Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

Matthew 2:1–2

JANUARY 3, 2016
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 3, 2016

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
— Isaiah 60:1

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The LORD shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalms — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The mystery has been made known that the Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:1-12).


The Epiphany of the Lord
Looking in the right places

“Appearances can be deceiving,” as the saying goes. As we celebrate the epiphania, the “appearing” of the eternal Word of God on earth, this is still true.

What rapturous foresight must have filled Isaiah as he wrote the words we hear today. How, for four hundred years, they must have filled the hearts of the people of Israel with hope for the day when God’s glory would shine on them. How deceived some must have felt when the glory of God came to them in the lowliest and humblest of human lives.

We have many expectations about how the divine presence will appear among us. But we can also set ourselves up, through these expectations, to miss the divine glory when it truly appears. We get caught up in looking for the star, forgetting that the star is not the divine sign, the babe is. It may take a persistent journey for us to come upon the true appearance of God’s glory in our lives: Jesus Christ.

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**WEEKLY OFFERING**

December 20, 2015

Offertory: $24,138.81  
Latin mass: $818.00  
SVDP: $604.00  
Retirement for Religious: $245.00  

Dec. 27 not available at this time.  
See next week’s bulletin.

**Mass to Celebrate Volunteers**

In appreciation of the volunteers of the Diocese of Venice, Bishop Frank J. Dewane invites all volunteers to a Mass on Saturday, January 16 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Leo Parish, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs. The Mass is an opportunity to extend gratitude and appreciation for those who generously give of their time and talent. All priests, deacons and the faithful are invited to participate in a celebration of the active stewardship of our laity. A lunch will follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.  

*Note..... registration IS required by January 13, 2016. Please call Resurrection Parish Office to Register, 481-7171. All are welcome.*

**MERCY**********

I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think — and I say it with humility — that this is the Lord’s most powerful message: mercy.  

Pope Francis — Homily on March 17, 2013

**YEAR OF MERCY**  
**DECEMBER 8th, 2015 - NOVEMBER 20th, 2016**  

*LORD JESUS CHRIST, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.*

—Julia A. Fletcher Caney

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION FUND**

The Second collection this week will be taken up for the Church of the Resurrection Catholic Education Fund.  
This fund is specifically designed to provide financial aid to needy and deserving children in our parish who otherwise would not receive a Catholic education.

*Our gratitude to all who consistently and generously support this endeavor.*

**PLEASE JOIN US IN THE PARISH CENTER FOR DONUTS AND COFFEE AFTER THE SUNDAY 10:30 MASS**

**This week’s Sanctuary Candle:**  
*In loving memory of Mabel Provensal*  
*by Family*

**LITTLE MINUTES**

Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land; so the little minutes, humble though they be, make the mighty ages of eternity.
RESURRECTION MEN’S CLUB
ANNUAL POLISH DINNER & DANCE

Monday, February 1, 2016
(Tickets available at Parish Center - 481-7171)

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30
SERVING AT 5:30 P.M.
*****
LIVE BAND
5:00 - 8:00 P.M.
*****
TICKETS $20 ADVANCE
$25 AT THE DOOR

MENU:
Pierogi, Cabbage Rolls
Sauerkraut, Kielbasa,
Coffee, Dessert
Beer & Wine Available
*****
Limited Seating

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT PARISH CHARITIES

(REFRESHMENTS MAY NOT BE BROUGHT INTO THE HALL BY GUESTS)
Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Mercy -

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and
have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being
enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking
happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after
his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that
you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of
God!”
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness
and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its
Lorn risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the
Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good
news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this of you, Lord Jesus,
through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who
live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and
ever.
Amen.

Jubilee Year of Mercy

January 3, 2016
The Epiphany of the Lord
In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Epiphany celebrates God’s mercy shining on the magi from a guiding star. Their kingdoms were far from Jerusalem, their religious far from God’s covenant with Israel. At first the star led the magi to Jerusalem, where they could “recalculate” their quest with the help of God’s own “GPS,” the Jewish scriptures. How challenging and humbling for the magi to discover that they would find the world’s Messiah not in a palace but with a poor couple in an insignificant village. That’s where God’s mercy, shining in the star, led the magi to worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Today the magi invite us to “recalculate” our life’s journey during this Jubilee Year—to follow the star of God’s mercy along the way of humble love, to discover a renewed personal relationship with Jesus ourselves and so become “guiding stars” leading other seekers to find Jesus, too.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

MEN’S GOSPEL FORUM -
Fridays at 7:00 a.m. at Sweet Bean Coffee Café, McGregor Blvd.. Call Ange Ford for more information, 216-496-0269.

RESURRECTION CALENDAR

All events take place in the Parish Center unless otherwise stated.

