January 8, 2017
The Epiphany of the Lord

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2017

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Matthew 2:11b

Mass Schedule

SAT. JAN 7 - VIGIL MASS
3:30 †Peggy Devic by Husband, Charley

SUN. JAN 8 - SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
7:30 †Dorothea Sedlak by Pat & Leo Smith and Pat & Steve Kosut
9:00 †Catherine Marlow by Leahy Family
10:30 †Pat Lotz by George & Marian Markovich
2:15 Latin Mass
5:15 ††People of the Parish

MON. JAN 9 -
8:00 †Mildred Nielsen by Joan Wyckoff & Kate

TUE. JAN 10 -
8:00 †Anthony Marver by Wife

WED. JAN 11 -
8:00 †Don Carstensen by Wife, Maryanne

THU. JAN 12 -
8:00 †Dona Badman by Bobbie Masny

FRI. JAN 13 -
8:00 †Rose Bascone by Larry & Betty

SAT. JAN 14 -
8:00 †Nancy Olin by M/M Al Doud

SAT. JAN 14 - VIGIL MASS
3:30 †Angelo Bonaclta by Uncle
5:00 †Ed, Em, & Ralph Kobylarczyk by Friedl Family

SUN. JAN 15 -
7:30 †Ann Bradley by Cathy & Andy Wilson
9:00 †LIVING & DECEASED MBRS OF SERRAO/WASKO FAMILIES
10:30 ††People of the Parish
2:15 Latin Mass
5:15 †Tom Connolly by Family

CONFESSIONS - Saturdays 2:15-3:15 or 30 min. before Sunday Masses or by appointment.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS......all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, especially Mary Kirkpatrick, Arthur Voelker.

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGE: For these Sacraments please notify the church office as soon as possible so that we may advise you of the requirements. Thank you.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please fill out registration card and return to ushers or the church office.

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:
Tel. 482-6883 or 481-7172

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES STORE: Tel. 437-9876
The Gift Shop is located in the front of the church

PARISH OFFICE: Tel. 481-7171 or 481-7172
Fax: 481-8007, www.resurrectionch.org
E-mail: parishoffice@resurrectionch.org
8121 Cypress Lake Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33919

The Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, January 8, 2017

Today's Readings

First Reading
Isaiah 60:1-6
Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading
Matthew 2:1-12
The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

PLEASE JOIN US EACH 1ST FRIDAY FOR ADORATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 8:00 MASS
If any parishioner is in need of assistance St. Vincent DePaul would be honored to help you. Any requests will be kept strictly confidential. Call the SVDP President at 239-600-6749.

**PLEASE DON’T FORGET THE POOR BOXES; THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE POOR!**

**PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS** - Please join us every Thursday immediately after the 8:00 Mass to pray for priests.

**RESURRECTION PRAYER LINE MINISTRY**
For prayer requests or to sign up as a volunteer call: 481-1170.

**MINISTRY OF THE SICK**
**IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:**
When admitted to the hospital please register as Catholic and notify the parish office immediately, 481-7171. Resurrection priests visit the hospitals daily. To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission.

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by St. John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

**December 25, 2016**

Offertory: $58,274.50  
Christmas Education: $46,449.00  
Latin Mass: $756.00  
SVDP: $845.00

Thank You

**January 1, 2017**

Offertory: $19,492.47  
Education: $10,432.00  
Latin Mass: $184.00  
SVDP: $635.00

Thank You

**GIFT SHOP HOURS**

**Thurs. 7:50 - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sat: 2:30 - 4:45 p.m.**  
**Sun. 8:00 - 12:00 p.m.**

THE GIFT SHOP IS LOCATED AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH

**RESURRECTION CALENDAR**

*Adoration*, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

*Bereavement & Beyond Ministry*, Mondays, 8:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 9th. For more information call Alouise 481-8168

*Coffee & Donuts*, Sundays after 10:30 Mass

*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, after the 9:00a.m. Mass, for info, 482-6883

*Rel. Ed.*, September - May

*Resurrection for Life*, for info, call Judy at 287-1237


*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
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Venice is blessed with many generous and dedicated priests who have followed Christ's call to act in His person in the priesthood. The Diocese is further blessed with vocations to the priesthood, evidenced by our present number of 21 seminarians. Your support of the Annual Seminary Collection continues to be crucial as challenges increase for a proper formation environment and education of our future priests.

