

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3, 2021

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Oftentimes called the Feast of the Three Kings or Little Christmas, today's feast day is a continuation of our Christmas holidays, as we see Jesus, manifested to the Gentiles as King, deserving of gold, Lord, deserving of frankincense, and Savior, deserving of myrrh to be used for his burial, as He dies for the salvation of the world.

Don't forget to bless your homes today, marking your main door with the initials of the 3 Kings 20+C+M+B+21, also the Latin abbreviation, Christus mansionem benedicat (May Christ bless the house.)

A CHRISTMAS WE WILL LONG REMEMBER. Why should we have expected Christmas 2020 to be any different than the rest of the year? Not only were our Christmas celebrations curtailed by the effects of the corona pandemic, but God's hand moved Mother Nature to keep most of us at home (and safe) by blanketing us with over 1 foot of snow. The number of people may have been down for our Christmas liturgies, but our spirits were high. Ed Ferrazzoli, our loyal organist and music director made it to church to lead our smaller than normal choir in providing us with beautiful music. We were also able to hear this year, a number of our familiar Slovenian Christmas songs translated into English, especially at the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. It was the first time since the pandemic began in late February that we also had altar servers, who did a great job as usual. The church was once again beautifully decorated. We forgot to mention in last week's bulletin, the help that Paul Lipold offered in decorating the church. Even though only a few children could participate in the Christmas Pageant this year, Toni Jo Kozak, Gina Manning and Christine Nemeč still managed to organize a simple, yet inspiring pageant.

Christmas is a celebration of the Incarnation, God becoming one with us in our humanity. Through our human senses: sight, touch, smell and hearing, we experienced the divine presence of God among us in our liturgies.

For those who could not attend Mass, we were able to live-stream both the Christmas Vigil and the Midnight Masses. It took a lot of long hours and professional expertise of Nevio Prosen, Tony Cerer and Martin Marsic to provide WiFi for the church and set up a permanent camera. There were some glitches, but if you only knew the number of difficulties they experienced and how they patiently worked through them, they truly deserve our thanks and gratitude. Hats off to you!!

We thank our many benefactors who continued their support of our parish with their generous gifts. We thank our friends who blessed us at the rectory with cards, gifts and delicious bakery.

We've crossed the threshold into the New Year. May God's abundant blessings be with all of you for your generosity and loyalty to St. Mary's. May God keep us all safe and healthy, and may we rejoice that God is always with us. Not even a pandemic nor a snowstorm could deprive us of the light, hope and peace of Jesus, our Savior.

Today's Psalm Response

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Sunday Offering, Dec. 20th: \$5,303

Sunday Offering, Dec. 27th: \$6,490

Christmas Collection: \$43,701.27

Retired Religious Collection: \$1,240

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: \$210

Church Needs: \$100 in memory of Robin Phillips from sister, Laureen Suhay; \$200 in memory of Lillian Krzywicki from Nick & Andrea Borstnik & Krzywicki Family; \$200 in memory of Mary Maršič from Vera Maršič; \$100 from Donna Tomc; \$100 from Constance Cetinsky; \$100 in memory of Dorothy and John Urbancich from Jim & Madeline Debevec.

The following in memory of Marica Lavriša: \$50 from Matija & Breda Lončar, \$50 from Jim & Madeline Debevec, \$20 from Matt & MaryAnn Hozjan, \$20 from M/M Paul Hren, \$10 from Jože & Jožica Majer, \$20 from Ursula Stepec, \$20 from Victor Stepec, \$50 from M/M Stan Zalar, \$50 from Antonia Urankar, \$30 from Slovenska Pristava Pensioners.