Adoration, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Bereavement & Beyond Ministry, Every Monday, 8:30am.
For more information call Alouise 481-8168
Coffee & Donuts, Sundays after 10:30 Mass beginning Oct. 4
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00p.m., Sept. - May
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Sundays, 3:30p.m., call 482-6883 for information
Rel. Ed., September - May
Resurrection for Life, 2nd Wednesday of Oct, Jan, Apr. 9 am
Resurrection Prayerline Ministry, call Deanna Latell 481-1170.
Rosary, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30p.m.,
chapel
Rosary Makers, 3rd Thursdays Oct. thru May, 9-11 a.m.
St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 pm. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749, or email, svdp@resurrectionch.org
Teams of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30a.m. Sept. - May
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Over the next few weeks, if you were to stroll around Prague or Budapest or Kraków, you might see curious graffiti scratched in chalk over some doorways: “20 + C + M + B + 16.” The families dwelling behind those doors have celebrated the Epiphany door blessing. They have gathered before the feast-day meal, probably after Mass, and the head of the family has traced the sign of the cross on the piece of chalk. Standing on a ladder, the leader traces the numbers for the new year, and the letters C M B for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, Latin for “May Christ bless this house.” The letters also point to the names that tradition has assigned to the mysterious magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar—although scripture tells us nothing of their number, their country, or their names.

The blessing speaks of journeys ended and journeys begun at the doorway, and prays that all journeys be as satisfying as was the magi’s. It prays that the house beyond the door have the quality of love and peace that the magi marveled at when they at last arrived in Bethlehem. In some countries where the Soviet Union tried to impose a harsh atheism, the vigor of this household custom survived all efforts to erase Christian customs. In the years of struggle, the chalked blessings were a pervasive sign of defiance, and now in the light of new freedoms, they are a sign of the resilience of our tradition and the fulfillment of the magi’s quest for meaning and peace.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

HELPERS OF GOD’S PRECIOUS INFANTS

MY LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU

Mama, please don’t hurt me,
I’m helpless and so small,
If you don’t choose to keep me safe, then I’ve no one at all.

I’m not a thing to be destroyed -
in private, secretly;
I’m growing here beneath your heart,
I’m real, I’m yours, I’m me!

Perhaps your heart is troubled,
Filled with fears or with shame.
But Mama, try to understand
I’m not the one to blame!
I’ve never, ever hurt you,
So, you’ve nothing to forgive,
Why should I have to die
Before I’ve had my right to live?

If you can’t keep me, Mamma,
It’s all right, I’ll understand,
But please let someone else reach out
To take my hand.

So many childless couples would be
Happy as can be,
If they could but adopt and love
A little one like me.

Remember that when you were just
As small and frail as I,
Your mother didn’t make the choice
To have her baby die.
You had your chance to live,
So, please let me have my chance too.
I can’t escape, I can’t cry out...
My life depends on you!

~ Your pre-born child
**Lighthouse Catholic Media...**

**The Mass Explained**
Inspiring speaker Fr. Larry Richards presents exciting and powerful insights into the history, spirituality, and biblical foundations of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He opens the door for us to enter more profoundly into this most perfect prayer and unite our offering with that of the priest. This will change the way you experience this most sacred of all mysteries, the source and summit of our lives.

**RESURRECTION FOR LIFE**

**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FT. MYERS**
EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY. AND TUESDAYS FROM 7:30 AM AND THURSDAYS FROM 10:30 UNTIL CLOSE. WE ALSO PRAY EVERY MONDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD, CORNER OF WIN-KLER & COLLEGE ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 AM AND 1 PM.

**We need volunteers to serve as ushers at Mass**

We are in need of Ushers at the 5pm Saturday mass. If you are a parishioner in good standing, or are new to the parish and can provide a letter from your former parish, please call the Parish Office 481-7171 or see John Patterson, the Head Usher, after mass.

**God has Come in Search of You**
We often hear of our search for God, but seldom, if ever hear of God’s search for us—or at least we do not think we do. But, the truth is that God first seeks us out, so that we might seek Him. He thirsts for us, so that we might thirst for Him.

(cf. CCC nos. 2560-2567).

DEACON MICHAEL BICKERSTAFF JANUARY 4, 2015
INTO THE DEEP, SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS3 COMMENTS

**PLEASE HELP FEED THE HUNGRY!**

Your food donations will help St. Vincent DePaul, Catholic Charities, CCMi Soup Kitchen, South Ft. Myers Food Pantry. Drop food in boxes at vestibules in the church or Parish Center. The following is most needed: Canned fruit & vegetables (corn/peas/carrot/green beans). Canned meat (tuna/chicken/sausages/ham/Spam), Spaghetti noodles and Sauce, ready Macaroni and Cheese, Maseca flour (small bags), Canned diced tomatoes, Tomato sauce, Cereal, Canned soups (prefer chicken), Baby Diapers and Dry beans (pinto/red/kidney).