This special collection ensures that we continue to have good priests to serve you and your family. It supports the Church's mission of cultivating and fostering priestly vocations, and supporting the next generation of diocesan priests in their studies. Further, this collection supports our seminarians who are studying at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in nearby Boynton Beach.

Funds are needed to assist our future priests with tuition, room and board, health care, transportation, and other expenses, including inviting more men to consider the priesthood. Your gift to the Seminarian Collection helps offset these costs.

Parishes in the Diocese of Venice will conduct this annual collection for Seminary Support the weekend of January 7 and 8, 2017. Your gift provides vital financial support of the Seminary for the future of the Church in Florida.

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you my blessings in this New Year. Thank you and may God bless you and your family for the support of our seminarians.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida
Calling All Moms…
You are invited to share in a new ministry for mothers!

**SWF Catholic Moms:** Where mothers are nourished, strengthened and cherished, and families are celebrated!

Come join fellow Moms......
Every first and third Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 in the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall

For more information contact Amanda Gavini at:
239-222-0452 or girlyamanda@yahoo.com
Join us for Lunch!
All are Welcome!
“We celebrate God’s love at every Mass and we live it everyday in sharing time; in listening and learning from each other. God is present around a table...Jesus told us: “Do this in memory of me.”

YOU are Invited to Olive Garden
12870 S. Cleveland Dr.
Wednesday @ Noon - Jan 25
Call to reserve your space by Jan. 16
Dutch Treat - Separate checks
Jesus calls us to share meals with each other!

Looking for peace?
Needing hope?
Feeling God’s love?

RCIA is here for you!
Resurrection Parish Center
Call us, to ask your questions.
We are here to listen...
Peace, Hope, Love
Awaits us through Faith

Inquiry Classes available
Call: Joanne MacPeek
481-7171 ext. 216

Resurrection Parish Mission Statement
Convinced that Jesus communicates a new life to those who believe in Him, and that He was raised from the dead in order that we might live, we are united to the risen Lord as a people born anew to a life of hope.

All are Welcome
Join us Wednesdays
RESURRECTION PARISH CENTER
10:00am—11:30am
Bible Study
A History We Can Share

Jan. 11 - The Spirit Arrives
Jan. 18 - Healing and Boldness
Jan. 25 - Who are you, Lord?
Feb. 1 - The Spirit Leads the Way
Feb. 8 - Grasping What God is Doing
Feb. 15 - Missionary Adventures

A call to be open to a love that
Precedes us, a love that
Transforms us from within,
acting in us and through us

Women’s Guild News -
To all ladies of the Parish,
The first meeting of the Guild for the New Year will be held January 18th in the Parish Center immediately following the 8:00 Mass. Refreshments will be served before the meeting starts. Our program will be a presentation by Melanie Musick of the LifeLine Pregnancy Center of Cape Coral.

The first few rows of pews at the church are reserved for the Women’s Guild on Guild Day at the 8:00 Mass. Please consider sitting as a group to give recognition.

