

Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2012

“Follow your star...”

The old song inquires—would you like to swing on a star, carry moonbeams home in a jar, and be better off than you are, or would you rather be a mule? (Not to mention a pig, a fish, or a monkey!) Well, would you? Today’s feast of the Epiphany rivets our eyes upon a star and upon the one the star makes manifest so that we may become infinitely better off than we could have been otherwise. Today’s feast also poses some questions for our reflection and enlightenment.

Have you ever packed up and followed your star’s lead? The Magi did. They are patron saints of people with a journey to make. Journeys aren’t packaged tours. Journeys tend to be uncomfortable, continue through the darkness of wrong turns, and stay focused on the goal, not knowing when the goal will be reached or even how the ending will be recognized. Francis de Sales says this was the nature of the Magi’s journey: “The kings from the East can find pleasure neither in the beauty of the city of Jerusalem, nor in the magnificence of Herod’s court, nor in the brilliance of the star. Their hearts seek the little cave at Bethlehem and its little Child.” (*Treatise on the Love of God*, Book 5, Chapter 7). Their journey does not allow for diversions. Chasing starlight in the dark is to end with their enlightenment. They see the light—the light who is Christ! Are we willing to pack up and journey toward the light who is Christ? It will change us. We, like the Magi, will never be the same.

Where is your star leading and are you willing to pay the price of the journey? The Magi followed the star that led to the manifestation of the Christ child. The Magi placed their time, talent, and treasure at the service of their mission. Their hearts were set on it. Where are our hearts? What are they set on? What’s the object of our hearts’ desire? Francis counsels us: “Keep very close to the crib....If you love riches you will find there the gold that the Kings left; if you love honors you will find incense, and if you love things that delight the senses there is the sweet-smelling myrrh which scents the whole stable. Be rich in your love for your dear Savior, full of honor in the private audience you have with him in prayer, and full of delight in the joy of feeling within yourself all those holy inspirations and affections which come of belonging completely to him” (*Letter to Mme. Gasparde de Ballon*). When we invest our hearts in finding Christ no matter what the cost, we find that treasure is ours in abundance. We discover the clarity we seek—the purpose of our lives and our place within the world.

Where does the star of Bethlehem shine today? As Christians, we claim to have recognized the star that leads to Christ, the light of the world. We say that we have found him and have found the journey to be worth the cost. We profess that we have taken on his mission as our own. To the extent that is true, then the star of Bethlehem shines brightly over us. It is now our star. We are infinitely better off than we could have been and know why. That star will lead others who search for him across our paths. We have been enlightened by Christ and empowered with the mission of Epiphany, to make his glory manifest. We are called to be light for others, to be Christmas stars for those whose hearts still seek.

(Rev. Barry Strong, OSFS lives and works in Wilmington, Delaware)

Eucharistic Ministers:

Rick Barto, Pat Barto, Nancy Rhinda

Music for the Liturgy:

Gathering: # 333 We Three Kings - vs. 1, 2 & 3

Gloria: (Mass of Creation - revised)

Psalm: "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (Celtic Mass)

Preparation: # 313 Angels We Have Heard on High

Eucharistic Acclamations:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Mass of Creation - revised)

23 Memorial Acclamation C

Great Amen (Mass of Creation)

28 Lamb of God

Communion: # 334 The First Nowell

Song of Praise: # 337 What Child Is This?

Sending: # 318 Joy to the World - vs. 1 & 2

Readings

The Reading for today’s Mass are found in the **Glory & Praise** at number **750**

1st Reading ~ Isaiah 60:1 – 6

2nd Reading ~ Ephesians 3:2 – 3a, 5 – 6

Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 2:1 – 18

Flowers this Sunday



The altar flowers were donated

By: Denis & Barbara Fodroczi

In loving memory of Virginia Gundeck



Reconciliation and First Communion Class

Reconciliation and First Communion first class and informational meeting is today in the hall immediately following the 9:00 am Mass.

An Authentic Mexican Breakfast Sunday, January 22nd

Prepared by our local Hispanic families to benefit Our Lady of the Seas Catholic Church.

