

The Epiphany of the Lord

Dear Friends,

For many years now, I've tried, but have been unable to see them. I'm not sure what I am doing wrong, but I have always been completely oblivious to the hidden images in stereograms.

In case you are wondering, a stereogram is a picture within a picture. Hidden inside each image is an object rendered in 3D when viewed properly. When first looking at a stereogram, most people immediately see a colorful image of repetitive designs or objects that do not look like anything in particular. You might say that it looks a little like abstract wallpaper. After staring at the image for a few moments, many people can perceive the hidden 3D image magically appear. Perhaps one day something will "click" and I will be able to recognize one.

Could it be that I am just missing the clues? Am I just so impatient that I don't take the time to really look? Am I lacking a certain openness or understanding that would suddenly cause the image to reveal itself to me?

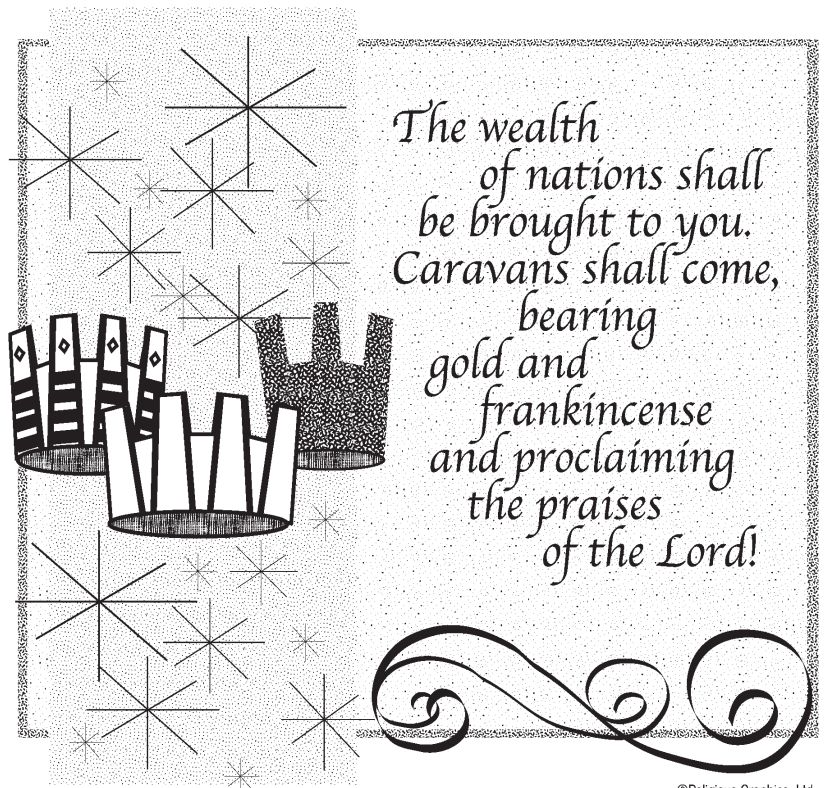
These are all good questions. People have attempted to give me advice on how to view these images, but it doesn't seem to help. I think faith is like that in some respects. Many people have no problem seeing the presence of God active in their lives. Their faith enables them to see the world from a supernatural perspective that enriches their understanding of the world and gives meaning to their existence. Then, there are those who just don't seem to get it. We may try to give them advice, or encourage them to be open to faith, but unless they give up their obstinacy, they remain oblivious.

When we speak of the Epiphany of the Lord, the Feast that we celebrate this weekend, we are referring to the manifestation of Jesus to the three Wise Men. The Epiphany is not just a term that refers to Jesus simply appearing to those good men. It refers to his revealing his true nature and identity to them in such a way that they understand it interiorly in their hearts and in their souls. The Wise Men exhibit faith in the child Jesus, comprehending that he is the Son of God. Everyone else, excepting the shepherds, would see Jesus as just another ordinary baby born into our world. Divine illumination, however, would enable the Wise Men to see through the eyes of faith, that this was no normal baby. They were able to recognize that, hidden in the clothing of our humanity, this was the Savior of the world!

Faith makes all the difference!

