

January 3, 2016 Epiphany of the Lord (year C)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany. The purpose of the story is to show that Christ came for all the nations of the world. The Magi, wise men probably astronomers or astrologers, represent the non-Jewish world. There was still debate in the early church whether Jesus had come only for the Jewish people. Matthew was writing primarily to Jewish Christians. The “infancy narrative” of Matthew which includes the massacre of boys two years or under, and the flight into Egypt, has special meaning in today’s world. There are millions of migrants throughout the world who are fleeing their homes. Many children are dying on this perilous journey. What should we do about them? Before we make a judgment, remember that the Holy Family was a refugee family.

Our fundraising campaign to repair our stained glass windows will not take place until at least September of this year. The regular Cardinal’s Stewardship Appeal will begin in January of this year. Our assessment is \$31,500.00. The Archdiocesan Capital Improvement Campaign will begin in the Fall of this year (perhaps later). This campaign will try to raise money to pay for the repairs to St. Patrick’s Cathedral and the repair of our stained glass windows. The money is divided in this way: 73% for the needs of the local parish and 27% for the Cathedral.

To Continue our description of our windows in the clerestory: on the north side window 2(A): St. Rose of Lima. Her halo is blue. She holds two pink roses in her right hand and her left hand is over her heart. Rose was not a nun but a lay member of the Dominican Third Order and wore the Dominican white habit with black mantle and veil. She is shown with a crown of thorns because she did actually wear a sharp metal crown of thorns but she hid it under her veil so no one could see it. She also kept a rose garden. She took the name of Rose at her Confirmation. Her name was Isabel Flores she was born in the Spanish colony of Peru. After becoming a Dominican tertiary, she lived in a shack as a hermitess and tended a beautiful rose garden. She was a very holy woman who nursed the sick and practiced incredible mortifications and penances. She knew St. Martin of Porres very well. She is credited with saving the city of Lima during a critical attack. She died on August 24, 1586 and was canonized a saint in 1671. She is the patroness of South America.

During the next few months we will be printing excerpts from Pope Francis’s letter, “Laudato Si”. It has special relevance for our times.



COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, December 27, 2015 was \$3,330.34

The second collection next Sunday January 10, 2016 will be for *Catholic Communications/ Catholic University of America*, truly a unique institution of higher learning, *the Catholic University of America* is the only one funded by the United States bishops and chartered by the Vatican. Because of this, the university belongs to each of us no matter where we may reside. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to assist the university in educating the future leaders of our Church and nation. Also, through the Catholic Communications Campaign, the bishops’ conference is able to serve the archdioceses of our nation by producing spiritual and educational programs for radio and television.



The Epiphany of the Lord:

Today in our Christian tradition we celebrate the Epiphany or manifestation of Christ to the whole world. An epiphany can also be a new insight or realization. Gathered together on this Sunday of the Epiphany, what new insight about our faith and our God can we discover? Let us pray to be open to what God continues to do for us in our lives.



Religious Education News:

Classes will resume on January 9, 2016.

Pope Francis:



God is in love with us. He becomes small to help us love him in return.

Encyclical on the Environment: *Laudato Si’: on care for our Common Home*, the much anticipated encyclical of Pope Francis on the environment, was released to the world on Thursday, June 18th, 2015. People all over the world eagerly awaited the Pope’s call to save god’s creation and protect the poor (who are those most harmed by ecological destruction). News coverage was extensive and it generated much interest among people of many faiths around the world. You can find an introduction to the encyclical in a 61/2 minute video that features Catholic voices, online at: <http://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2015/06/video-outlines-background-for-pope-francis-papal-encyclical/> or go to Yale Climate Connections and search “encyclical background”