From 8:00 am – 11:00 am, in our social hall.

The cost Adults \$6, Children \$4.

The menu will be:

HOME MADE TAMALES: red, green and sweet tamales

Mexican sweet breads

Hot chocolate and vanilla porridge style drinks (Mexican atole)

Coffee, tea and orange juice

Eat in or take out, adults \$6 --- kids \$ 4

Also a 32" Vison flat screen TV will be raffled off at the breakfast... Tickets are \$5.00 each. All proceeds will be used to help pay down the mortgage on the church.

All invited to the social hall immediately following the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 22nd



cueva en Belén y su pequeño Niño.” (*Tratado del Amor de Dios*, Libro 5, Capitulo 7). Su viaje no permite diversiones. El seguimiento de esta estrella resplandeciente en medio de la oscuridad terminara con su iluminación. Ellos ven la luz- la luz que es Cristo! Estamos dispuestos a empacar y a embarcarnos en un viaje hacia la luz que es Cristo? Seria un viaje que nos cambiara. Nosotros, al igual que los reyes magos, jamás seremos los mismos si nos decidimos a hacerlo.

En que dirección los guía su estrella y están preparados para asumir el precio de ese viaje? Los reyes magos siguieron la estrella que los guio hacia la manifestación del niño, Cristo. Los reyes magos destinaron su tiempo, talento y tesoros al servicio de su misión. Sus corazones estaban enfocados en ella. En dónde están nuestros corazones? En que están enfocados? Cuál es el objeto que encapsula los deseos de nuestro corazón? Francisco nos aconseja: “Manténganse bien cerca de la cuna... si aman las riquezas allí encontrarán el oro que los reyes dejaron. Si aman los honores allí encontrarán el incienso, y si aman las cosas que deleitan los sentidos allí esta el dulce aroma de la mirra que impregna todo el establo. Enríquzcanse en su amor por su dulce Salvador, llénense de honor con las audiencias privadas que tienen con él a través de la oración, y deléitense con la felicidad de sentir dentro de ustedes todas esas santas inspiraciones y esos afectos que solo son posibles cuando pertenecemos completamente a él” (*Carta a madame Gasparde de Ballon*). Cuando invertimos nuestros corazones en la búsqueda de Cristo, sin importar el costo, encontramos que tenemos un tesoro abundante. Descubrimos la claridad – encontramos el propósito de nuestras vidas y nuestro lugar en el mundo.

En dónde brilla la estrella de Belén hoy? Como cristianos afirmamos que hemos reconocido la estrella que nos guía hacia Cristo, la luz del mundo. Decimos que lo hemos encontrado y que el viaje bien vale el precio que implica hacerlo. Profesamos que hemos adoptado su misión como nuestra. En la medida en que esto sea cierto la estrella de Belén brilla sobre nosotros. Es ahora nuestra estrella. Ahora estamos mejor de lo que podríamos haber estado y sabemos por que. Esa estrella llevara a otros que también lo buscan por nuestro camino. Nosotros hemos sido iluminados por Cristo y facultados con el poder de la de la misión de la Epifanía para hacer que su gloria se manifieste. Hemos sido llamados a ser la luz para los demás, a ser estrellas de la navidad para todos aquellos cuyos corazones aun están en la búsqueda.

Epifania Del Señor Enero 8, 2012

“*Sigan su estrella...*”

La antigua canción pregunta – Te balancearías en una estrella, llevarías a tu casa rayos de luna en una jarra para así estar mejor de lo que estas ahora, o preferirías ser como una mula? (sin mencionar un cerdo, un pez o un mico!) lo preferirías? La fiesta de la Epifanía que celebramos hoy fija nuestros ojos en una estrella y en la única estrella que se manifiesta para que podamos estar infinitamente mejor de lo que podríamos estar de cualquier otra forma. La fiesta de hoy también plantea algunas preguntas para nuestra reflexión e iluminación.

Alguna vez han hecho maletas y se han marchado a seguir su estrella? Los reyes magos lo hicieron.