Magnificat Breakfast - will be held Jan. 28, 9:30 a.m. at Holiday Inn Airport, Gulf Coast Town Center, Ft. Myers. Cost is $20.00. Send check, payable to “Magnificat Fort Myers” to Joanne Tarantino, 3315 Bermuda Isle Circle, Unit 128, Naples, FL 34109 or call 239-631-6661 or 646-296-2335. Requests must be postmarked by Jan. 20, 2017.
The Most Powerful Woman in the World

Author: Mary K. Matestic, MTS
For Liturgical Publications, Inc.
http://www.4LPI.com/2016/12/27/powerful-woman-world/?
mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT0RSa1pXWmp2VFU1Wm12MMyiInQ/Oj39R1c3dUbhj0UzhnZ1dMYW83c2hNU34RXVpNGErajkkS01WQIBBTJlxTkF3aER3K0t
SShGbkZCUlJmTFbsYnhWmE1RUJm2kIrT2JhNc9tcoAzawZtWmxkJAhSn8pbD8OZ2ZV1cyT0hEbkb165Ux2eFoiFO%3D%3D

It is wisdom that the Church begins the New Year with Mary, the Holy Mother of God as its portal. For Mary is clothed in the wonder of history. She is the iconic feminine figure who has been shaped with maternal care from the most sketchy of Scriptures. Of her we know so little from the text. Even Paul only mentions her once in all his works and that is minimal. Mary would have it that way, self-effacing as she seemed. Paul’s words are in the context of her magnum opus: birthing the Savior. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption” (Galatians 4:4-5).

For Paul, Mary is nameless.

Not so today. In December of 2015, National Geographic placed Mary on its front cover with the banner, “Mary: The Most Powerful Woman in the World”. Time Magazine, in the March 21, 2005 issue, also placed Mary on its cover with the header: “Hail, Mary”. The news here brought the Protestant search for Mary into full view. And Newsweek selected Mary for its cover in an August 1997 issue.

I saved them all. My own love for the Blessed Mother is not without noting; and scripturally I have often wondered how a woman with such humble beginnings could become the most painted image reflecting and reinforcing social and religious change throughout all of history. There are brilliant artistic depictions of Mary at every point in her Son’s life. I have Fra Angeli-co’s Annunciation on a well-traveled hallway wall in my home. The Nativity, the discovery of her Son in the Temple, the wedding feast at Cana, Mary at the cross of her Son, Mary with the apostles at Pentecost, and countless portraits of the Madonna and Child—each with its own intimate beauty—find their way into ancient cathedral windows as well as into the desperate homes of the poor.

In recent times, the outpouring of devotion to Mary has swelled once again. Rev. Michael Gaitley’s do-it-yourself retreat in preparation for Marian consecration (33 Days to Morning Glory) boasts two million copies in print—including my own bookshelf and in the hands of countless people I know who want to “grow their spiritual lives” under the mantle of Mary, the Mother of God! So, why is Mary so popular? First, Mary loves us as her Son loves us. She has a knowing eye upon the world from her celestial residence and often enters history in order to forewarn the people that war and strife are at hand. Those warnings are accompanied by invitations to prayer and turning away from sin. She is a kind of prophetic female John the Baptist who senses imminent need among the people. In Kibeho, Rwanda, between 1981 and 1989, three young visionaries saw hideous images of genocide as Mary appeared to them, warning them of the horror that was to come. Mary called herself the Mother of the Word and stressed that people pray and turn from sin.  

Continued on next page
The visions preceded the Rwanda massacres that began in 1994.

Anathalie, one of the children who saw the Blessed Mother said, “I was reciting the rosary and she called me by my name. I heard her say, ‘Nathalie, my child.’ She looked very beautiful indeed, between 20 and 30 years old. She spoke in Kinyarwanda in a very calm and soft voice. She was in a blue veil and white dress. She never told me why she chose me. She said she appears to anyone she wants, anytime she wants, anywhere she wants.” She never mentioned any particular religion, Anathalie said. “She only asks us to love her as much as she loves us.” Twelve years later, the Rwandan genocide happened and this child reported that she witnessed the blood bath that Mary showed her years prior. She managed to escape to Kenya. Alphonsine, the other visionary, became a monastic sister in Italy; and Marie Claire, the third child who saw Mary, was killed.

The Vatican has declared this vision valid.

