

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2010  
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**PASTOR'S COLUMN**

Dear Friends in Christ,

This New Year's time is traditionally a time to make some new year's resolutions. These, of course, are highly individual and vary from person to person. But I would like to offer some suggestions as to some 'liturgical new year's resolutions' that I think may aid in the spiritual life of our community as well as the ongoing spiritual growth of each individual parishioner.

So here goes:

**1. Resolve to join in the singing at Mass:**

Some are very good at this. No matter what their voice is like, they take seriously the call to worship and sing to the Lord. But too many don't even pick up the missalette!!! WHEN SOMEONE DOES NOT EVEN PICK UP THE MISSALETTE TO TRY TO SING, HE OR SHE IS MAKING A STATEMENT TO THE COMMUNITY THAT THEY REFUSE TO PRAY!!! Why? because the hymns are prayers that need to be prayed by the community. St. Augustine went so far that he said "He who sings prays twice!" If you ever gone to a Protestant service you have witnessed how spine tingling it is to hear a whole congregation in full voice praise the Lord. To let the Leader of Song do it is a piece of dubious 'outsourcing'! Even if one is shy you can sing softly or even just mouth the words of the hymn so that you can join the community in prayer. Would you go to a birthday party and refuse to sing 'Happy Birthday to you'? Would not the guest of honor think this is a form of disrespect? Yet we do this to God every weekend. So resolve to sing the praises to the Lord AS HE HAS ASKED US TO DO!

**2. RESOLVE TO BE ON TIME FOR MASS:**

It is amazing to see how empty the Church is when we begin the Mass with the opening hymn. But during the next 15 minutes, the Church slowly fills up. SHOWING UP FOR MASS LATE IS A WAY OF SHOWING DISRESPECT TO GOD AND GIVING BAD EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION. If we think a meeting is important we try to get there a little early so that we settle down in time for the beginning of it. The Mass is the most important meeting of the week and yet we casually saunter in showing how little we value the Mass. While it is true that

sometimes our tardiness is unavoidable (parents with small children should have a free ride to get there at any time they can – so heroic are their efforts to get their little ones to Mass!), some people are habitually late. The solution is simple. Resolve to get to Church 10 minutes before the Mass starts so there is a fighting chance that we will be there at the start. Having some time to read over the readings in the Missalette is an added bonus of the resolution!

**3. Stay in the pew singing until the last verse of the hymn:**

Some people think that if they are there for communion that they have gone to mass and so often (with the body of the Lord still on their tongues THEY WALK OUT INTO THE STREET!) There was a Pastor in a Midwestern parish that had a banner made and kept it furled in the choir loft. At communion time he asked the organist to unfurl it so that people leaving early could see it. It said: JUDAS LEFT EARLY TOO!! If Mass is so important, why are we in such a rush to get out? Once again it shows disrespect for God and give bad example to the rest of the parish.

When I go on vacation I purposely sit in the congregation to get that viewpoint that I usually lack at the parish. I follow the above to the letter because I would not ask you to do something that I would not do myself.

So lets use our New Year's Resolutions to make a real difference in the quality of the worship we owe God!

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY – January 4<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Kathleen Halpin  
9:00 a.m. Dr. Vincent J. LoLordo, DDS (Birth. Remb.)  
12 Noon Veronica Derrien

**TUESDAY – January 5<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Melanie & Rene Sylvestre  
9:00 a.m. Michele Maffei & Alice Hansen  
12 Noon Lucy & Joseph Lesica

**WEDNESDAY - January 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:00a.m. Msgr. Thomas W. J. Hendel  
9:00 a.m. Giovanni & Christina Frisina  
12 Noon Marie Cavalieri

**THURSDAY- January 7<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Rev. Thomas J. Lyons

9:00 a.m. Giuseppe Rotolo  
12 Noon Samuel Marconi

**FRIDAY ~ January 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Rev. Richard J. McCormack  
9:00 a.m. Intentions of Bernadette  
McDougall  
12 Noon Klecak Family

**SATURDAY ~ January 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Rev. Charles P. Vogel  
9:00 a.m. Salvatore & Marianna Cala  
12:00 Noon Amedeo & Phil Piacere  
5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

**SUNDAY ~ January 10<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners  
9:00 a.m. Deceased members of the  
McDermott & Tabone Families  
10:30 a.m. Indalecio Babio (Birth. Remb.)  
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Luis Eduardo Iqua  
1:00 p.m. Ronald W. Savignano

**Lower Church:**

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Luigi & Maria Sabini

**THE BREAD AND WINE** are donated this week in loving memory of Margherita & Bernardino Petruso requested by their grandchildren.

**THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR** are donated this week in loving memory of Margherita & Bernardino Petruso requested by their grandchildren

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP** is burning this week in loving memory of Margherita & Bernardino Petruso requested by their grandchildren

**PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS**



**Please pray for the recently deceased:**

Joseph Conti

**Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them forever. +**

**CHOIR NEWS**

The choir is seeking men and women who like to sing. Come join them for practice on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft. Enter the church through the front side doors.