Ellos son los santos patronos de las personas que tienen un viaje pendiente. Los viajes no son paquetes turísticos. Los viajes tienden a ser incómodos. Continúen a través de la oscuridad que implica hacer un giro equivocado y manténganse enfocados en la meta, aun si no saben si la alcanzarán, o el reconocimiento que recibirán al final. Francisco de Sales decía que esta era la naturaleza del viaje hecho por los reyes magos: “Los reyes del Este no hallan placer en la belleza de la ciudad de Jerusalén, o en la magnificencia de la corte del rey Herodes, o en el brillo de la estrella. Sus corazones buscan la pequeña

La Santa Biblia
Clases dictadas por el profesor
José Mendoza

En español Comenzando el domingo 8 de enero a las 6.30 horas PM. En la iglesia Católica Our Lady of the Seas, en Buxton. Las clases serán cada quince días. El primer y tercer domingo de cada mes. Te esperamos.

Sponsored by the
Yellow House Ministry of Hatteras Island



Priscilla Shirer Bible Study starts Monday night, January 16th, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Books are available for \$12.00. For registration or further information e-mail yhmofhi@aol.com or call 252-202-8985 or 252-216-8684.



Recovery Learning Circle -
Hatteras Island / OBX
Wellness City

Citizen's of Dare County, this is a last minute reminded on our Recovery Learning Circle support groups that start Tuesday on Hatteras Island. There will be a group at Little Grove United Methodist Church in Frisco from 3:30 – 5:00 pm followed by a group at the Fire Department in Avon from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. The Recovery Learning Circle support groups will be every Tuesday through the Holidays and Winter. Are you dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, having mental health and/or substance use challenges? We encourage you to come and join us. If you have any questions, feel free to call Jim Harrison at 252.702.2804 or email at jim.harrison@recoveryinnovations.org Thank you for your interest.

Angel Tree 2011

"THANK YOU for honoring Christmas by giving to those in need! Our Lady of the Seas once again joined Hatteras Island churches, businesses and individuals to help more than 50 families enjoy a brighter Christmas. A special thanks to Megan Vayette & Amberly Dryer who organized our shopping and distribution efforts."



~ January Mass Schedule ~

- Sunday 9:00 am
- Sunday 5:30 pm (Spanish)

Special Notice: There is NO Friday morning Masses during the month of January OR on Ocracoke Island



“ Almighty God, we stand before You, asking for Your divine mercy and protection. Embrace with Your invincible armor our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them the courage and strength against all enemies, both spiritual and physical, and hasten their safe journey back to their homes and families. Amen.” *Please, also remember those killed or wounded and their families, friends and acquaintances.*

Hatteras Island Food Pantry



The Hatteras Island Food Pantry continues to see an increased number of families this winter. The drop box on the social hall porch is available year round for your convenience. Please add a few items each time you shop. Items on sale, coupons, or simply “one extra” of your family’s favorite foods are a quick ways to help. You may give items to form a meal such as spaghetti sauce and noodles, pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter and jelly, etc. Since the size of the families accessing the food pantry varies, please avoid bulk sized items.

URGENT NEEDS:

- Canned meats, fish and stews
- Cereals – hot and cold
- Cooking oil, flour, sugar

Items Commonly Needed by the Food Pantry

- Basic foodstuffs – flour, sugar, coffee, tea, rice, pasta, cooking oil
- Canned vegetables – beets, tomatoes and greens are local favorites
- Peanut butter
- Personal care items – toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors
- Cleaning products, including dish and laundry detergent
- Paper products

Tax deductible monetary gifts are also appreciated. Mail to: Methodist Men/Hatteras Island Food Pantry, PO Box 1591, Buxton NC 27920

Thank you for your generosity!

"OLS FUND RAISER RAFFLE"

Tickets on Sale Today

Raffle tickets are on sale before and after all the Masses, this raffle will support our church.

~ 2 tickets for \$5.00 ~

~ 10 tickets for \$20.00 ~

Drawings will be held every time total ticket sale reaches \$1000.00.

