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Epiphany of the Lord • January 8, 2012

Good News!

January 8, 2012

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12

You're sitting in a lawyer's office for the reading of your parents' will. You expect to be splitting your inheritance with your siblings, but then you're told you'll also be sharing it with someone unrelated to you—someone you find quite distasteful. Wouldn't you be shocked? speechless? furious?

That's exactly what happened to the first followers of Christ, who were Jewish. God's chosen people, they believed that Christ came to redeem the children of Israel. And indeed he did. But as we hear today from Saint Paul, Christ also came for the Gentiles—the non-Jews. Saint Paul writes, "The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus." This was difficult for Jesus' Jewish followers to absorb. The Gentiles were not related to the Jews by bloodline, so how could they also be chosen by God for Christ?

The Gospel story of the Magi also brought home this truth. The magi were Gentiles, and their coming signaled that Jesus was a light to all nations, not just Israel.

This message of inclusivity was hard for Jesus' Jewish followers to hear, and it's difficult to hear today. How much time do Christians spend bickering among ourselves, labeling each other "conservative" or "liberal" and demonizing those we consider "less Christian"?

Today's feast demands better of us. Until we give up the infighting, we're shrouded in darkness. Epiphany is about celebrating the light that Jesus is for all, and the light we Christians are called to be—together, as coheirs, copartners, and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Janel Esker

sundaybulletins@liguori.org



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Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Cison

Office Hours - Mon., Tues., & Fri. - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sick/Shut-Ins

Patricia Cinea 860-646-0564

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Saint Maurice Church 860-643-4466

e-mail: stmauricechurch@sbcglobal.net

www.stmauricekofc.org

Website: saintmauricebolton.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Holy Days at 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

If you are new in the Parish, please register and introduce yourself to the Pastor. The Parishioners wish to meet and serve you! Drop by at our Coffee Social or Pancake Breakfast after the Sunday Mass, both per the Calendar online or as announced inside the bulletin. We hope you will favor our Parish with your prayers, your presence, your talents and your financial assistance according to your means!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

By appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please call the rectory (860-643-4466) to arrange for a meeting with the Pastor.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Arrangements must start more than 6 months before marriage. Necessary interviews, a pre-cana course and plenty of paperwork is required. We strongly urge you to contact us to begin the Diocesan preparation course as soon as you are engaged to get the most out of it without rush.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

The Sacramental Guidelines define Church Membership in terms of Sunday Mass attendance and Church support. For membership verification and sponsorship certificate, registration and regular use of the envelope system are the only way we have of verifying this for you. Please notify us if there are changes in your address, marital status, etc., so that we may update your records.

VISITATION TO THE SICK:

We are most anxious to help anyone who is not able to celebrate Mass with us in Church due to illness, handicapped or age. If you wish the Sacraments, please call 860-643-4466.

THIS WEEK

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7TH - 8TH, 2012

Faith Formation 9a.m.-9:45a.m.

Second Collection National Combined Appeal

TRIPLE PLAY CAFE BREAKFAST

Blood Pressure Screening

Ushers' Group II

SATURDAY, JAN. 7

4:00 P.M., Mass offered for **+Joyce Bachl**
request of Teresa Macutkiewicz and
Wanda Aubey and for **+Jerry Chemerka**
request of Sheila Chemerka

SUNDAY, JAN. 8

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for **+Walter Treschuk**
request of Louise Smith

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

10:00 A.M. Mass offered for **+Arlene Griffin**
request of Cliff & Sharon Scorso
5:30 P.M. LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, JAN. 9

9:00 a.m. Mass offered for a **Special Intention**
request of Sima Guth

TUESDAY, JAN. 10 Mass offered for Coley
Conneely request of Tony & Kathleen
Conneely

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

7:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY JAN 11

9:00 a.m. Mass offered for **Wally Blair** request
of Dorli & Lou Cloutier
3p.m.-7p.m.

***ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT***

THURSDAY JAN. 12 NO MASS

7:00 p.m. K of C Business meeting

FRIDAY, JAN. 13 NO MASS

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

St. Maurice Youth Group meeting
for grades 5-12

SATURDAY, JAN 14

ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS

7:00 p.m. Movie Night for Confirmation Students
and their parents at Parish Center

NEXT WEEK

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 14TH - 15TH, 2012

NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Ushers' Group III

SATURDAY, JAN. 14

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for **+Joyce Bachl and**
for +Richard Hein

Altar Servers: Elena & Catherine Fiano

Lector: Barbara Fiano

Eucharistic Minister: Annedda Stiller

SUNDAY, JAN. 15

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for **+Walter Treschuk**

Altar Servers: Shirley Warbeck

Lector: Joel Cohan

Eucharistic Minister: Arlene Giglio

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

10:00 A.M. Mass offered for **+Cecile Lavoie**

Altar Servers: Angelica & Alex Czercowy

Lector: Jennifer Carvalho

Eucharistic Minister: Lou Cloutier

5:30 P.M. LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, JAN. 16

9:00 a.m. Mass

TUESDAY, JAN. 17

9:00 a.m. Mass

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18

9:00 a.m. Mass

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

***ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT***

THURSDAY, JAN. 20 No Mass

FRIDAY, JAN. 21 No Mass

SATURDAY, JAN. 22

ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS

Last week's regular offertory \$ 3,857.98

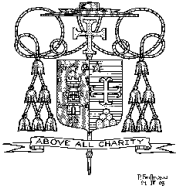
Last week's Christmas offering \$ 2,796

Last year's offertory \$ 3,815

January 7th - 8th

*"They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they
opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense
and myrrh....." Mt: 2:11*

Notice the distinct order of events in the Magi's visit. First
they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they
presented Him with their gifts. We, too must take time to
pray before we presume to present our gifts to the Lord.
We never know what gifts God might be asking us to
share. But when we knell before Him in prayer we will
find the answer.



Diocese of Norwich
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MOST REVEREND MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.
December 22, 2011

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Annually, the Church in the United States celebrates National Vocation Awareness Week (January 9-14). During these days, we reflect upon our own vocation and we pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Through faith we know that God has created every human being as unique and unrepeatable. God has given our lives purpose, a calling that fulfills His plan for us. This week is devoted to discerning through prayer and the Sacraments our vocation and to pray for those whom the Lord calls to priesthood, diaconate, religious life, marriage, or the single state. As we embrace that gift, the Lord sustains us with His love. He strengthens us through His grace and makes available everything we need to live faithfully our response to His call.

Today, those who are called to live sacramentally a life of Holy Matrimony are under attack. We need to join them in prayer that they will be faithful to their marriage vows. At the same time, we must pray for young women and men who are preparing for marriage. They need the prayerful support of all of us in God's family to live in fidelity and love all the days of their lives.

Certainly, all of us are aware of the challenges priests face today. I am very grateful to my brother priests for their faithfulness, dedication, and commitment. The Norwich Diocese has always enjoyed many prayerful, talented, and zealous priests. Yet we still face difficult times. Currently, the Diocese has five (5) men studying for the priesthood. Daily we pray that they will persevere in responding to God's call to priesthood. At the same time, sixteen (16) priests will be reaching retirement age in the next four (4) years. This startling statistic underlines the importance of praying for vocations.

During this National Vocation Awareness Week, let us take the time to pray for all who answer God's call – priests, deacons, and religious, married couples, and those in the single state – that they may be strengthened in living their vocations and that they may be dedicated and faithful in their service to the Lord and the Church.

May God our Heavenly Father bestow His blessings upon you throughout the coming year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Cote". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop of Norwich



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