Most of us have no difficulty seeing things through the lens of faith because we have been given the gift of faith. There are many, though, who have difficulty seeing what we see. Perhaps you have dealt with a family member, a friend, a son, a daughter, or an acquaintance that just doesn't understand why faith is important. If they are heavily influenced by secular culture, they may not be able to see things the way we do. In that respect, their world view may seem foreign to you and me. Perhaps you yourself had doubts about faith and then, by some supernatural grace, you came to faith.

It is a mystery why God seems to gift some people with faith and others seem to be excluded from it. In reality, God does not exclude anyone from



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Saint Pius X
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL
50 Years of Faith
"To renew all things in Christ"

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faith. Because of free will, however, some just choose to ignore the reality.

Believing in faith, the Three Wise Men bowed down in adoration before our Incarnate Lord as they recognized they were in the presence of the Divine King. We do the same thing when we come into the presence of the Lord at Mass. He comes to us hidden under what appears to be ordinary bread and wine. A person without faith may simply see it as such. Those who have faith, however, recognize that it is Jesus Christ in the fullness of his humanity and divinity that comes to us. In this sense, then, the Epiphany occurs for us every time we celebrate the Mass. Christ reveals himself to us and we bow down and worship. We present to him the most precious gift that we can give – the gift of our very selves. If we focus our eyes on him through faith, we will see him and he will make himself known to us. Let's pray for the faith of those who have not known him. God bless!

† May He Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of parishioner, James McHugh, father of parishioner Colleen McHugh, who passed away on Christmas day.

Knights of Columbus' Parish Rosary



Please join us every Sunday at 9:25am to pray a weekly 20 minute rosary in the main church. It will be led by our St. Pius Knights of Columbus Council 11567. (Between the 8am & 10am masses.)

Married and Looking for a New Year's Resolution?

Why not make a commitment to do something to improve your marriage – like making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? For more information contact Rolando & Nelda Garza at 361-851-8306 or visit www.mecorpuschristi.org.



Confirmation II - Mandatory Meeting

There will be a mandatory meeting for all Confirmation II candidates, parents and sponsors, on Monday, January 12th, at 6:30 p.m. in the youth building.



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Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM

Schedule of Services

Masses: *First Friday: 5:30PM - Anointing of the Sick*

First Saturday: 8:15AM

Saturday: Vigil at 5:30PM.

Sunday: 8AM, 10AM, 12PM, 5:30PM (Youth Mass)

(Babysitting at 10AM and 12 noon Sunday Masses - Ages 6mo-5yrs - in Parish Hall Nursery)

Weekdays: Monday through Friday 8:15AM,

Wednesday & Friday 5:30PM

Holy Days: 8:15AM, 12PM & 6:00PM(Vigil 5:30PM)

Confessions: *Saturdays - 4-5PM and 6:30-7:30PM*

Marriages: *By appointment only and notice six months in advance.*

Weddings take place on weekdays any time and on Saturdays no later than 2:00PM

Baptismal Instruction: Pre-register through the office.

Anointing of the Sick: On request and at the 5:30PM Mass on First Fridays

Additional Christmas Flower Donations

Our apologies, several Christmas flower donations failed to make it into the bulletin, or came in too late to make it in. Here they are:

By Anna Vrazel - In Memory of Deceased Members of Vrazel/Achee families

By Joan Whitmire - In Memory of Ray E. Whitmire

By David and Annette Wik - In Memory of Anton Dornak, Dorothy Wik, Ingvald Wik, and Jim Creekmore

By Mr. & Mrs. Victor Gonzalez - In Memory of Victor Gonzalez, Sr.

Donation By Helen Shropshire

Silver & Gold Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Mass Celebration

Those blessed by celebrating 25 or 50 years of Sacramental Marriage are invited to attend

a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Mulvey on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at Corpus Christi Cathedral. A light reception will follow in St. Joseph's Hall at the Cathedral. Please register by January 8, 2015. For more Information please contact Ethel Dulak at 361-882-6191 ext. 660 or by email at edulak@diocesecc.org

ST. PIUS X YOUTH MINISTRY Edge (6th-8th grade)

We are taking a break over the holidays, but we'll be starting back up on January 7th so we hope to see you all then!

