

From The Pastor's Desk

Perhaps today on the Solemnity of Epiphany of the Lord, we could look at one simple yet profound theme that comes out of today's feast: our need to give gifts to others, and especially our need to give gifts to God. In some religious traditions, today is the day when people exchange presents. The wise men came bearing gifts. Most of us are pleased when we receive gifts. But, often, we get more pleasure out of giving gifts to others. When we give others our gifts, we are able to say many things to those who are dear to us. Through our gifts we can tell them how much we appreciate them, or how much we cherish their friendship and their love.

Just what is a gift? A gift is something that we give to another person simply because we freely desire to give something to them. A real gift is not given out of obligation. It is given with a free heart. It's true, at times, we give gifts, not freely, but grudgingly. An occasion such as someone leaving their job or getting a promotion may demand that we give a gift, and so we do, but it could never be said that we gave it out of love.

But, when we do give from the heart and from a loving heart, we pay a lot of attention to the gift we are giving. We want to make sure that it is the right one that it says what we want it to say. In fact, many people agonize over choosing a gift. We take great care because we realize how gifts can mean so much to people. Hundreds of years ago someone said: "A wise lover value not so much the gift of the lover, as the love of the giver." (Thomas A. Kempis) Often, we get caught up in asking God for what we need, or what others need. We see it as a one way street. God, you are God. You are all powerful. I am nothing. Give me what I need. But, we often forget that we are also able to give gifts to God. The wise men came bearing gifts. What about our gifts?

Each time we celebrate the Eucharist we participate in an exchange of gifts. We offer the simple gifts of bread and wine to God. God in turn gives us the gift of his Son, Jesus. And, when we offer the bread and the wine, we are offering our lives, our work, and our love—in short, all that we are. If this is the case, perhaps we should briefly look at how we are preparing these gifts that we want to give to God.

When a husband and wife give birth to a child, and then watch that child grow, what do you think will give them the most pleasure later on life? Will it be the accomplishments of their children? Will they gain the most satisfaction if their children become wealthy or gain status in society? Parents may be proud of their children's accomplishments, wealth or status. But, that is still not the most satisfying thing for most parents. I would guess that most parents simply want their children to love them as long as they have life. Parents give so much to their kids and usually all they want back is the love of their children.

Maybe God is like those parents who give life to their children, and whose greatest joy is in being loved in turn by those children. We are God's children. Jesus came to encourage us to never forget that remarkable fact. He wants us to act like God's children, loving God and one another. Isn't this the greatest Epiphany gift we can give – *our love*?



Weekly Readings & Activities

Sunday, Jan. 8 Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Monday, Jan. 9 Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday, Jan. 10 Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday, Jan. 11 Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday, Jan. 12 Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45
Friday, Jan. 13 Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday, Jan. 14 Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday, Jan. 15 Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

Sunday, Jan. 8 Solemnity of Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass—†Tom Conway
 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Food & Fellowship
 Catechist Epiphany Coffee Bar
 9:00 a.m. HSCC Library Hours (until 11:30 a.m.)
 9:15/11:15 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
 9:15 a.m. Adult Cluster 1 "Acts"/ Adult Cluster 2 "Psalm"
 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†William Andrew McElhannon
 11:15 a.m. Adult Cluster 3 "Estudio Biblico"
 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Edna Buentipo
 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass—†Bernard Francis Languell
 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry

Monday, Jan. 9 The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Joseph Filippi
 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Coordinator Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Young Adults

Tuesday, Jan. 10

8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Susan Stutske
 9:30 a.m. Women's Spirituality
 1:00 p.m. Women's Spirituality
 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Evening Study
 7:00 p.m. K of C Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 11

8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Irinea Romualdo
 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary
 6:00 p.m. Holy Spirit Library Hours (until 7:00 p.m.)
 6:30 p.m. Sacrament of First Reconciliation & Reception
 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Scripture Study

Thursday, Jan. 12

8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Rose Stolar
 6:30 p.m. Catholic Daughters' General Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Zone Board Meeting
 Liturgy Commission Meeting
 Choir Practice
 7:30 p.m. K of C 4th Degree Meeting