The following in memory of Dr. Edi Gobetz: \$50 from Frank & Karen Sorc, \$50 from Jim & Madeline Debevec, \$25 from Zachary & Maria Bruner, \$25 from Julie Drobnick, \$20 from Edward Veider, \$20 from M/M Paul Hren, \$30 from Matt & Agnes Golobič, \$10 from Jože & Jožica Majer, \$50 from M/M Stan Zalar, \$20 from Ursula Stepec, \$20 from Victor Stepec, \$50 from Antonia Urankar, \$30 from Slovenska Pristava Pensioners, \$40 from Mary Ricardi.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO THE PARISH: \$50 from Jerry & Josie Taricska; \$40 on the 40th anniversary of death of Edward Pozelnik from Carol Pozelnik; \$50 from Anthony Luzar; \$150 in memory of Karl & Marie Družina from John & Mary Ann Semen; \$250 in memory of family from Janet Yasenosky; \$75 in memory of Kozar, Habat, Senger & Mah families from Greg & Sheila Kozar; \$500 in memory of Viktor Lamovec from Vic's Turning; \$500 from Bob & Sue Frederico; \$600 from Mirko & Maria Kristanc.

Your generosity to the Parish is appreciated!

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE. While we find in the Gospel and the Second Reading historical events in which Jews and Gentiles are brought together by the light of Christ, we are still waiting for the fullness of Isaiah's prophecy in which the radiance of God's peace will eradicate the darkness of violence, war, suffering and pain. The newborn king of the Jews was not found in the palaces of Jerusalem, but in a humble home in Bethlehem. Where do we as families of faith find the presence of Jesus and what do we bring to Him as our gifts?

THANK YOU FROM BIRTHRIGHT: "Dear St. Mary Parishioners, in these turbulent times we are SO THANKFUL that you found it in your hearts to help those in need at Birthright. Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated. May you and all those you love have a most blessed Christmas and a happy HEALTHY, and peace filled New Year!" Toni Sabo, Birthright

CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES. Don't forget that boxes of contribution envelopes for 2021 may be picked up at the entranceway by the priest's sacristy for all students from 1st to 12th grade.

Masses for the Week of January 4-10, 2021

Monday:	(1/4) ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON (Religious)
7:45 a.m.	Deceased Members of Toth Family (Denise Pulver)
Tuesday:	(1/5) ST. JOHN NEUMANN (Bishop)
7:45 a.m.	Poor Souls
Wednesday:	(1/6) CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Angelo Giallombardo (Jeanne Sobul)
Thursday:	(1/7) CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Ivan Tomc (Family)
Friday:	(1/8) CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Marica Lavrishka (30 day)
Saturday:	(1/9) CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Merela & Povirk Families (M/M Stanislav Bobič)
5:00 p.m.	Adolf Korošec (Wife Maria)
Sunday:	(1/10) BAPTISM OF THE LORD
8:00 a.m.	Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	Josef Lah (Family)
12:00 noon	Jennie Ribič (Family)

Please Pray for Our Sick: Mladen & Dušanka Lengel, Tom McNulty, Tom Adamich, Brenda Prebevsek, Rev. William Jerse, Zdravko Novak, George Rozman.

May He Rest In God's Peace:

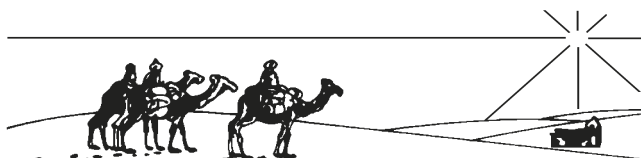
+Dušan Maršič



DRUŽINSKA PERSPEKTIVA. Medtem, ko mi najdemo v Evangeliju in v drugem berilu zgodovinske dogotke v katerih so Judje in pogani prinešeni skupaj z lučjo Kristusa, mi še vedno čakamo za popolnost Izaijeve prerokbe v kateri sijaj Božjega miru bo zatiran s temo nasilja, vojske, trpljenja in bolečin. Novorojeni kralj Judov ni bil najden v palačah Jeruzalema, ampak v preprostem domu v Betlehemu. Kje mi, kot družine vere najdemo navzočnost Jezusa in kaj prinesemo njemu kot naš dar?

