



Dear Friends,

Remember whenever you made a new discovery? Remember how exciting it was to see something for the first time? Somehow, every new discovery sparked the imagination and peaked our interest in things that led us to further investigation.

It seems that children in every age go through lingering stages of fascination with certain things. When I was little, I recall being fascinated with dinosaurs. I read voraciously about them. I used to imagine how big they were and what it must have been like for them to be roaming around on this planet. When I was able to go to a museum and see a dinosaur skeleton for the first time, I was awestruck at the magnitude of its size. I was mind-boggled by the age of the bones. I lingered around it for a long period of time just to soak in the mystery of what I was looking at.

In some ways, I did the same thing when I was older. During my college years, I studied art and was particularly captured by my Art History course. It was there that I grew in a much deeper appreciation of the Masters and their unique styles. A few years later, when I had the opportunity to visit the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., I saw a collection of original works by some of the great masters that I had studied. I was completely mesmerized by these original works. I could hardly believe that I was standing there witnessing these monumental masterpieces and was astounded by the sheer mastery of their technique. I think that I irritated the people that I was with because I spent so much time studying these great paintings in detail. It did not matter to me because the experience awakened within me a tremendous love for art.

If these kinds of discoveries have such an impact upon us, think what the discovery of the infant Jesus would have been like for the Wise Men who followed the star leading them to Him in the manger! The revelation of Christ to these wanderers obviously had a profound and lasting impact upon them. They set off looking for one thing and discovered something far greater than they could have ever imagined! Their minds; their imaginations were illuminated as they realized that they were gazing upon the Newborn King, the Savior of the World. To make this discovery awakened within them something that must have impacted them for the rest of their lives. They were changed men. The Scriptures tell us that because of their experience, they could not return to King Herod who sought news about the child. Instead, led by the Holy Spirit, they departed by another route.

It is this same kind of discovery that God desires for us as we celebrate this Feast of the Epiphany. He wants us to have a deep and intimate encounter with Jesus, the Lord, and to develop a deepening fascination with His life. Unlike worldly fascinations which come and go or increase and fade with familiarity, our encounter with the Lord only becomes greater and more profound. Jesus is the ultimate mystery. He never gets old!

Open your heart and your mind as Jesus manifests himself to you. Allow him to bring you to an ever increasing Epiphany and discovery of His plan for you. Don't ever let the cloud of cynicism or doubt creep in. He is the Lord of the Universe! What could be more fascinating than that? God bless.

Fr. Paul

**Saturday, January 2, 2009**

8:00 AM +James Utley  
by Golden Girls Club Team #4  
4:30 PM +Robert Marion Black  
by Larry & Carolyn Shapka

**Sunday, January 3, 2009**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:30 AM +Bronson Blake  
by Kathy Blake  
11:00AM +Jose & Evita Mendez  
by Manuel & Sylvia Rosales  
6:00 PM Parishioners & Benefactors of St. John's

**Monday, January 4, 2009**

8:00 AM +Celia De Leon  
by De Leon Family

**Tuesday, January 5, 2009**

8:00 AM +Leroy Lidiak  
by Kathy & Don Deis

**Wednesday, January 6, 2009**

8:00 AM +Lydia Canales  
by Elvia Joslin

**Thursday, January 7, 2009**

8:00 AM +Sam Huff  
by Oscar & Ola Mae Soliz

**Friday, January 8, 2009**

10:00 AM +Elia G. Jaime  
by Teena & Jerry Bracco

**Next Saturday, January 9, 2009**

8:00 AM +James Ytley  
by Golden Girls Club Team #4  
4:30 PM +Robert Blake  
by Walter & Dolores Taylor

**Next Sunday, January 10, 2009**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

8:30 AM +Blanch Soucek  
by Mr & Mrs Max McMorrow  
11:00 AM Dorothy Janosek - Happy Birthday  
by Mr & Mrs Steve Janosek  
6:00 PM Parishioners & Benefactors

**Readings for the Week of January 3, 2010**

**Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord  
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12  
**Monday:** Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious  
1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 98; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
**Tuesday:** Saint John Neumann, bishop  
1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 100; Mk 6:34-44  
**Wednesday:** Blessed André Bessette, religious  
1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72; Mk 6:45-52  
**Thursday:** Saint Raymond of Peñafort, priest  
1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 2; Lk 4:14-22a  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 72; Lk 5:12-16  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 72; Jn 3:22-30  
**Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord  
Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH ...**



Paul Koehler, Chris Perez, Beatrice Ferrell, Joseph A. Eicher, Edward Nemecek, Oscar Soliz, Gus Blomquist, Jimmy Alvarez, Florence Fuertez, Eddie Rivera, Mary Ann Broyles, Mike Konz, Gabriel Alvarado, Cookie Adame, Cameron Marshall, Frances La Vecchia, Gilbert Rodriguez, Alvaro Ramos Olier, Cattia Longoria, Debbie Fuqua, Amelia Ysasi Herrera, Reid Ebrom, Antonia Martinez, David & Ariana Hernandez, Joseph Treviño, J. R. Rios, Adan Benavides, Sr., Mia Jolie Rios.