Life Teen (9th-12th grade)

We hope you all enjoy your break, and we look forward to seeing you when we return on January 11th.

COMING UP

We are excited to announce that we are having a Life Teen retreat at the beautiful El Shaddai Retreat Center from February 13-15. God is calling you to "Be Mine" at this retreat February 13-15th as we examine how our relationship with Him impacts our relationships with others. All high school students are welcome (and this can also fulfill the retreat requirement for confirmation candidates). So mark your calendars now and we will have registration forms available at our return Life Night on January 11th.

We are also looking into providing a retreat for our EDGE teens this spring, so watch the bulletin after the break for more info.

The Joy of the Gospel



In his Apostolic Exhortation, Pope Francis states: "With Christ joy is constantly born anew...I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy..." Sessions in CC-2 start Monday, Jan. 12 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM; Tuesday, Jan. 13 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM. (12 sessions, reading of the papal document). Copies can be purchased at The Love Note in the Promenade Shopping Center, 1220 Airline. Please purchase your copy before our first session. Questions? Contact Sr. Annette at 993-0299.

Comings and Goings

The Week at a Glance



Sunday, January 4th

K. of C.'s Sale of Raffle Tickets
8:30-10:00AM – RCIA – YC
10:00AM – Scouts at Mass – CH & Cafeteria
1:30PM – Baptism class – CC#1

Monday, January 5th

12:00-10PM – St. Nymphna's Support Group - R
1:00-3:00PM – Bridge Group #2 – CC#2
7:00-8:30PM – Adult Education – CC#2
7:00PM – Scouts - Cafeteria
7:30PM – Angels – CC#1

Tuesday, January 6th

6:00-8:00AM – Men's Journey – CC#1&2
10:00AM-12:00PM – Journey – CC#2
12:00-3:00PM – MAP – CC#1
2:00-3:30PM – Adult Education – CC#2
3:30-4:30PM – PTO meeting – PH
6:30PM – A.O.C. – CC#1

Wednesday, January 7th

7:00AM- Joyful Pillars – CC#2
9:00AM-12:00PM – MAP- CC#1 Office
1:30-3:00PM – Talent Show Try Outs – PH
5:30-8:00PM – CCD & Parents – PH, CC#1&2

Thursday, January 8th

8:00-9:30AM – School Atrium – CC#1&2
12:00-1:00PM – St. Nymphna Support Group - R
1:30PM – Bridge – CC#1&2
7:00PM - Adoration

Friday, January 9th

8:00PM – Chopin Concert - CH

Saturday, January 10th

8:00AM – 12:00PM – Piano Competition - CH

Sunday, January 11th

K. of C. sale of raffle tickets
8:30-10:00AM – RCIA - YC

"WE CARE" for children and adults



JOSEPH F. CONIGLIO D.D.S., M.S.
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BULLETIN SPONSOR



Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 3rd

8:15AM † Richard Rodriguez by Bonifacio Rodriguez & family
 5:30PM † Ricardo Saenz' Anniversary by Dolores Saenz

Sunday, January 4th

8:00AM † Gumecinda & Alejandro Salinas by Art & Mary Salinas
 10:00AM † Paulita Barrera by the Barrera family
 12:00PM † Anna Mae Moses by Theresie Kravek
 5:30PM For the Parishioners
 7:30PM † Peter Loi by family

Monday, January 5th

8:15AM † Deceased Didear Family Members

Tuesday, January 6th

8:15AM † Maximina Rivera's Annv. by Ramirez, Leal & Hinojosa families

Wednesday, January 7th

8:15AM † Sarah Ann Schmidt by Peter & Joanne Volpe
 † Beatriz Bocanegra's Anniversary by Son & Daughter-in Law
 5:30PM † Cecil Thompson by Frances Thompson
 † Don Leiser by Dorothy Mathews

Thursday, January 8th

8:15AM † Michael Pacheco, Jr. by Penny Pacheco

Friday, January 9th

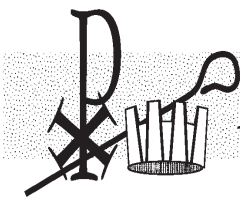
8:15AM † Charlie Gross' Anniversary by Chuck Gross
 5:30PM † Lucille Cunningham's Annv. by Jim & Carolyn Buehrig
 † Susie G. Arsuaga by the Arsuaga family