Friday, Jan. 13 St. Hilary

8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Reese & Brayden Kapinus
 9:00 a.m. Holy Hour

Saturday, Jan. 14 Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Nasario Hernández
 9:00 a.m. Baptismal Preparation Class
 3:30 p.m. Confessions
 4:00 p.m. Choir Practice
 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Emmy Krivacic
 6:30 p.m. K of C Corporate Communion Dinner
 7:00 p.m. 2nd Saturday Cinema

Sunday, Jan. 15

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass—†Vincent Calleja
 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Food & Fellowship
 9:00 a.m. Library Hours (until 11:30 a.m.)
 9:15/11:15 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
 9:15 a.m. Adult Cluster 1 "Acts"/ Adult Cluster 2 "Psalm"
 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass—People of Holy Spirit
 11:15 a.m. Adult Cluster 3 "Estudio Biblico"
 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Joe & Lisa Estrada
 1:00 p.m. Small Group Facilitator Training
 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Preparation
 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass—†Kevin Rangel
 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry

We hope you all had a great Holiday Season with your families! Youth ministry resumes tonight! We will be talking about Resolutions for the year and our Holy Mother!

The last day to register for the Dallas Catholic Youth Conference is **Jan. 17**. Please Email Rachel Cromwell-Reetz@holyspiritcc.org if you are interested in attending!

As a reminder, any high schooler is welcome to join Team Spirit! We plan Sunday night activities, retreats and service projects each Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m. We also watch a lot of YouTube videos. Come check us out!



FABRIC DONATIONS WANTED!

The committee is planning to create new banners for the upcoming Lenten season. The project will engage the entire parish with 2 banners made from YOUR fabric donations! Any kind of material is acceptable in hues of **purples, blues, and pinks**—prints or solids!

Fabric donations are needed in any length, but at least 15-inches wide. Please drop off donations with Mary Gruhlke at the Parish Office or leave in the Outreach Box in a separate bag. The end result will be beautiful and something we all can take pride in as we go through the Season of Lent.

Fabric donations are needed by **Friday, Jan. 27** in order to sew and complete banner by Ash Wednesday.



The Pastoral offices will be closed **NEXT Monday, Jan. 15** in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday holiday. We will resume our normal business hours, **Tuesday, Jan. 17**.



The Nursery is once again open for the 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday Masses!



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in thanksgiving for **Patti Fabish**.

The flowers decorating this week's altar are donated in memory of the wedding anniversary of **†Irinea Ramualdo** given by Leo Romualdo.

Sacramental Preparation

Parents, the Children's First Reconciliation Celebration is scheduled for THIS Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the church for all children making their first confession. All At Home Faith Activities and baptismal certificate copies must have already been turned in to Lisa in order for your child to celebrate this sacrament. If you need childcare for younger siblings, please turn in the appropriate request form to Sharon Bush, Nursery Coordinator or you may contact her at (972) 298-9460. Contact Lisa Estrada, x12 with any questions or concerns. **Join us for a celebration reception in the Narthex immediately following!**

The next parent/student session for the Sacrament of Confirmation is NEXT Sunday, Jan. 15, 1:30-3:45 p.m. in the Gym. As everyone's time is important, please be there on time and ready to go. That way, we can leave when scheduled! Contact Lisa, x12, or Lindee, x43 (Devyn's new baby should have arrived by then!), with any questions or if you are going to be unable to attend. Contact Sharon Bush for childcare needs.

Information and paperwork regarding infant Baptism (ages 6 and under) may be directed to Lisa Estrada, x12. Our next baptismal preparation class for parents and godparents is **NEXT Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** All required paperwork should already be completed and on file.

Inclement Weather Reminder: Out of concern for safety of our staff and parishioners, Holy Spirit follows the Duncanville ISD schedule for bad weather days. If DISD schools close, we close and any activities scheduled for that day/evening will also be cancelled.

