

CHRISTMAS 2014...



ABOUT THE SAINT JOSEPH PARISH CRÈCHE...

Because it graphically tells the story of the Nativity, The



Crèche is a central focus of the Liturgies of Christmas and Epiphany. Our present Crèche, remarkable in its execution and detail, was a gift of the Philip and Nancy Mancini family who commissioned construction in early 1998 through another parishioner, Mr. S. Thomas Baker who worked with San Francisco artisan Delwin Rimbey. The figures of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Joseph, the Infant Jesus, the Angels, shepherds and animals are contemporary Spanish carvings enhanced with acrylic color detailing by Rosemarie Altberg. The Crèche was first used at the institution of the MASS AT THE CRÈCHE FOR CHILDREN on Christmas Eve 1998.

The seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are times of significant teaching, revelation and growth enabled through liturgies to focus our lives...all are invited to join in the remarkable experience.

ELEVATOR SERVICE RESTORATION...

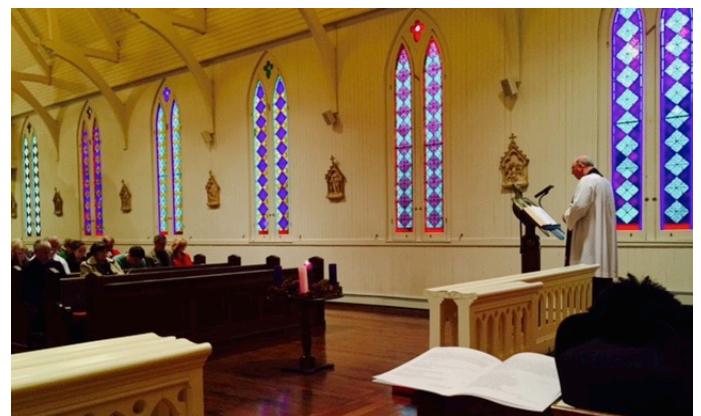
Work commenced mid November continues underway. While not completed in time for this Christmas, good progress is being made. The first construction stage is complete as this issue goes to press. Watch for additional reports appearing in THE PARISH TIMES

ADVENT SUNDAY LESSONS & CAROLS...

More than 70 people were involved in this moving and meaningful service commencing the New Church Year.



Guest Organist Angela Kraft Cross and choristers pause rehearsal for a moment in their preparation for this annual event, a 15-year parochial signature in the community.



Our new signage, special event banners, restored Saint Joseph Parish identity and personal invitations attracted many visitors to experience this moving and meaningful preparation for Christmas and Epiphany. We remain from our founding...*THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM* We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.

RECTOR'S THOUGHT AND REVIEW

REACHING OUTWARD...

Significant changes marked Church Year 2014...now accomplished, we pause for a moment to observe our restored identity, new website, increased communication and greater visibility...our reach is greater than ever before. We turn now to the challenge of 2015...making Saint Joseph Parish further known *Urbi et Orbi* – 'churchese' Latin loosely translated [to] *City and World*...it is a serious challenge with which we are more enabled and poised than ever before. Expect to hear more...!

Meanwhile...

WHAT IS **THE EPIPHANY**...WHY IS IT IMPORTANT...?



First...the word itself...not exactly everyday common speak – some might say, kind of hi-minded 'churchy talk' means, according to Merriam-Webster, *an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure* – in plain-speak, the *AH !...now I get it, moment.*

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

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The Church Seasons each have a particular teaching and call to action...Christmas teaches us about the birth of Jesus...Epiphany systematically teaches us who Jesus is...we watch him grow up...we come to understand the evolution of Jesus' life is indeed the pragmatic revelation of God's promise Isaiah told and we studied during our Advent procession to Christmas.

The Epiphany commences with the Visitation of the Magi or Wise Men or Three Kings – one in the same, who followed the star to see, and with the shepherds, go and tell the world, "things have changed...something remarkable has happened...there is new opportunity." In like manner, we are invited to join in this progression, learn, take charge of our future, tell others, share in the reward of God coming among us, taking on our human nature, showing himself to and for us.

The Christmas Season concludes for the secular world with taking down the tree, packing away ornaments, changing the music. For the Church, our learning and growth with the Gift of Life has only commenced...let us be able to say together... *AH YES...now I get it...!*

All best wishes and blessings of Christmas and Epiphany...

- Father John Altberg

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