Saturday, January 10th

5:30PM † Bob Shirley & Gumecinda Salinas by Art & Mary Salinas

Sunday, January 11th

8:00AM † Amparo Rodriguez by Bonifacio Rodriguez & family
 10:00AM † Reynando Ramirez, Sr. by Irma Ramirez
 12:00PM † Cristina Del Rio's Anniversary by Elva Laurel
 5:30PM For the Parishioners



*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the
 princes of Judah, since from you shall come
 forth a ruler who is to shepherd
 my people Israel*

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Please Pray for our Sick & Shut-Ins:

Marcie Aguilar, Alicia & Luis Alvarado, Henry Aragon, Luisa Arevalo, Sugar Arras, Ann Bednorz, James Buehrig, John Braunstein, Cecil Brezina, Stella & Michael Campos, Mary Lee Cantwell, Sabrina Cisneros, Olivia Cordova, Shirley Currie, Andrea Dahlstrom, Patrick Delgado, Mark DeGaish, Pat & Sandy DeGregorio, Florinda DeLaGarza, Minga DeLosSantos, Samantha Didear Deste, Pud'n Dellinger, Annie Dornak, Liz Elovitz, Natalie & Elaine Elwood, Elijah Ethridge, Bobby Floyd, Jay Francis, Sherry Frenzel, Esperanza Garcia, Antonio Garza, Dora Garza, Terry Garza, Sally Gilbreath, Elida Gonzalez, Maria Griffin, Charlotte & Tommy Groner, Jared Groner, Suzy Guzman, Colleen Habeeb, Marie Habeeb, Rose Marie Hand, James Hartman, Chris Holland, Josh Holland, Graham Hughes, Ben Janosek, Elizabeth Johnson, Dorothy Krause, Dora Lambert, Arlene Leep, Richard Lewandowski, Dorothy Mathews, Michael McCloskey, Virginia Medrano, John Morgan, Jackie O'Keefe, Sharron Odle, Patricia Paris, Corbett Pool, Sr., Robert M. Pope, Dolores Puckett, Raymond Richter, Bonifacio Rodriguez, John & Irene Rosales, Rebecca Rosales, Marguerite Ross, Paul Rossi, Albert Rubio, David Russell, Billy Ruzicka, Americo Salazar, Luis Salazar, Tim Salch, Amber Saylor, Josephine Sheldon, Tina Shepherd, Msgr. Richard Shirley, Willie Mae Shirley, Helen Shropshire, Judy Slaughter, Adrian Sosa, Renato Sovran, Eian Stamp, Mary Ann Starkey, Mamie Stoner, Lydia Tey, Diane Thompson, Norbert & Rosalind Thonnard, Sara Trevino, Luke Valdez, Idolina Vela, Luz Villarreal, Liz Vrana, Melva Walet, Sarah Zuniga and all those who asked for and need our prayers.

Financial Report for Sunday 12/21/2014

Operating Revenue:

Sunday Collection..... \$20,829.56
 Sunday Online \$5,240.00
 Christmas Day \$415.00
 Other Income..... \$1,971.00
 Total Operating Revenue... \$28,455.56

Other Contributions:

Janosek Scholarship \$25.00
 Acts of Charity \$2,982.41
 Retirement for Religious \$590.00
 Christmas Flowers..... \$470.00
 Total Other Contributions..... \$4,067.41

Total Contributions..... \$32,522.97

Financial Report for Christmas Day

Collection..... \$19,122.28

Financial Report for Sunday 12/28/2014

Operating Revenue:

Sunday Collection..... \$18,372.04
 Sunday Online \$2,805.00
 Other Income..... \$1,288.00
 Total Operating Revenue... \$22,465.04

Other Contributions:

Janosek Scholarship \$25.00
 Acts of Charity \$336.00
 Retirement for Religious \$200.00
 Christmas Flowers..... \$50.00
 Total Other Contributions..... \$611.00

Total Contributions..... \$23,076.04

Loan balance on Youth Bldg
 as of Dec. 19, 2014 \$142,770.90