

FROM THE RECTOR...

WE ARE "EPIPHANIES"...



In the early Church, Christians, particularly those in the East, celebrated the Advent (Coming) of Jesus on 6 January by commemorating the Nativity, the Visitation of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the Wedding at Cana all in one Feast of the Epiphany. This continues to be the practice in most of the Eastern churches today...where the feast is observed as "Theophany"...from the Greek meaning "Revelation of God."

By 567 AD Christmas Day and the Epiphany were set as 25 December and 6 January respectively. The two feasts became the bookends in the Western Church of what we now call the "Christmas Season"...the "Twelve Days of Christmas." In the Western Church the focus of the "Epiphany"...from the Greek "Revelation from Above"...shifted exclusively toward commemorating the Visitation of the Magi as recorded in Matthew 2.1-12.

Christmas and Epiphany are inextricably linked...we can't understand the Nativity without understanding God's revelation of himself to us through Jesus...to the Wise Men from far away countries...whose gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh point to his Kingship over all Creation, His Godhead, and his ultimate Sacrifice at the Crucifixion.

This year there are three numbered Sundays after Epiphany. The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (2 February) takes precedence over the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. The Gospels focus on specific events in the life of Christ...his "epiphanies"...Manifestations or Striking Appearances...during which Jesus reveals his glory.

The First Sunday after Epiphany...the Finding of Jesus in the Temple as recorded in Luke 2.41-52 is the only episode in the later childhood of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. The Holy Family is returning home to Nazareth after celebrating Passover in Jerusalem when they discover Jesus missing. They find Jesus in the Temple having a discussion with the teachers and lawyers. Mary scolds him for scaring her and Joseph. Jesus' response seems dismissive..."Don't you know I have to be about my father's business." However, at age 12, Jesus would have been considered an adult, and tells his parents he has to be doing his Father's work and the Temple was the place to start.

Mary knows fully well who Jesus is and Scripture records she "treasured these things in her heart."

The Second Sunday after Epiphany – The Baptism of Our Lord as recorded in Mark 1.1-8 is the earliest account we have of this important event in the life of Jesus. Father Massey Shepherd, author of the *Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*, writes it was at the moment of his Baptism, Jesus "became maturely conscious of His unique Sonship to His Father. With the Baptism of Jesus John's role as the forerunner was definitely fulfilled." Jesus himself is the object of the "epiphany". Mark records at the moment of his Baptism the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit like a dove descended on Jesus, and God declared Jesus to be his Son. The Baptism of Jesus by water and the Spirit is the pattern for our own initiation into the fellowship of the Communion of Saints.

The Third Sunday after Epiphany – The Wedding Feast at Cana...is the first miracle Jesus performs at the beginning of his Galilean ministry and is only recorded by John the Evangelist. Unlike his Baptism...this "epiphany" is a public event. When Mary tells Jesus there is no more wine...his apparent snarky reply..."Woman, what have I to do with thee?" (KJV)...was actually a common (not disrespectful) contemporary Hebrew phrase. He knew the wine was gone and shows his power over nature by miraculously providing more and better wine. There is also an Incarnational element to the story...Jesus approves of weddings and likes wedding banquets.

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, commonly called the Purification of Mary the Virgin, is recorded in Luke 2.22-30 and is one of the most poignant scenes in the New Testament. When he was 40 days old...Jesus was presented for service to God in the Temple...and "bought back" with two doves. The aged Simeon was promised he would see the world's salvation before he died. He recognizes Jesus is the promised Savior as praises God in the words of the *Nunc dimittis*, "he has seen the Light to lighten the World." Simeon held God in his hands. When he tells Mary her heart will be broken, he is foretelling Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the Cross.

During this Epiphany Season...let's remember our friends and relatives who have been "epiphanies" in our lives...who have helped guide us in our faith. Then let us try to become "epiphanies" for others...and help guide them to Jesus the Light of the World.