The winner will take home \$500.00 and the church receives the remaining \$500.00. This raffle will continue throughout the summer. A winner will be notified immediately following the drawing. So buy your tickets today to win.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY & TOM PILESKI FROM FRISCO/OHIO OUR 10TH DRAWING WINNER ON THE 20th OF NOVEMBER.



✠ ***Please remember in your prayers***

Yunuent de la Rosa a 16 year old Hispanic girl from our church community and needs dialysis every other day.



Ruegue por:

Please Remember: in your prayers all those on our **Parish Prayer List** especially:

Richard Bacik, Angie Balance, Pastor Rodger Barnett, Jean Belcher, Robbie Bendula, Jim Benton, Anna Watson Blair, Jim & Linda Carolan, Shelia Charrette, Yunuent de la Rosa, Stephen & Phyllis Dyer, Carrie Easley, Valerie Faulkner, Joe Gallagher, Keith Gardner, Delores Gilliken, Stephen Hissey, Ethen Hull, Dee Jensen, TQ Lewis, Grey McDowell, Donna Midgett, Elizabeth Moffit, Ella Newmiller, Paul O'Neal, Andy Obringer, Joseph Obringer, Carol Oliver, Little Mackey Peele, Mackey Peele, Pat Rice, Clyde Stowe, Megan Vayette, David Wark, also the caregivers, homebound, hospitalized & those in special needs.

Please let Fr. Bob know when a parishioner or family member is in the hospital or homebound. He would appreciate the opportunity to visit and offer his services. Also if you would like a Eucharistic Minister to visit you at home during an illness or when unable to attend Mass, please call Fr. Bob 252-995-6613.

LOOK on the back of the bulletin!

We are able to provide this bulletin each week, without cost to the parish because of the advertisers. Please patronize our advertisers. ***To advertise your business and support the church please call Dee Printing at (800)292-9020***

National Migration Week, January 8-14

This year's theme is "Welcoming Christ in the



Migrant." As Catholic social teaching on migration developed, three fundamental principles came to inform Church teaching on this issue:

- 1) People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families.
- 2) A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control migration.
- 3) A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

People of faith must seek a way of balancing their valid security needs while at the same time striving to meet the basic human needs of others. Parishes and individual Catholics are called to proclaim the Church's message of hope and welcome; to create a society that acknowledges the vital contributions of migrants, refugees, and other newcomers to the United States; and to seek to gain basic rights and protections for those living and working outside society's mainstream. For more information on our responsibilities and those of migrants go to: <http://usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/> and www.justiceforimmigrants.org



10th Annual Ignited By Truth Catholic Conference Feb 24-25, 2012

NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh **Raymond**

Arroyo, Host of EWTN's "The World Over

Live;" **Michael Barber, Ph.D.** Professor of Theology, Scripture, & Catholic Thought; **Dr. Philip Mango**, Catholic Psychotherapist; **Sister Miriam James Heidland**, Former Volleyball Star; **John W. Garcia**, Founder of Sober for Christ; **Mario St. Francis**, Fashion Model on a Mission; **Bishop Michael F. Burbidge**, Vigil Mass Celebrant and Homilist.

FREE Friday Night "Discover the Catholic Church" including Praise & Worship Music and talks in English and Spanish. Early Registration Discounts for full program Saturday: Adults \$25 (groups of 5 or more), Individuals \$35, Students (age 10+) \$20, including Lunch! After Feb 5, prices increase to \$45/Adult, \$25/Student. Gift Certificates available! ***Who will you invite?*** Questions: (919) 789-11BT

www.IgnitedByTruth.com

¡GRATIS charlas en español durante la Conferencia Católica Ignited By Truth!

Viernes, 24 de febrero 2012 NC 6-10pm NC State Fairgrounds edificio Jim Graham, Raleigh **Mario St. Francis**, *Modelo de Moda en una Misión*, "La influencia de los medios de comunicación en la vida moderna" **Juan W. Garcia**, Fundador de Sobrios Por Cristo, "La lucha espiritual" **¿A quién vas a invitar?** Preguntas: (919) 789-11BT