## The Epiphany of the Lord

### Please Pray For Our Troops



Sgt. Roger Elkins, Glen Turner Jr., Sgt Matt Maufin, Aaron Philipchuck, Dwayne Solis, Charles Krohn Jr., Oscar Rossi Billy Swatzell, James O'Donnell, Paul Adame, Brandon Felton, Zicorian Coleman, Wendy Hand, D'Aldo Alaniz, Paul Walton, Joseph Yglesias, Jaime Robles, Rudy Hoyt, Roseann Guerrero, Sr. Airman Charlie Stevens, Sr. Airman Patrick Scheuter, Matt Hettinger, Mike Brown, Erik Garza, Damian Saldivar, Maj. Chuck Taylor, Alex Saucedo, Jay Alvarez, John Rodriguez, Jr., Jimmy Karjian, Orlando Rodriguez, Ken Demick, Yvette T. Demick, Scott Nielsen, Timothy Johnson, Mr. Rogers, Lt. jg John Dolby III, Michael Nelson, Michael A. Berry, Gabriel Reza, Mike Llamas, Manny Olvalle, Luis Martinez, Lt. Hector Jude Garcia, Lt. jg Kristopher McAbee, Capt. John A. Malley, Chris Hesse, Natalie Manzano, Capt. Cristian Alejandro Pinzon, David D. Ruiz, Melissa Davila, Ramon Panganiban, Jr., Sgt. Carlos Torres, Jr., Michael D. Valdez, Lt. Norman Renfro.

### Ministry Schedules

#### This Week's Lectors:

#### Next Week' Lectors

4:30 pm Brenda Garcia	4:30 pm to be announced
8:30am Lillian Cardiel	8:30am to be announced
11:00am Julio Dimas	11:00am to be announced

#### This Week's EM's:

#### Next Week's EM's:

4:30 pm Maricela Spencer, Anita Joya, Judy Beckman, Janie & Ed Salinas, Patty & Richard Dolan	4:30 pm Olaya Soliz, Luz Bernardo, Linda, Michael & Crystal Hite
8:30am Kathy Jo Overstreet, Mary Carrillo, Mark & Mary Jo Cheesman, Ronnie Balderas	8:30am Maricela Spencer, Connie Salas, Bonner Dorsey, Roland & Leila Longoria
11:00am Albert Lichtenberger, Judy Cruz, Cindy Morin, Beto & Minnie Peña, Norma Huerta	11:00 am Maribel Muñoz, Rene & Janie Esquivel, Cat Longoria, Judy Cruz, Velma Moreno

#### This Week's Ushers:

#### Next Week's Ushers:

4:30pm James Coburn, Michael Hite, Larry Dechant, Margaret Dechant	4:30pm James Coburn, Gene Gonzalez, Patty Dolan, Richard Dolan
8:30am Al Medina, Lou Medina, David Berlanga, Elizabeth Berlanga	8:30am Lawrence Balderas, Rhonda Balderas, Steve Hansen, Monica Hansen
11:00am Vanessa Bedoya, Victoria Bedoya, Eddie Cruz, Henry Lamb	11:00am Roberto Moreno, Mike Navada, David Garcia, Henry Lamb

### Sunday Collection



December 20, 2009

Envelope & Loose	\$9,034.20
Building Fund	120.00
Christmas Flowers	105.00
Religious Retirement	1,811.68

### St. John's Parish Dates to Remember

Jan 05 6:30 PM	Junior Girl Scouts Meeting	RM #4
Jan 10 9:00 AM	Blood Drive	
Jan 11 7:00 PM	Women's Council Meeting	RM #1
Jan 12 6:30 PM	Junior Girl Scouts	RM #4

### Julliard Students to perform

Join us for a special evening of music straight from Julliard School of Music in New York. The featured musical artists are Craig Hubbard - French horn, and Melissa Hooper - Oboe. This fabulous presentation will be held at St. John's Church on **Monday, January 4th at 7:00 p.m.** and admission is free to the public.

### CCD Christmas Break

There will be **NO CCD** Classes from December 20<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume **January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

### Mother Theresa Homeless Shelter



Sister Rose, her staff and all their clients are so grateful to the generous members of St. John's for the wonderful gifts contributed through the angel tree. Your gifts brought joy to so many of the less fortunate. Thank you for all you do. We will be making a regular delivery to the shelter on **Wednesday, January 13.** Paper products, laundry supplies, hand sanitizer, and personal hygiene items, are greatly appreciated and needed. They also have a special need for coffee and coffee creamer.

### Ministries Day Conference

Everyone involved in any ministry or organization at St. John's is encouraged and urged to attend the annual Ministries Day Conference sponsored by the Diocese of Corpus Christi. The conference features speakers on various topics related to ministry, pastoral care, and charity. The Keynote Speaker is Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn. The Conference will be held on **Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** To receive the group rate: Register at the parish office. Cost is \$20, of which the parish will pay half for anyone interested. Please register as soon as possible. For more information call 991-4400.

### Diabetes Class

If you have been diagnosed with diabetes, complications like blindness, kidney failure & amputation do not have to happen to you. Diabetes is one disease you can take charge of. Learn what you can do to prevent complications in the "Controlling Your Diabetes Class", offered weekly by the Texas A&M Health Science Center-Coastal Bend Health Education Center. Call (361) 857-2945 to find out more information.

### Youth Ministry Announcements

**LIFE TEEN:** Get ready for our Spring **KICKOFF next Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm-8:30pm! \*

**EDGE:** A new semester of **EDGE** is almost here! Be there **next Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm-8:15pm! \*

\*If you are new to Life Teen or Edge or haven't filled out a registration yet, go to [www.stjohnyouth.com](http://www.stjohnyouth.com) and click on Life Teen/Edge and go to "registration" on the right to print out a form.