Second, in our culture of materialism, narcissism, racism, sexism, and all the other “isms” that define a mindset of bias, Mary models for us compassion, mercy, and, above all, the embrace of the poor. She continues to sing her Magnificat announcing a God who casts down the mighty from their thrones and who lifts up the lowly. It was to a brown-faced poor Indian who lived in Guadalupe, Mexico, that she appeared in 1531. Mary asked Juan Diego to tell Bishop Zumarraga to build a church outside Mexico City. After a life-size image of the Virgin was miraculously imprinted on Diego’s tilma, the bishop complied. Juan’s mantle is encased in said cathedral even now as a reminder to the millions who go there that Mary comes among the poor, to draw all persons to her Son, Jesus. We know this Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Again, it was to a poor young girl in Massabielle, a grotto near Lourdes, France, that Mary came in 1858. Here Mary overrode the skepticism of a Church hierarchy by appearing to a child, Bernadette. Mary asked that a church be built at Lourdes where waters would flow offering hope to millions who pilgrimage there each year. Here where Mary referred to herself as the Immaculate Conception, the wretched flesh and bones of men and women who suffer find their downcast spirits freed to hope once again.

Finally, Mary offers to the human soul respite in times of travail. Whether devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help or to the recently popularized Our Lady Undoer of Knots, people continue to supplicate to the Blessed Mother for her intercession. When at the wedding feast of life it becomes evident that there is a terrible lack, folks are wont to go to Mary and tell her, “There is no wine.” “There is no hope, there is no possibility, there is no solution, there is no peace, there is no love … but you who have recourse to your Son, Jesus, you can ask him and he shall take note of the situation on your behalf!” It is a strange perspective, but one that somehow gives hope to the despairing. Beneath the mantle of her love, there is love. Prayer uncovers it.

When the world turns its face away from God and the things of God, then it seems Mary comes, offering a corrective and an invitation to return to her Son, Jesus. Though the visions at Medjugorje that began in 1981 and continue today have not been officially approved by the Vatican, one cannot deny the fact that twenty million people that visited there and continue to visit there seek a closer walk with her Son. They may go seeking signs and wonders, but on their return, they have found Christ; they have found peace. Mary’s invitation goes further as well, warning the world that peace will topple if hearts are not cleansed. At Medjugorje, Mary refers to herself there as Queen of Peace.

It is consoling to know that Mary cradles the world still. It is consoling to know that in 1846, eight years before Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, the Sixth Council of Baltimore formally chose the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived without sin as the Patroness of the United States.

And now, as the leadership of our country changes hands and huge paradigm shifts are on the horizon, it is reassuring to know that this mysterious woman, who birthed Christ, identified among the poor, misunderstood, humble and yet victorious, continues to intercede for the very people her Son came to save.

Through the portal of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, the New Year begins. The arc of her life is bent toward love and a simple warning to take hold of Christ, her Son, Jesus, whose life was given over for us all.

Prayer

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America in to the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she many present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom which has been its heritage. Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our President-elect and on all the officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity. Have mercy on capital and industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the innocence of our children. Grant the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners—on all who are in need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, Our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise you and honor you and give ourselves to you. Protect us from every harm. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the Will of your Divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God. Amen.

—An Act of Consecration for the United States from Prayers for All Occasions: From the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.
YOUR PRAYERS MATTER. YOUR SACRIFICES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Who:
You and thousands of other Catholics across the country!

What:
During 9 Days for Life, join thousands of Catholics nationwide in 9 days of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person’s life:

1) Pray for the respect and protection of each person and his or her life using short prayer guides with different intentions, reflections, and more each day!

2) Gather together in prayer, action, and fellowship with others.

3) Share your experience online!

When:
Sign up now & participate Saturday, January 21 – Sunday, January 29. (If you’re getting started after January 21, it’s okay!)

How:
Visit www.9daysforlife.com to download a free mobile app or novena, sign up for daily emails or text messages, or discover many other ways you can participate!

