

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS: January 5-6, 2019

We hope to complete our HVAC (heating and cooling) **System Replacement Project** this month. As of this writing, we are still waiting for the last big unit (fresh-air intake) that will be installed at the back of the church (next to the condensers). While waiting for this last big item, the workers are doing the finishing touches in the basement, transferring electrical controls in new panels, some few “cosmetic” works around the work areas below and outside. By next month, you will have the updated and final financial report for this project. Thanks to all who have already supported this appeal.

Many thanks to our Jacob’s Ladder crew and many volunteers who have been responsible for our Christmas decorations and cleanliness of our church! Thanks for your generous giving of your time and talents!

Many thanks to Heaven’s Handymen and volunteers for helping me rebuild the new Nativity crèche that you now see in the church. As you have heard me say before, I love open spaces and my preference are expressed in the ways we arranged and decorated our Sanctuary. But, of course, I couldn’t have done it without the help of some good and dedicated co-workers!

Many thanks to all who donated some of our poinsettias and trees – they were truly testaments of LOVE from God and of His people! May the good Lord continue to increase your love throughout the year.

Many thanks to all our musicians and singers who provided the music for us to celebrate the solemnities of the season. May y’all continue to serve the Lord in song and music to fill our church with sounds of joy and faith.

Many thanks as well to all our liturgical ministers who for four (4) long days and numerous Masses, served God and His people in your respective ministries. Y’all have been faithful workers in this vineyard of the Lord!

Many thanks to all who sent us greetings, wishes and gifts for Christmas – y’all are so thoughtful and generous with your expressions of love and wishes. Though Father D and I have no families here, we have been blessed to have such loving and caring people who watches over us. May God bless you always.

This weekend is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. As we celebrate the finding of the child Jesus by the Wise Men (a.k.a. “the Three Kings”) and the annual appearance of King Cakes in Louisiana, we are reminded by the feast and the readings this weekend that the “Lord manifested (Greek, “*epiphantos*”) His glorious presence to all today!” On the Feast of the Epipha-

ny, the Lord showed His glory and splendor to the second group of privileged ones who witnessed His first appearance in this world. After a long period of waiting for the Coming of the Messiah (advent), the shepherds and the Magi were finally rewarded with a personal encounter with the Lord and His family – Josef bar-Jacob (Joseph, son of Jacob from Bet-le-heim) and Maryam (Miriam or Miriamme) of Nazareth. God’s revelation is now complete: first to a Virgin, followed by her husband to-be (in a dream), then to the shepherds and finally to the Wise Men. At this event, the Lord indeed makes His presence known! The message of the Scriptures for us this weekend as we celebrate the Feast of God’s Manifestation to His people is TO SEE HIS PRESENCE IN OUR MIDST and not only at Christmas, BUT ALL THE TIME!

The joyful celebration of this season hopes to generate and instill in us that Jesus wants to come into our lives and faith every single seasons of our lives. Every year we have been reminded at Advent that the Lord will come again to complete His work of salvation. However, we cannot simply relegate and restrict the coming of the Lord, the manifestation of His presence, once a year. For whenever you and I are ready to welcome Him in our lives and faith, the Lord comes to manifest (*epiphantos*) His glory and presence. Let us pray this holy season and throughout the seasons of our lives that we will become God’s dwelling place where ALL who seek Him will find His presence in us.

After 28 years of “long absence” from the Philippines and 4 years since my last “short visit,” I will be able to finally take a long vacation in the Philippines beginning January 8th till February 14th. It’s time for me to rest, renew and recuperate, surrounded by my brother’s family and friends. Thanks!

Father Vic+



The Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2019

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!

Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

— *Isaiah 60:1*

Wedding Banns

Andree Waguespack & Eric Davis (1)
Mary Sauce & Johnathan Mayeaux (1)

The following were Baptized into the family of Christ recently:

Hunter James
 Child of Brian & Ainsley

Claire Elizabeth
 Child of Nicholas & Lauren



The Rosary is prayed on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 AM in Church.



All are welcome to join us.

Missalettes

January 6th—12th
 Donated In Memory of



Lula R. Foret

By: Children:
 Wayne, Robin, Scott, Jamie & Mark

St. Joseph's Jag Swag
 Saturday, February 9, 2019



Thibodaux Regional
 Wellness Center
 8:00 PM—12:00 AM
 Silent/Live Auction

A variety of items to bid on Classroom items, sport items, artwork and much more...

Tickets \$75.00 each or 2 for \$100.00
 (checks should be made to St. Joseph Elementary)

Donated items for the Silent Auction may be dropped off at the school office.

Want to be a corporate sponsor? - - - Questions?
 Contact Leah Jones
 lcarri1@hotmail.com or 504-220-6958

All forms can be found on Plus Portals

Upcoming Special 2nd Collections

January 12th/13th
Hurricane Michael

January 19th/20th
California Wildfires

Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss. Bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayers for strength. Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation.

May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead. We ask your blessing on all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope. Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance. May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone.

Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

December 22nd/ 23rd , 2018

Weekly Collection	\$ 11,056.00
Weekly Loose	2,091.00
ACH Weekly	335.00
	<u>\$ 13,482.00</u>

Weekly Offering



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Christmas Collection December 24th/25th, 2018

Total Collections:	\$ 30,985.38
<u>Christmas Quota:</u>	<u><16,820.00></u>
	\$14,635.38

Thank you for your generosity !

Our Sunday Bulletin is supported by the advertisers who are listed on our back page. What better way to say THANK YOU than to remember them the next time you go shopping.



Please remember **Jean Murphy & Clifton Ledet** who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that their families may find comfort and consolation through their faith.