Father Craig Looney +

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2019
9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON
POTLUCK LUNCHEON



Every-Member Canvass

Every-Member Canvass letters were mailed out during the week of 15 December. Please give prayerful thought and consideration when making your 2020 Pledge. Please return your signed and dated pledge card to the Parish Office by Sunday 12 January 2020. This will give the Vestry time to prepare a Proposed Budget to present to the Parish at the Annual Parish Corporation Meeting.



Vestry Meeting

The Vestry will meet in the Library at 10:30 AM on Sunday 19 January. Regular sessions of the Vestry are open to all interested parishioners. Discussion Group will not meet.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Corporation Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 26 January 2020 immediately following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass. Members of the Parish who are current on their 2019 Pledge and have made a Pledge for 2020 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

During the meeting we will review and approve Minutes of the 2019 APCM, hear reports from the Rector, Senior and Junior Wardens and Treasurer. We will review and approve a Budget for 2020...and elect new Vestry members.

A short Vestry Meeting will follow during which the Rector will appoint a Senior Warden and the Vestry will elect officers. Coffee and fellowship time will follow the meeting. Discussion Group will not meet.



If you are currently receiving your copy of The Parish Times by USPS but would prefer to receive it electronically...please send an e-mail to Father Looney at frcp12004@sbcglobal.net.

2020 ORDO KALENDARS...



2020 Ordo Kalendars conforming to the *Book of Common Prayer (1928)* and *Anglican and American Missals* are now available. The Ordo Kalendar includes useful information about the Seasons of the Church Year, the Liturgical colors used throughout the Church Year and A Table for Finding Easter Day through the Year 2050. There is no charge for the Ordo Kalendar.



The three Sundays preceding Ash Wednesday are Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima and refer to the Seventieth, Sixtieth and Fiftieth days before Easter. They form a transitional season sometimes called "Gesimatide" between the Last Sunday after Epiphany and Shrove Tuesday...the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

More commonly called "Pre-Lent"...Gesimatide is a penitential season like Lent...violet vestments are worn by the Celebrant...flowers are absent from the Altar...the Gloria in excelsis and Alleluias are not said or sung during the Liturgy.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will take place on Tuesday 25 February. We begin at 6:00 PM with Evening Prayer in the Church. Supper follows with men of the Parish cooking and serving tasty sausage, scrambled eggs and pancakes. Please sign up on the sheet provided.



26 FEBRUARY 2020

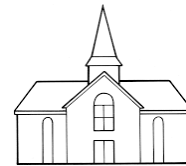
12:15 PM – BLESSING AND IMPOSITION
OF ASHES, LOW MASS & HOMILY

6:00 PM – PENITENTIAL OFFICE
IMPOSITION OF ASHES
HOLY COMMUNION
FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

XXII PROVINCIAL SYNOD...



Rebekah Shapiro and Father Looney are delegates to the XXII Provincial Synod of the Anglican Catholic Church...to be held in Atlanta, GA, 14-17 January. This will be joint synod with the Anglican Province in America, the Anglican Church in America and the Diocese of the Holy Cross. Each jurisdiction will hold it's own meetings and then will come together for the Synod Mass, Banquet and Fellowship.



A PRAYER FOR PARISH GROWTH

O GOD, WHO KNOWEST THE NEED OF ALL THY CREATURES, AND DOST BESTOW THE FAVOUR OF THY GRACE ALIKE UPON THE HUMBLE AND THE GREAT; BE WITH US IN ALL OUR ENDEAVORS DEVOTED TO THY SERVICE, AND GRANT US, WE BESECH THEE, SUCH INCREASE OF NUMBERS AND OF MEANS AS WILL SECURE THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER TO THE WORSHIP AND GLORY OF THY SON, OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, WHO LIVETH AND REIGNETH WITH THEE AND THE HOLY GHOST, ONE GOD, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON
COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP
WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR



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.



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