

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 8, 2017**

They opened treasures
and offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
~ **Matthew 2:11b**



THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

The unfolding of the story of the Incarnation continues today as the Church celebrates the Epiphany. The tale of the magi from the East is one of the most fascinating in all of scripture. It has much to teach us about what we can come to expect, even in circumstances and places that may seem insignificant or small. Bethlehem was a tiny town, what we might refer to today as a town without even one stop light. Yet it is over this seemingly insignificant place that the guiding star stops in its own search for the place where the Savior would be born. Too often we fail to recognize the fact that the star of Bethlehem comes to rest in our everyday lives, where we can experience God's presence, manifested in ever new ways. Epiphany calls us to shake off our stupor and recognize the One who comes to save us. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrive looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).



SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Charles Nicholson	Home
Edith Bolder	Home
Mable Allen Reed	Senior Living Center
Marguerite Hamilton	Home
Jeanette Hamilton Evans	Home
Eddie Jennings	Home
Inell Hunter	Home
John Martinez, Jr.	Home
Margaret G. Jones	Research Hospital.
Martha Melton	Benton House Center
Bertha Beatty	Home
Marcheita Bush	Home
Betty Givens	Home
Mary Brown	Home
Johnny Chambers	Home
Bob Motley	Home
Lorna Lewis	Home
Carlos Nix	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
Georgia Willoughby	Myers Nursing Center.
Lavel McCullough	Home
Rosa Birch	Home
Sandra Cloyd	Home
Kevin Brown	Son of Vera Brown
Jackie Countee	Home
Phil Roos	St. Luke Hospice House
Muriel Hayes	Home

FAMILY MEMBERS: Please inform our Pastor, Fr. Tom, when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized. Call 816-471-3696 or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com

**JANUARY 15, 2017
ASSIGNMENTS**

SERVERS Coordinator: V. Ammons*
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. All Servers

LECTORS Coordinator, Rose Palmer*
8:00 a.m. Diane Charity, Mary Graham
10:00 a.m. Moses Artis, Kelly Artis

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
Coordinator, Dianna Miller*
8:00 a.m. Dianna Miller, Julia Price,
Rita Womack, Gerald Buckman

10:00 p.m. Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Linda Williams, Patricia Williams, Joann James, Deborah Buckley, Diane Charity, Jenise Comer, Bernadette Cook, Angela Curry

USHERS: E. Burtin*, J. Gillis* Coordinators
8:00 a.m. G.L. Blankinship, Elaine Johnson, Hargett Hayes,
10:00 a.m. Team B: Shannon Fields, Kim A. Urenda, Vickie Shackelford, Carolyn Jones, Leah Henderson, Cynthia Uzomah

WELCOME: Myra and Cyla Scales

3RD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOST:
Africa Rising Social Action Committee

MEETING – DATES - TIMES

SUNDAY ~ 11:30 a.m. St. Monica Building
~ Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sun.
~ 1st Communion, Sunday
~ Jr Youth Group, 2nd & 4th
(Ferguson Hall/Lower Level)
~ Senior Youth Group, 1st & 3rd
~ Confirmation Class, 2nd & 4th
~ RCIA Class, (Small Chapel)
Health Ministry 2nd Sunday 11:30 a.m.
Ushers Ministry 4th Sunday 11:30 a.m.

KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER

3rd Degree Knights	1st Sat. 1:00 p.m.
4th Degree Knights	1st Sat. 11:45 a.m.
Fr. Constantine Ct.	1st Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Ladies of Grace	4th Sun 2:00 p.m.
Jr. Daughters	2nd Sat 2:00 p.m.
Jr. Knights	1st Sun 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY

9:00 A.M. MASS

WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. ~ Communion Service
6:00 p.m. ~ Prayer Service

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. ~ Men's Breakfast & Bible Study Class
~ Women's Breakfast & Bible Study Class

FINANCE

MONTHLY GOAL	\$38,000.00
FORECASTED WEEKLY BUDGET	
Regular Offering Goal	\$7,700.00
Debt Reduction Goal	1,800.00
Weekly Offering Goal	\$9,500.00

DEANERY ONE & TWO

Quarterly Meeting - January 28th
St. Monica Church / Ferguson Hall
9:30 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Mass or Rosary, Luncheon

CONDOLENCE

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joann Richardson, whose Son, **Mr. Victor B. Worton**, passed away suddenly, last week. Funeral Services for Mr. Worton, were held on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at the Thatcher Funeral Chapel, in Kansas City, KS. Please remember Joann and the family, in your prayers.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week
Monday: The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins
Friday: St. Hilary
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

OFFERING ENVELOPES

New Method of Distribution

Effective January 2017: Registered Parishioners will no longer receive weekly envelopes by mail.