4 WAYS TO JOIN

- Email
- App (iPhone & Android)
- Text Message
- Online

Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
www.usccb.org/prolife
9daysforlife.com
Meaning of Epiphany

In order to celebrate this feast of Manifestation more fully, we need to know more about the theology and significance of this great feast of Epiphany. Elsa Chaney explains in layman’s terms about this feast. Some of the references to the liturgy and divine office refer to pre-Vatican II rites, but all the insights are still applicable.

The feast of manifestation, or Epiphany, is traditionally celebrated the 12th day after Christmas, January 6th. In the dioceses of the United States this feast has been moved to the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

For many years in the English speaking world the feast of Epiphany has been overshadowed by that of Christmas. But unless we realize the significance of this great day, we see only one side of the mystery of the Incarnation. Now after contemplating the staggering fact that God has become a human child, we turn to look at this mystery from the opposite angle and realize that this seemingly helpless Child is, in fact, the omnipotent God, the King and Ruler of the universe. The feast of Christ's divinity completes the feast of His humanity. It fulfills all our Advent longing for the King "who is come with great power and majesty." We see that whereas Christmas is the family feast of Christianity, Epiphany is the great "world feast of the Catholic Church."

Epiphany is a complex feast. Originating in the Eastern Church and formed by the mentality of a people whose thought processes differ sharply from our own, the Epiphany is like a rich Oriental tapestry in which the various themes are woven and interwoven — now to be seen in their historical setting, again to be viewed from a different vantage point in their deep mystical significance. In this brief introduction four of the main ideas of the Epiphany will be outlined.

Divine manifestation: The Epiphany takes its name from the Greek epiphania, which denotes the visit of a god to earth. The first idea of the feast is the manifestation of Christ as the Son of God. "Begotten before the day-star and before all ages, the Lord our Savior is this day made manifest to the world." The feast unites three events in the life of Christ when His divinity, as it were, shines through His humanity: the adoration of the Magi; the baptism of Christ in the Jordan; and the first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. Moreover, at Epiphany the Church looks forward to the majestic coming of Christ on the "youngest day" when His manifestation as God will be complete. The Gospels of the baptism and the marriage at Cana are read on the Octave Day and the Second Sunday after Epiphany, and later Sunday masses in the Epiphany season continue to show the divine power of our Lord in some of His most striking miracles.

Royal kingship: A second important idea in Epiphany is the extension of Christ's kingship to the whole world. The revelation of Christ to the three kings at Bethlehem is a symbol of His revelation to the whole of the Gentile world. Epiphany presents to us the calling of not merely a chosen few, but all nations to Christianity.

Your Light is Come: Closely linked to both these themes of divine manifestation and world kingship is a third idea running through the Epiphany feast: that of light. During Advent, the world was in darkness, and we prayed and waited in the spirit of the Jewish nation which lived in expectation of the Coming Light during thousands of years. At Christmas the Light shone forth, but dimly, seen only by a few around the crib: Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. But at Epiphany the Light bursts forth to all nations and the prophecy is fulfilled: "The Gentiles shall walk in Thy light, and kings in the brightness of Thy rising." The mysterious star of Epiphany, "flashing like a flame," is still another facet of the light-motif, a symbol capable of being interpreted in a dozen different ways.

How much food for thought and reflection is contained in just these three ideas, and what a significance they have for our own time! Epiphany lifts our eyes from the family celebrations and demands that we should include in our vision "all the ends of the earth." It demands that, like the three wise men, we should have the courage to follow the light of the star we have seen, however hazardous the journey; that the light of our faith, like that of the wise men, should be so strong that we are able to see and recognize our Lord and Ruler in however unexpected a way He may present Himself to us; and that having recognized Him, we should bow down and adore Him, offering Him our total loyalty. 

continued on next page
Moreover, Epiphany demands that like these kings we should return to our own countries a different way, carrying to all those we meet the light of Christ. "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth," says the Epistle of the Epiphany Mass, "and a mist the people: but the Lord shall arise upon Thee, and His glory shall be seen upon Thee. And the Gentiles shall walk in Thy light." These words may be applied to us, upon whom the light of Christ has indeed risen, and who have the responsibility to radiate that light in the darkness of our own world. It is clear how much the feast of Epiphany must mean to all who are engaged in the apostolate and are striving to extend the kingdom of Christ.