Finances

Contributions - Dec. 24 & Dec. 25, 2016

Collections, Online & Mail	\$38,383.24
Average Weekly Expenses	<u>(\$24,785.00)</u>
Surplus	<u>\$13,598.24</u>

Contributions - Dec. 31, 2016 & Jan. 1, 2017

Collections, Online & Mail	\$31,583.03
Average Weekly Expenses	<u>(\$24,785.00)</u>
Surplus	<u>\$ 6,798.03</u>

Balance in the Future Fund: \$35,286.00

Thank you to all of our donors for your continued generous support over the past year! 2016 Year-end tax statements will be mailed out Mid-January.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

**Faith Formation classes resume
THIS Sunday, Jan. 8!**

**We hope everyone had an awesome holiday
break and are ready to begin the
second half of the Faith Formation year!**

Catechists, don't forget our annual Epiphany Coffee Bar and Secret Santa Gift Exchange is this Sunday, Jan. 8, 8:30-11:15 a.m. in the **Dining Room**. Bring a \$5.00 or less gift to exchange with your fellow catechists if you wish to participate. Just drop off your gift at the front desk.

It's gonna be the social event of the season... **#catechist dinner!** Catechists and aides, mark your calendars for Monday, Jan. 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m. for our **Annual Appreciation Dinner!** As we continue our "social media" theme, it'll be an evening of endless selfies, as we celebrate YOU! Awards to the best emoticon costumes (check out Pinterest...lol). Childcare is first-come, first-serve but is LIMITED. Contact Sharon Bush (972) 298.9460 to arrange for childcare needs. **RSVP to Deborah, x14, no later than Wednesday, Jan. 18.**

We're also looking for some PARENTS that would like to help honor our catechists by assisting with the dinner. Contact Deborah for more information! Confirmation families, this is a great service project plus you get dinner... :)

We still have some of our emoji tote bags left! For a \$10.00 donation, you can help purchase Bibles for our 1st Grade Faith Formation classes. Pick one up at the front desk.



Just a friendly reminder that with the flu and cold season upon us, please be considerate of your child's classmates and catechists and **DO NOT SEND** them to Faith Formation class if they are ill and/or running a fever. We love your dedication

but appreciate your help in keeping the flu as far away from the office as possible...but be sure to let us know so we can mark your child excused on the attendance rosters. **Catechists, this goes for you, too!** Just call your coordinator to advise them of your illness so we can make arrangements to cover your class. Thanking everyone in advance!

Additionally, now that we are officially in the winter season with the potential for wintery precipitation, **please be sure we have your most current contact number in the event Faith Formation classes are canceled due to inclement weather.** If you have a change, please contact the office.

Attention Parents! On Sunday, Jan. 22, children in Grades Kindergarten through 3rd will be attending Mass as a class, as part of their lessons on the liturgy and sacraments. Additionally, Grades 4-6 will be attending a "teaching" Mass in the Gym. Please mark your calendars NOW so as not to forget. It will be imperative that your children arrive to class on time (that's 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.) to attend Mass and ensure an orderly flow for seating. Children arriving after 9:25 a.m. or 11:25 a.m. will be sent with their parents to attend Mass as a family. We appreciate your cooperation very much! This trip to Mass has become a much anticipated part of our curriculum and enjoyed, we hope, by the children. **Parents, you are also cordially invited to attend our teaching Mass in the gym, which will be facilitated by Deacon Paul.** It will be a communion service (not a full Mass) but will count towards your Sunday obligation.



Padres, próximo domingo 22 de enero, niños en grados del Kindergarten al 3er asistirá a misa como una clase, como parte de su lección en la liturgia y los sacramentos. Además, los grados 4-6, asistirá a una "enseñanza" Misa en el gimnasio. Será imperativo que sus hijos lleguen a clase a tiempo (que es 9:15 y 11:15) para asistir a misa y asegurar un flujo ordenado. Los niños que lleguen después de las 9:25 o 11:25 serán enviados con sus padres a asistir a misa como una familia. Esperamos que les hemos dado suficiente tiempo para preparar y organizar su horario de mañana para este evento y agradecemos mucho su colaboración! Este viaje a masa se ha convertido en un muy anticipado parte de nuestro plan de estudios y disfrutadas por los niños. Además, los padres pueden asistir a nuestra "enseñanza" masa en el gimnasio. Se cumplir con su obligación del domingo.



