goodness of our parish community as it reflects Christ's shared presence in our midst and in our world.

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Ted