**WORK AVAILABLE THROUGH AARP AND THE CATHOLIC MIGRATION OFFICE**

The AARP Foundation WorkSearch, Senior Employment Program is looking for bi-lingual Spanish speakers, 55 and older, on limited income and who live in Queens to answer phones and perform light office work for the Catholic Migration Office, a non-profit legal and social services provider for the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens. If you are interested please call the AARP at (718) 433-0010 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and ask to speak with an Employment Specialist or the Catholic Migration Office at (718) 943-4445 and ask for Katie Carew. Please mention this ad.

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La Fundaci ón AARP tiene una programa de trabajo para personas mayores de 55 años o más, con ingreso bajo y que residen en Queens. Para contestar el Tel éfono y trabajo liviano de oficina para la Oficina de la Migración Católica sin fines de lucro que provee servicios legales y sociales por la Diócesis de Brooklyn y Queens. Si Ud. está interesado llamemos a la oficina AARP al (718)-433-0010 entre las 9 a.m. y 3 p.m. y preguntar por un Especialista de Trabajo, o llamemos a la Oficina de la Migración (718) 943-4445 y preguntar por Katie Carew. Por favor, mencionar este aviso.

**MARCH 12-14, 2010 YOUTH RETREAT (AGES 15-30) AT IMMAC**

Our parish is pleased to announce that on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a **Youth 2000 NY Retreat** weekend. This is a beautiful and unique opportunity for the youth of our parish and surrounding parishes, and they are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the weekend. They will join young people from around the metropolitan area to pray, talk and socialize. Registration forms are available in the back of the Church and in the rectory. Please call Kitty Prager at 917-714-7360 for more information.

Youth 2000 is organized by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. They have held monthly prayer festivals that have touched the lives of thousands of young people in the Metropolitan area. Their simple life style, love of Christ, and service to the poor present to the young people a powerful and much-needed witness of Christ living in today's world. YOUTH 2000 was invited by the World Youth day committee to lead Eucharistic Adoration at the World Youth Days in Manila in 1995, Paris in 1997, Rome in 2000 and again in Toronto in 2002. YOUTH 2000 Prayer Festivals

occur almost every week somewhere in the US. At present, YOUTH 2000 is active in the US, England, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Panama, the West Indies, and hopes to expand into other countries in Europe and in Africa. One may also visit the Youth2000NY website: <http://www.youth2000ny.com/MajorEvent2009/ME09.htm>.

**THANK YOU!!!**

Bishop DiMarzio and the staff of Catholic Charities send their sincerest thanks to the parishioners of Immaculate Conception parish for their generous contributions to the Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities. Your gifts enable Charities to continue to work with the children and families of our diocese who are in need. If you missed the special collection last week, your donation is still urgently needed to help Catholic Charities continue our critical work. Donations may be mailed to:

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens  
 Attn: Development & Communications  
 191 Joralemon Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Brooklyn, NY 11201

<b>Week of:</b>	<b><u>December 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup></u></b>
Amount of Collection:	\$5,123.09
Attendance:	896
Per Capita:	\$5.72
<b>Week of:</b>	<b><u>December 26<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup></u></b>
Amount of Collection:	\$10,096.82
Attendance:	1496
Per Capita:	\$6.75

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Isaiah rejoices over the light and glory that will shine upon Jerusalem. He describes how the wealth of nations will be brought to Jerusalem, and travelers will arrive bearing gifts and praising God.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Paul explains to the Ephesians that the Gentiles are now co-heirs with the Jews. Through Jesus, they became members of the same body. Therefore, they would receive everything God had

promised the Jewish converts if they followed Christ's teachings.

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

Astrologers from the east came looking for the newborn king of the Jews, which greatly disturbed King Herod. Herod wanted to kill Jesus, and asked the astrologers to return and tell him where Jesus was. The astrologers found Jesus and brought him gifts, but received a message in a dream telling them not to return to Herod.

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**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**January 3, 2010**

**“God’s secret plan, as I have briefly described it, was revealed to me, unknown to men in former ages, but now revealed by the Spirit to the holy apostles and prophets. It is no less than this: in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are now co-heirs with the Jews, members of the same body and sharers of the same promise through the preaching of the gospel.”**

On this great day of The Epiphany, The Three Kings or The Magi, we celebrate the plan of God, the salvation of all humankind. The well known story of the journey, the meeting with the king, the guidance of the star, the presentation of three gifts are directed to one fact, which Paul calls “God’s secret plan.”

We may remember many details of the gospel occurrence and can fail to understand the full meaning of the event. The Word of God teaches us that God revealed Himself in the Person of His Son Jesus Christ. That revelation, His coming as Savior, was not restricted to that place outside of Jerusalem, or limited to those present at that time. Instead, we celebrate the fact that God used this event to tell us today, that He is our Savior, that Jesus Christ is the gift, that the light has come to guide us to the fullness of life, and because we believe, we offer Him homage.

Like the astrologers, we return to our world, enlightened and gifted by God’s grace, co-heirs, and members of His body and sharers of His promise as we live and proclaim the gospel.