ZAHVALA OD BIRTHRIGHT. "Dragi župljani Marije vnebovzete: V tem razburkanem času smo tako hvaležni, da ste našli v vaših srcih, da pomagate tistim v potrebi pri Birthright. Vaša prijaznost in dobrotta je zelo cenjena. Imejte vi in vsi, ki jih ljubite blagoslovljen Božič in veselo, zdravo in miru polno Novo Leto." Toni Sabo

KUVERTE ZA OTROKE ZA DAR CERKVI. Ne pozabite, da škatlice s kuvertami lahko poberete pri vhodu v cerkev zraven zakristije za učence od 1. do 12. razreda.

**PRAZNIK GOSPODOVEGA RAZGLAŠENJA.**

PRAZNIK GOSPODOVEGA RAZGLAŠENJA. Tudi je imenovan praznik Treh kraljev ali Mali Božič. Današnji praznični dan je nadaljevanje naših božičnih praznikov, ko mi vidimo Jezusa razodetega poganom kot Kralj vreden zlata, kot Gospod, vreden kadila in kot Odrešenik, vreden mire, da bo za njegov pogreb, ko umre za odrešenje sveta. Ne pozabite blagosloviti vaše domove danes, in zaznamovati vaša glavna vrata z začetno črko imen Treh kraljev 20+C+M+B+21, tudi latinska kratica Christus mansionem benedicat (Naj Kristus blagoslovi to hišo).

BOŽIČ, KATEREGA NE BOMO DOLGO POZABILI.

Zakaj naj pričakujemo da bi bil Božič drugačen kot ostalo leto? Ne samo, da je naše božično praznovanje prikrajšano od posledic corona pandemije, ampak Božja roka premakne Naravo, da zadrži večina nas doma (na varnem)in nas pokrije skoraj z 2 feeta snega. Število ljudi je bilo majhno za naše božične liturgije, toda naš duh je bil visok. Ed Ferrazzoli, naš zvest organist je prišel v cerkev, da je vodil naš manjši kot normalen zbor in pripravil nam lepo petje. Letos smo tudi slišali znane slovenske božične pesmi prevedene v angleščino, posebno pri maši vigiliji ob 5:00 uri. Bilo je prvič od konca februarja, odkar je pademija, da smo imeli ministrante, dobro pripravljene kot vedno. Cerkev je bila spet lepo okrašena. V zadnjem Oznanilu smo pozabili omeniti pomoč, ki jo je nudil Paul Lipold pri okrasitvi cerkve. Čeprav je bilo le nekaj otrok, da nastopijo letos v božični igri, Toni Jo Kozak, Gina Manning in Christine Nemeč so zmogle pripraviti preprosto in še vedno navdihnjeno božično igro. Božič je praznovanje učlovečenja Bog postane eden od nas v našem človeštvu. Po našem človeškem čutu: vidu, tipu, duhu in sluhu mi doživljamo božansko navzočnost Boga med nami v naših liturgijah. Za tiste ki niso mogli priti k maši, smo prenašali po live-stream obe maši božično vigilijo in polnočnico. Vzelo je veliko ur in strokovno izkušnost treh mož: Nevio Prosen, Tony Cerer in Martin Maršič. Preskrbeli so WiFi za cerkev in postavili trajno kamero. Bilo je nekaj napak, toda če bi videli težave, ki so jih doživeli in kako so potrpežljivo delali, oni res zaslužijo našo zahvalo in hvaležnost. Kapo dol!

Zahvaljujemo se našim dobrotnikom, ki nadalje podpirajo župnijo z njihovo radodarnostjo. Zahvaljujemo se našim prijateljem, ki so nas blagoslovili v župnišču z voščili, darili in slastnim pecivom.

Prestopili smo prag v Novo leto. Naj Božji obilni blagoslov bo z vami vsemi za vašo dobroto in zvestobo župniji Marije vnebovzete. Naj Bog vas vse ohrani varne in zdrave in naj se veselimo, da je Bog z nami. Ne pandemija, ne snežni vihar ne more odvzeti nam luč, upanje in mir Jezusa našega Odrešenika.

ODPEV DANAŠNJEGA PSALMA JE:

GOSPOD, VSI NARODI TI BODO SUŽILI.