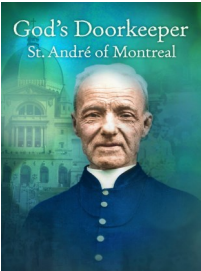
One of our long-time catechists, Peggy Dover, will be heading to North Carolina for the next 6 months beginning the first week of January. We are going to need a catechist to fill her

shoes as a **teaching** catechist for our 11:15 a.m., 4A, Faith Formation class. It is a large group of 18 young people, and the class has very good Sunday attendance...thank you, parents! Anyone interested in stepping in to take this class would be greatly embraced by our children's ministry! Please contact Deborah for more information.

Adult & Family Ministry

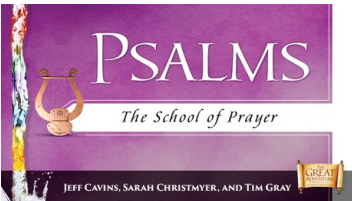
For information about any of our Adult & Family Ministry programs, please email:
Richard Johnson: richardjohnson@holyspiritcc.org
Veronica Houston: veronicahouston@holyspiritcc.org

Second Saturday Cinema



Saturday, January 14, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., after Evening Mass. Potluck and movie: **God's Doorkeeper: St. Andre of Montreal.** (If you go to Mass first, you can bring food and crockpots to Room 212 5:00 - 5:20 p.m.) Call 972-298-9460 by **Wednesday, Jan. 11** to reserve a spot in childcare.

New Adult Classes!



Psalms: The School of Prayer.
Sundays: 9:15-10:30 a.m.
 11-week video series featuring Jeff Cavins. God draws us into a deeply personal encounter with himself in his own school of prayer! Facilitated by John & Anne Owen.

STARTS THIS WEEKEND! Registration: Online!



Introduction to the Bible!
 7 week series for both newcomers and experienced Bible students. **Mondays: 9:15-11:15 a.m.,** facilitated by Angela Harris. Starts **Jan. 23.** Registration: Online or by forms found in Narthex and Community Center.

Both classes—more info and register at:
<http://www.holyspiritcatholic.com/adult-faith-formation>

Holy Spirit Valentine



Saturday, Feb. 11

Liturgy of the Day ~ 5:30 p.m.
 Recommitment of Vows
 Mexican Dinner ~ Music ~ Dancing
 6:45-10:00 p.m.

\$40.00 per couple
 Complimentary beer & wine

Reservations* must be pre-paid by **Monday, Feb. 6!**
 *All reservations are non-refundable, if cancelled.

For more information call:
Veronica Houston, x26

Community Life Ministry

Sunday Morning Food and Fellowship

Today: **Coffee & Donuts**

NEXT Sunday, Jan. 15: **Breakfast Tacos by Catholic Daughters of the Americas** Join us in the Gym for some warm and homemade goodness.

Winter Welcome Dinner & Fun

Friday, Jan. 27 - BBQ Dinner, Dancing & Fun

Save the date! Tickets will go on sale starting next weekend, **Jan. 14.** For more information contact **Cindy Meyer: cindymeyer@holyspiritcc.org.**

Catholic Schools Sunday

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, Jan. 29.** Representatives from local Catholic Schools will be here to share information about Catholic Education options near us. They will be in the Gym after all Sunday morning Masses. Plan on attending!

Outreach Ministry

Exercise Class will not meet **NEXT Monday, Jan. 16** as the offices will be closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Class will resume on **Wednesday, Jan. 18.**



Please plan to attend the Right to Life Events coming up this week:

2017 Roe Memorial Mass:
Friday, Jan. 13

7:00 p.m. St. Monica Parish, Dallas

North Texas March for Life in Dallas:
Saturday, Jan. 14

- 10:00 a.m. **YOUTH RALLY** at St. Jude Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. **Prayer Vigil** outside Dallas abortion facility
- 12:30 p.m. **Rose Procession** at Dallas City Hall & March for Life

For more information: www.prolifedallas.org