

January 3, 2010

## The Epiphany of the Lord

### Our Lady of Lourdes Parish & Newman Center

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The great Christian celebration of Christmas continues with our celebration of the **Epiphany of our Lord**.

For us, an “epiphany” is a great revelation or insight. In this *feast* of Epiphany there is more than a revelation; it is a celebration of the *manifestation* of our Lord. The Messiah has been foretold and now has appeared - in the flesh. In quite an unexpected way: not a warrior or a king but a helpless infant under the care of two very ordinary people. (From our perspective, our position in history, we can see that Mary and Joseph were anything but ordinary: Joseph accepted this pregnant young woman; the pregnant young woman - well there’s an extraordinary story that goes back to her own conception.)

So what are we celebrating today?

We are celebrating the fact that Jesus was born to be Savior of the *whole* world. Not just the Jewish people, the race into which he was born and in which he was raised. Not just the Christian people, those who became “Christian” by their following of Christ. Jesus was born to be savior of *all* people: Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, atheist, agnostic,... Everyone.

How do we celebrate this universal revelation/deliverance without diluting or denying any aspect of our Christian belief? Without forcing adherence to our belief?

The answer lies in our own manifestation of the Body of Christ here and now. Christ was born, lived, suffered, died as a human being. After his resurrection he returned to his followers and handed over his “power” in the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Together they (and we!) would *be* his body: his Spirit binding, enlivening, guiding, inspiring and leading.

Jesus Christ is alive and well - enfleshed once again in a body of believers. Our communion with Christ and one another through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, is beautiful and necessary for us but it is not the end of our response *or* our responsibility. From there we must turn and allow Christ to walk about in the world.

When our actions - individually and corporately - match what we believe and preach, then Christ will be *seen*: in the different flesh and blood of our lives... pointing to the ultimate Flesh and Blood of eternal life.

The Epiphany of our Lord continues to unfold...

## **Sacraments & Devotions at Our Lady of Lourdes**

**Mass:** (Sept. - May) Saturday - 5:00 pm ~ Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am\* ~ \* Second Sunday of each month (during ONU school year), 11:15 at English Chapel  
On the Fourth Sunday of each month, when ONU classes are in session, there is a Third Sunday Mass at 8:30 pm in the English Chapel.

**Mass:** (June - August) Saturday - 5:00 pm and Sunday - 10:00 am ~ **Daily Mass** (All year): Monday through Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

**Confessions:** Every Saturday - 4:30 - 4:45 pm or by appointment.

Communal Penance Services in Advent\* and Lent

\*includes First Reconciliation for PSR Grade 2 students

**Baptisms:** Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to make an appointment with the pastor, at least one month in advance. Baptisms are normally celebrated within one of our Sunday Masses, but may also be scheduled on Sunday afternoons, directly following the last Mass.

**Marriage:** Couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church are asked to contact the pastor at least six months *in advance*, in order to meet with him before setting a date, or making any further arrangements. Couples are also required to attend an approved marriage preparation course, in addition to regular meetings with the pastor.

**Confirmation:** Students in Seventh Grade (& any in Grades 8-12 who are not confirmed) prepare & celebrate the Sacrament each year. College students & other adults who wish to be Confirmed should contact the Pastor.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Communal celebrations of this sacrament occur twice annually (Advent & Lent). Individual anointings are available upon request, or by appointment. Should you have family or friends in need of the sacrament, please contact the pastor as soon as possible.

**RCIA:** The “Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults” is the process by which an adult becomes a member of the Catholic Church. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the Church, please contact the pastor for more information. For preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation for children (outside of the Parish School of Religion) contact the Pastor.