

Bulletin Evangelization Notices

January, 2017



January 1 ~ The Octave Day of Christmas; Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

What a beautiful blessing to begin the new year: May the Lord bless and keep you.. let His face to shine upon you...” And then, the Gospel, the shepherds were among the first evangelizers – sharing the Good News. “... they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.” We have that SAME message to make known. Here’s a good New Year’s resolution suggestion: pray about and practice how *you* will make known the message of Jesus, in your circle.

January 8 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

We know this story so well – we can sing by heart “We Three Kings”, here is an example of perseverance. These men were determined to follow the star to “do him homage.” We follow a lot of stars these days: sports stars, rock stars, movie stars, stars famous for being... famous. Maybe it’s time to take a page from the Magi’s book and go home by another way. There is one Star to follow – Jesus Christ, fully human, fully Divine. Sports and music and film can be very good things, but take the road that Jesus is on.

January 15 ~ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

John the Baptist, seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus and hearing the Father’s voice, testifies that Jesus is the Son of God. Our faith and Sacred Scripture, the inspired word of God, confirm this for us – He is the Son of God. So? Pray today’s Psalm with an open heart and open mind: “Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.” What is God’s will for us - for *you*? It is to speak His name, tell of His work in *your* life, help Him make disciples. Not everyone will do this the same way. Pray to find the best way for you to testify – talk about - Jesus.

January 22 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today’s readings are filled with inspiration and instruction. Isaiah reminds us that we no longer walk in darkness. For us, the ‘great light’ he speaks of is Jesus Christ. We can agree on this -Jesus is the Light of the World. This brings us to Saint Paul’s scold of the Corinthians: “be united in the same mind and in the same purpose”. What good advice for our time! And finally, Jesus’ invitation to the first Apostles: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” He is calling us, too, every day, to follow Him. The Apostles immediately left their nets. What nets are you tangled in, that keep you from following Him – reticence, complacency, indifference, misgivings? Pray for trust and courage to know Him more clearly, Love Him more dearly, and Follow Him more nearly.

January 29 ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

On January 27, hundreds of people – young, old, and in between, marched in Washington to speak for those who have no voice. Pray for the safety of all who travelled and marched. Pray for women in difficult pregnancies, women and men hurting from past abortions, pray for compassionate hearts. Pray for those who are mentioned in the Gospel – the poor, the meek, the peacemakers, the pure of heart, those who mourn, and those who hunger and thirst. “But I will leave as a remnant in your midst, a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD:”