The royal nuptials: Besides the important ideas outlined above, there is still another great theme threaded through the Epiphany feast—the theme of the royal nuptials, the wedding of Christ with humanity. It is an idea on a completely different level from the historical events which the Epiphany celebrates, yet inextricably bound up with them; for example, the historical marriage feast of Cana is used by the Church to suggest the setting for Christ’s nuptials with the Church; the wise men represent not only the three Persian Magi adoring the Babe 2000 years ago at Bethlehem, but also the Gentile world hurrying to the wedding feast at the end of time when mankind's nuptials with the divine Bridegroom will be celebrated; the gold, frankincense and myrrh are not only tokens for the little Baby King in the stable, but royal wedding gifts for the mystical marriage feast of heaven.

The Epiphany antiphon for the hour of Lauds brings out strikingly this theme of the divine marriage of Christ with humanity, and at the same time shows the deep mystical significance behind the historical events surrounding the feast. Perhaps nowhere more clearly than in this antiphon do we see that on Epiphany we do not commemorate a set of historical facts as much as we celebrate a great mystery: "This day the Church is joined to her heavenly Spouse, for Christ has cleansed her crimes in the Jordan. With gifts the Magi hasten to the royal nuptials, and the guests are gladdened with wine made from water."

Permission by: Philip F. Lawler, Editor
Catholic World News, Original Source: www.catholicculture.org

Faith & Wine Lee County -
Faith & Wine Lee County invites you to attend on Thursday, January 26th, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Columbkille. Our speaker, Sonja Corbitt will present “Fearless, Conquer Your Demons and Love With Abandon”. Women from all parishes are invited this event which includes a light dinner, a glass of wine and an inspiring topic by a Catholic speaker. Cost for this event is $15.00. For more information and to register please visit www.faithandwineleecounty.com.

Faith & Ale -
The next scheduled Faith & Ale meeting is January 19, 2017, 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord. The speaker will be General Tom Draude, USMC. The topic: "Being Catholic in War & Peace". Mark your calendars!

St. Andrew Catholic School Cash Raffle Tickets are on sale through Sunday, January 15, 2017. Please stop and take a book or two from the box in the front door vestibule. The drawing will be held at 7:00 p.m. during the Festival. You may return the stubs and money to the collection basket, by mail, or in person at the Festival. Your annual support of this very important fundraiser helps our school to provide excellence in Catholic education. St. Andrew is excelling in every area, in great part to your faithful support. Thank you for your participation! A Very Merry, Blessed Christmas and Healthy, Peaceful New Year from the administration, faculty/staff and families of St. Andrew Catholic School!

A Dialogue Between Priest and Rabbi Reflecting on Pope Francis and Rabbi Skorka’s book “On Heaven and Earth”
Presented by Father Bob Kantor & Rabbi Adam Miller
January 19th, 2017
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm)

Father Bob Kantor, Pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church, and Rabbi Adam Miller, Rabbi of Temple Shalom, will participate in a dialogue based on a book co-written by Pope Francis and Rabbi Abraham Skorka: "On Heaven and Earth; Pope Francis on Faith, Family, and the Church in the 21 Century." The book brings together a series of conversations between the authors - both tenacious promoters of interreligious dialogues on faith and reason - about God, fundamentalism, atheism, abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, and globalization. Father Bob and Rabbi Miller, as members of the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County, will recreate this fascinating dialogue, making it relevant to our lives and providing us with a better understanding of these religions and their responses to the issues we face today. Come join us for an evening of fellowship and a scrumptious dinner. Cost is just $25 per person.

Men are also invited to attend! This event will be held at St. John the Evangelist Life Center Ballroom, 625 111 Avenue N., Naples FL. For event payment and more information, please visit our website at www.faithandwine.com.
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