

December 26, 2010

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Image of *The Holy Family with Mary Magdalene and the Infant Saint John*
by Palma the Elder © 2007 by Dover Publications, Inc.



Holy Cross

CHRISTMAS IS NOT OVER!!!!!!

Unfortunately, our consumer driven society dictates the terms of Christmas far more than the Church does. In order to drive the economy, Christmas begins in the marketplace in October (or even September). Therefore, by the time we get to the actual religious celebration in the Church, people have tired of all things Christmas. But for the Church, the night of December 24th is only the *beginning* of the Christmas Season, not the signal that the end is near.

Please don't pack away Christmas too soon. There are important features of our faith that we savor and celebrate throughout the Christmas Season, *which does not end until we have finished celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord* (which is January 9th this year). **The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord**, which is the traditional name for Christmas, honors our core belief that God has become a human being like us in order to save us from the broken human condition. Christmas celebrates our faith in a God who loves us so much that in Christ, God became emptied of divine glory in order to become a humble human being who would suffer and die for us, and then lead us to the promise of resurrection. Since God cannot die and humans cannot save themselves, our Savior had to become a human while remaining God. That is Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, crucified in Jerusalem, risen from the dead and now present everywhere at all times.

The Feast of the Nativity is followed by today's **Feast of the Holy Family**, which reminds us that God entered the world in the context of a true human family, filled with faith and confidence in God's promises. The Holy Family consists of a father and mother who completely

surrendered to God's will for their lives and, thereby, raised their son to be able to do the same thing when later he is led to a Cross.

The Christmas Season continues with the significant **Feast of the Epiphany**, which means "manifestation." On Epiphany, we celebrate that this Jewish child of a Jewish family is also adored by strange visitors from the east. They are magi, meaning they are pagan Gentiles who dabble in astrology. Their act of adoration reveals (manifests) that Jesus Christ is the Savior of all people (Jews and Gentiles) and not just some people. The star in the sky is an epiphany that God has come to save the whole world from darkness and sin.

Finally, the Christmas Season ends with the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. Even though this event takes place in Jesus' adult life, it completes the story of his birth. When Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, a voice from heaven reveals his truest identity: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." The child of Bethlehem is now the adult Jesus revealed as the Son of God. To him we are to give our undivided attention the rest of the year as we listen to his word and seek to follow his ways.

So do not end Christmas too soon, for the **entire** Season of Christmas is meant to deepen in each of us our awareness of who Christ is and what he summons from our lives. Merry Christmas!

Father Scott

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2011

| | 5:00 PM | 8:00 AM | 10:00 AM |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| PRESIDER: | Fr. Scott Detisch | Fr. Scott Detisch | Fr. Scott Detisch |
| LECTOR | Dan & Robin Dewey | Pat Davis, Craig Palmer | Don & Fran Buseck |
| CO-ORD: | Jim Terry | Mike Borzon | Tim Healy, Melanie Lion |
| EUCH. MINISTERS | Kathy & Ed Malinowski, Larry & Marcia Russell, Steve Wilson, Patrick Timon, Bruce & Pat Stoltz | Colleen Borzon, Rosanne Tupek, Chris & Tony DeSantis, Barb Mitcho, Bob & Peg McCrarey, Gretchen Prozan | Chris Nerthling, Bruce & Siobhan Kobal, Cindy Dropcho, Paul Duberow, John Folga, Janine Guzolik, Jed Lion, Ann Moore, Maurenn Schlegel |
| SERVERS: | Daniel Dewey, Corbin Zitalone, Marah Zitalone, Calvin DePriest | Katie Michael, Jeremy Schroeck, Ryan Facchine | Scott Nerthling, Shelby Folga, Andrew Millward, Aidan Douglas |
| MUSIC: | Cantor | Cantor | Festival Choir |
| MINISTERS OF CARE; | Levstek/Adams | | |
| NURSERY: | Nursery is available at the 10:00 a.m. Mass only | | |

**1 Corinthians 13
(Christmas Version)**

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows,
strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls,
but do not show love to my family,
I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of
Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals
and arranging a beautifully adorned
table at mealtime,
but do not show love to my family,
I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing
home, and give all that I have to charity,
but do not show love to my family,
it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and
crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday
parties and sing in the choir's cantata,
but do not focus on Christ,
I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
Love sets aside decorating to kiss
the husband or wife.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.
Love doesn't envy another's home that has
coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids
to get out of the way,
but is thankful they are there to be in the way.
Love doesn't give only to those
who are able to give in return
but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
love never fails.

