

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 4, 2009

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

The Christmas Season continues with yet another view of God in our history. In his very flesh, Jesus is the revelation of God. This is a season to celebrate a baby, but even more the manifestation, "epiphany," of God to the whole world.

The gospel warms many hearts with the story of the three visitors to Bethlehem. Following the star, they come to offer gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Aided by the first two readings, we can open up the meaning of this vignette. God is present in our history. This is a gift for all. Whether arriving on dromedaries from Midian and Ephah or bearing gold and frankincense from Sheba, whole nations shall walk by this light. In the early Church, this meant that Gentiles would have to be seen as co-heirs with the Jews, members of the same body.

Enjoying the memories and mystery of this day should thus be more than thinking about the three kings. It is also far more important than any technical debate about the translation of "magi" (Greek). They have been called kings, wise men, or astrologers. In any event they signal a day to celebrate the mystery of Christ's identity and our response in faith. Because this revelation is universal, we are presented with a further challenge. Do we treat some as "outsiders" as if we were not co-heirs? Do we act as if epiphany were for a few?

Thank you!

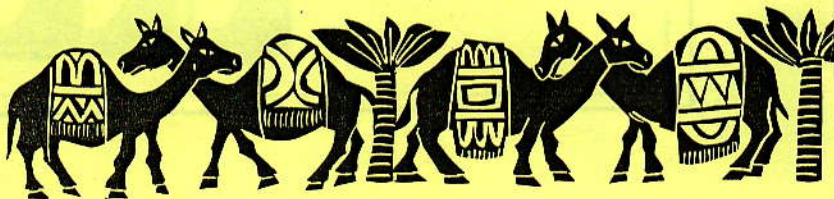
Despite all odds, St. Elizabeth's celebrated White Christmas. Although the weather left many homebound, those who were able and mobile came out to decorate, Angel Tree gift, sing and play music, proclaim the word, clean, shovel snow, as well as feed the hungry. We praise Christ among us in all that we do. It was a great Christmas not to be forgotten for a long time.

God bless us all,

Fr. Jim

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available in the back of the church. Please check off your name on the list when you take your packet. If you wish to begin using envelopes and your name is not on the list, please take a numbered packet with a blank name and record your name.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS - The Big Snow has made it difficult for many parishioners to make it to Mass. If you were not able to contribute to the Retirement Fund for the Religious you may still do so this weekend.



LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6/ Psalm 72/ Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6/
Matthew 2:1-12

Monday: 1 John 3:22---4:6/ Psalm 2/ Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-10/ Psalm 72/ Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 John 4:11-18/ Psalm 72/ Mark 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 John 4:19--5:4/ Psalm 72/ Luke 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 John 5:5-13/ Psalm 147/ Luke 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 John 5:14-21/ Psalm 149/ John 3:22-30

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7/ Psalm 29/ Acts 10:34-38

ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL combines 50 years of academic excellence with a community that strives to help each child reach his or her greatest potential. Registration for the 2009-2010 academic year begins January 5th. Come visit and meet our administration and faculty at our K-8 Open House on Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. We will also provide school tours on Thursday, January 15th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Application materials and further details regarding our school programs can be accessed through our website www.sjfschool.org.

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

9:00 am: Maureen and Don Binzer

11:00 am: Julie and Lee Steiner

If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make sure you find a substitute. Thank you.

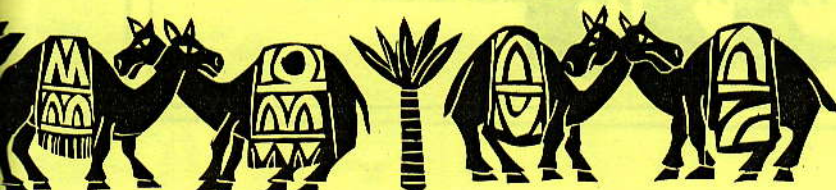
COLLECTIONS:

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: \$150.36

December 13-14 \$1,904.00

December 21 \$ 137.00

Christmas \$4,528.00



ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH

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Portland, OR 97239

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SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Baptism and Anointing of the Sick: Please call the parish office.

Marriage: Six months' notice required.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. James M. Kolb, C.S.P., Administrator

Joan Enright, Secretary - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

Interested in joining St. Elizabeth Parish? Give us a call. 503-222-2168

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Matthew 2:1-12

In today's Gospel the Wise men came and brought gifts to Jesus and took away with them the gift of knowing God's presence in a whole new way.

When has someone that, you did not expect, come and recognized a gift in you --- like the Wise men recognized in Jesus? Who was the person and what was the gift?

