

January 7, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .



Feast of the Epiphany: This Feast celebrates another aspect of the Incarnation: Christ's coming into the whole world as light and salvation for all. In the darkness of winter, we can celebrate that our light has come to us. The love of Christ is light for the world's darkness. The familiar story of the three kings following the star to the manger and presenting gifts to the Christ-child signifies that the light of God's love shines on all people. No one is to live in darkness anymore. Where do we still need to "see" Christ in the world today? What part of our lives needs to be "illuminated" by Christ's love? What gifts/talents do we have that we can place before our king in order to celebrate and acknowledge his presence with us through whom the light of Christ's love will shine?

On the Feast of the Epiphany, the blessing of homes has been traditional custom in various ethnic groups, and a fine reminder that Christ is incarnate in the love and care we manifest to each other in our ordinary, daily lives. One custom is to trace crosses, the initials of the "kings" and the numerals of the year over the doorway with chalk, 20 +C+M+B +17. Legend names the kings, Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar. However, the initials were long ago reinterpreted by northern European Protestants who love the custom but not the legend. CMB became *Christus mansionem benedicat*. This is Latin for: "May Christ bless this House." This prayer of blessing for a home is taken from the Book of Blessings, the Roman Ritual, p.685:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live in it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us ask the Lord to bless the house that is our parish family! Let us ask the Lord to bless the houses that are our partner parishes and the universal church. Let us ask the Lord to bless the houses and families of all nations.

Religious Education: The sessions are in English, on the first and third Sundays of the month from Noon – 1:00pm in our Parish Office Building. **Jan. 7 and 21**

YOUTH PROGRAM for students 10-12 years and 13-18 years, **Sunday: January 7, 14, 28**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Thursday, January 4: immediately following 7:00pm mass until 9:00pm.

Servers' Club/Grupo de Alcolitos, January 21/se reune 21 enero Immediately following mass. For students 3rd grade and up. You do not have to be a server to join.

Parish Council, Sunday, January 14th, following Mass

SNOW NEWS! Check out the following stations for St. Leo cancellations: WCPO-Channel 9, WKRC-Channel 12, WXIX-Channel 19

St. Leo Food Pantry will be CLOSED for inclement weather when Cincinnati Public Schools are closed.

Be sure to contact the office to pick up your Sunday Contribution Envelopes and your 2017 Calendars!

January 28, 2018: Collection to support the Catholic Inner City Schools. CISE helps rewrite the future of over 2,000 students in designated inner-city schools and Catholic high schools. They work to transform the lives of urban children by providing a strong Catholic education.