Video games will break,
pearl necklaces will be lost,
golf clubs will rust.
but giving the gift of love will endure.

1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three
remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of
these is love."

Submitted by Fran Buseck

**Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers,
and Altar Servers** the new **Ministry
Schedules** for the months of **January,
February and March** are available on-line.
There will also be a few hard copies available
in the Gathering Space for those without
computer access.

To view on- line:

- go to www.holycrossfairview.org
- Click on the Ministries link on the homepage
- Click on appropriate ministry (either Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, or Altar Servers)



**FEAST OF THE
EPIPHANY
Household Blessing**

It is the custom of many Catholic households to bless their homes on the Feast of the Epiphany. Next week we will have packets of materials available for each family containing a prayer and instructions for blessing their own home. Pick up your packet in the manger scene in the Gathering Space.

End-of-the-Year Tax Statement

Annual contribution statements for 2010 will not be sent. If you should need a statement, please contact Joan at 474-2605, ext. 101 or e-mail her at res6mt29@verizon.net and a statement will be prepared for you. Thank you for your understanding. We were able to save several hundred dollars in past years by not mailing statements to all contributors.

Daily Mass Intentions

We are in need of Mass intentions for several daily Masses. If you would like to have a loved one or a special intention remembered at our daily Masses, please call the Parish office.

Due to an early bulletin deadline, collection information for Sunday, Dec. 19 will be posted at a later date.



Mass Intentions

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Monday | December 27, 2010 |
| 8:00 AM | Edward Kubiak Req. by Monica & John Fill |
| Tuesday | December 28, 2010 |
| 8:00 AM | Mary Simpson Req. by John & Pat Timon |
| Wednesday | December 29, 2010 |
| 8:00 AM | Max Kramzer Req. by Ron & Joan Kramzer |
| Thursday | December 30, 2010 |
| 8:00 AM | Communion Service |
| Friday | December 31, 2010 |
| 8:00 AM | Harold & Caroline Timon Req. by John & Pat Timon |
| Saturday | January 1, 2011 |
| 5:00 PM | Barbara Mitcho-Hollibaugh Req. by Mom & Dad |
| Sunday | January 2, 2011 |
| 8:00 AM | Evelyn Thumma Req. by Wednesday Small Faith Group |
| 10:00 AM | Holy Cross Parish Family |

Readings for the Week of December 26, 2010

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Sunday: | Sir 3:2-7, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23 |
| Monday: | 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 |
| Tuesday: | 1 Jn 1:5---2:2/Mt 2:13-18 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35 |
| Thursday: | 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40 |
| Friday: | 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18 |
| Saturday: | Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 |
| Next Sunday: | Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12 |

Our sanctuary lamp will burn in memory of:

FRED ECKERT

Requested by John & Pat Timon

(If you wish to request that the sanctuary candle burn in memory of a loved one or for some other special intention, please call the office. Donation \$10.00).



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Adult: What can I do to diminish the spiritual dangers to all those I regard as family?

Child: How do you think Jesus felt about Joseph and Mary after they finally returned home?

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

OFFICE CLOSED DEC. 27 - DEC. 31

Tue 12/28 8:45 AM CAG Breakfast at Lorie's



Thanks to those who gave generously to benefit the children of St. Martin's Center and the residents of Pleasant Ridge.



**Feast of the Epiphany,
January 1-2, 2011**

Vigil Mass.....5:00 PM
Sunday Masses.....8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

January 1, 2011

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is not observed as a holy day of obligation this year. There will be no special Masses that morning for the holy day.



Prayer Chain Coordinators, Mary Czarnecki & Marie Scicchitano would like to express their gratitude to all the members of the Prayer Chain who are so committed to praying on behalf of others in need by lifting up specific requests, concerns & emergency situations.

With grateful hearts,

Mary & Marie

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