

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1 - 6

•Darkness covers the earth, and heavy clouds hang over the people. But the light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines bright.

### SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2 - 3a, 5 - 6

•In Christ Jesus, Gentiles and Jews are co-heirs of the family fortune and co-sharers in the saving promise

## GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1 - 12

•The magi from the east followed the star until it stopped still over the house. They entered, found the child with Mary, prostrated themselves, and did him homage.

"The refrain for our responsorial psalm sets the tone for today's readings: "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." St. Paul takes up the message: the Gen-•tiles are co-heirs and copartners in the promise. Isaiah proclaims that "nations shall walk by your light." Did the magi come all that way just to see a little baby? No, they came to see the salvation of the whole world. Let us allow these readings today to broaden our horizons so that we see God everywhere, and learn to show God to everyone in our lives.

# MASS INTENTIONS

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## **Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):**

6:00 PM: Birthday blessings for Henrique Foy, rb His mother, Carmen White.

## **Sunday Masses:**

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Roger and Denese Charles rb Their family.

10:00 AM: Birthday blessings Agnes Babulal rb The Babulal, Gonzales, Wagner, Samsundar and Vanterpool families.

> Birthday blessings and God's guidance and protection for Clyde de Jean Charles rb Mona Bedminster.

6:00 PM: God's continued blessings for the Haitian Community.

## **Daily Masses:**

Mon. Jan. 9, 6:00 PM: The Baptism of the Lord Birthday blessings for Jamal and Jahmal Matthew rb Cleopha Rawlings.

Tues. Jan. 10, 7:00 AM: St. John the Almsgiver For the bishop and priests of our diocese and all Catholic schools.

Wed. Jan.11, 7:00 AM: Blessed Bernard of Corleone God's continued blessings and guidance for the children and grandchildren of Jennifer Johnson.

Thurs. Jan. 12, 7:00 AM: St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Birthday blessings and God's healing, guidance and protection for Roger Charles rb His family.

Fri. Jan. 13, 7:00 PM: St. Hilary of Poitiers

Birthday blessings and God's continued guidance and protection for Denese Charles rb Her family.



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Destination The journey of the wise men reveals our destination. The three wise men, following the promptings of the Spirit, journey towards their destination. That destination is God. These three men are rich and are learned. Despite having perhaps all the comforts and conveniences, they left them behind and went in search of the greatest treasure – Jesus. Their search for Jesus, their finding of Jesus, their adoring of Jesus, and their joy at the presence of the child Jesus, all indicate our final destination and our joy in being united with Jesus.

Initiative of God

The journey of the wise men reveals the initiative of God. God takes the initiatives in revealing his Son to the shepherds and to the wise men. Initiative of God is manifested in making the star appear. The wise men say: "We have seen his star in the East" (Mt 2:2). The initiative of God is manifested through the Scriptures which indicate clearly that the child would be born in Bethlehem (Mt 2:6). The initiative of God is again seen in asking the three wise men to return to their country taking a different route (Mt 2:12). Let us then remember that in our spiritual journey towards our destination, it is always God who takes the initiative. Before we search for God. He is in search of us.

Universality of salvation The journey of the wise men indicates universality of salvation. Who are these three wise men? We do not know their names; we do not know their identity. One thing is sure that they are not Jews. In not giving their names and not revealing their identity, the evangelist has a plan. The evangelist communicates universality of salvation. Jesus came as the Saviour of the world; he welcomes all to himself without making any distinction between the poor and the rich, the weak and the strong, men and women, the known and the unknown, saint and sinner.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This week's second collection goes towards the *Permanent Diaconate.* Next week's second collection will go towards *Music Ministry*. As always we thank you for your generosity.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for God's blessings and protection for the children of Carmen White. You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

WELCOME: This Sunday, January 8, 2017, we welcome the Chi Eta Phi, Mu Eta Chapter Nursing Sorority at Holy Family Church, at the 10:00 a.m. mass. A warm welcome awaits you.

BAPTISM CLASS: Baptism class will commence on Monday January 9, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Lower Columban Hall, and will continue every Monday in January Application forms for Baptism can be collected from the church office and should be completed before the start of the program. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

ALTAR SERVERS' MEETING: There will be a meeting on Saturday, January 14, 2017, in Lower Columban Hall at 11:00 a.m. for all altar servers and those who are interested in serving. Present altar servers are kindly asked to bring their albs to the meeting. Thank you.

HOLY FAMILY FEAST FUN DAY: Our Feast Day fun day will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at UVI Golf Course. Please save the date. PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR HOLY FAMILY T-SHIRT/POLO SHIRT (if you have one) TO OUR FUN DAY TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.

FREE CONCERT: The St. Thomas Reformed Church (STRC) will host a free concert on Sunday, January 22, 2017, for the dedication of their New Bravura L-342 by Allen Organ. All are invited to attend.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY 2017: All couples who were married in the Catholic Church for 20 years or more, in a year ending in a "2" or a "7"; (for example 1987 = 30, 1992 = 25 years), will be presented with a certificate signed by the bishop on the weekend of *February 11 - 12, 2017*. Anyone married 50+ years (1967 or earlier) are also eligible regardless of the year they were married. Please fill out the form at the entrance of the church or call the church office at 340-775-1650 no later than Monday, January 30, 2017. No names will be accepted after that date.

NEW AT HOLY FAMILY: Please check out our new website at www. holyfamilystt.com and our face book page at Holy Familyvi. (1) Log on to FORMED.ORG/REGISTRATION then use the parish code **OMPGC4.** (2) **MYPARISHAPP:** Access the App Store, download the MYPARISH APP, put in the name of your parish (Holy Family).

2017 KEYS AND SWORD AWARD BENEFIT !!!!! Join us for the 8th Annual Keys and Sword Award Benefit on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef Grand Ballroom. We look forward to welcoming you. The honorees are *The Knights and Dames of Malta*. SAVE THE DATE. Tickets can be bought from Jennifer Johnson, Vincia St. Jean, Jean Dragin and the church office.

## LITURGY AND WORD

### **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

Every week the report on stewardship will include our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In gratitude to God, we give of our first fruits to help fulfill God's mission of love here on earth.

Attendance: Last Weekend: 715

Last Weekend's collections FIRST COLLECTION: \$9,377.90

SECOND COLLECTION: Renovation Fund: \$1,841.96

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS FOR 2016**

## LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

### Our response

The journey of the wise men, finally points out the necessary conditions that are to be fulfilled to reach Jesus. The wise men recognized and accepted the sovereignty of God; they listened to the voice and read the signs offered by nature; they consulted people and the scriptures; they overcame difficulties with sacrifices. With the same dispositions of the wise men, let us too journey towards Jesus. And like the wise men who took a different path to return, transformed by Jesus' presence, let our lives become the most effective instruments through which God is manifested.