Boxed Envelopes are now available at the Church Office.

MONDAY 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

CELEBRATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY AT ST. MONICA January 16, 2017

All parishioners are invited to join Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr, and the Junior Knights of Peter Claver, on January 16, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., for the celebration of Mass, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A reception and program will be held, in the Church Hall, after the Mass.

THEME: *The Youth of Today, and the Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

PANELISTS: Youths
Bring the family, and friends.

TREASURES

~ FROM OUR TRADITION

This year, in the United States the celebration of the Epiphany falls on January 8, but the traditional date for the Epiphany is January 6. The date we know as January 6 was established as the solstice in Egypt in 1996 BC, but the Egyptian calendar lost a full day every 128 years. Twenty centuries later the actual solstice had migrated to December 25. People still kept January 6 for the solstice celebration, but December 25, matching nicely with the Roman pagan feast of the Unconquered Sun, launched an extended solstice holiday. By the time of the early church, the whole period of twelve days was celebrated just about everywhere.

Christians began to celebrate Christ as the true light of the world in four themes: the Nativity, the manifestation to the Gentiles, the baptism of the Lord, and the wedding feast at Cana. That was entirely too much for one day to handle. A twelve-day season was ready to be adapted, so Christians borrowed from the pagan calendar for their own season of light. Thus early Christian celebrations of the Christmas season extended from one date for the solstice, December 25, to the older date, January 6. The darkest time in the Northern Hemisphere could now be filled with the Christian observance of the arrival of the Light of the World.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LITURGICAL WORKSHOP SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH

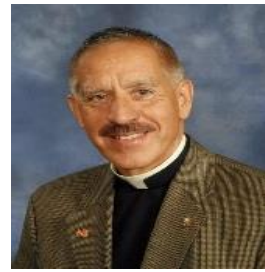
The Diocese will host a Liturgical Workshop, Saturday, January 28th, at the Catholic Center, 20 W 9th Street, K.C.MO 64105. **Cost: \$20.00, for Reader/Lector or Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion Training. If you choose to do both, trainings. The cost is \$40.00. As usual, this amount will be billed directly to the parishes.**

St. Monica parishioners: Please call the church office to register.



St. Monica's Music Ministry would like to extend an invitation to YOU to join us (Both Choirs). See any Choir Member.

FROM FATHER'S DESK



Greetings on this 2nd Sunday of the Year, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord! This feast has such a great story attached to

it, one that is told time after time, from one generation to the next. It is a very important part of the Christmas story. This part of the story reveals, through the Magi more about this Jesus that was born in the manger. The story tells us that the Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Traditionally, we have said that the gold represents the Kingship of Jesus, the frankincense represents his priestly role, and the myrrh represents the oil that his body was covered with at his death. The story of the Magi also reveals to us that from the beginning, Jesus came into the world for all people (Jew and Gentile). This feast represents the universality of Christ's message. All who seek Christ are guided by faith to the place where Christ was born in their life. We walk by the light of faith, by the light of Christ, and as we do we experience moments of epiphany, that is moments of sudden insight into God's plan in our lives, and God's presence in our world.

As the Magi went back to their homes by another route, we too can know that after we come to know who Jesus is, we are changed, our life is different.

As you have celebrated this Advent/Christmas season once again, and have come to know this Jesus in the story of his birth, are you any different? Does the story change you in any way? Do you bring "Joy to the World?" Is there a "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright" in your life? One final time, I wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Peace and joy always,
Fr. Tom

REPORT CHILD ABUSE

- Call the Missouri Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline, 800-361-2665, or Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, 816-2500.

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday - Noon

