

A reflection from the Pastor

Merry Christmas and Happy 2010 to you and your families!

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, or the manifestation of Jesus' light of truth to the nations. The gospel tells us that the magi: "were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:10-11). Imagine Mary's surprise at the greeting of these three travelers. Interestingly, the gospel does not say they went to the manger scene, but rather the house where Mary was with Jesus. This we know was when Jesus was some age under two years old, because first, it had taken the travelers some time to get there, and second, when they returned Herod decided to kill all newborn males, two years and under [in the futile attempt of killing Jesus]. Joseph was probably out working to support the family. But there is no doubt the focus is on Jesus – it is his light and truth that they witness; one that the rest of the world continues to behold as they accept the gospel and turn away from sin. The gifts the magi presented were gifts fit for a king. As we experience the light of the gospel this day – Jesus – what gifts do we present of our lives? Hopefully our entire selves.

Many of you have already made your new year's resolutions. My prayer is that we continue to grow in the ways of the Lord Jesus and that our faith may abound for God's glory. More immediately, I pray that many of our families will return to worshipping each Sunday here at St. Patrick's. A common trend throughout our diocese and country, only about less than a third attend regular Sunday worship. We need to encourage, ask, and remind those who have been away that they are always welcome back. Also, I hope that those who have irregular marriages or impediments will come and see me, so that we can get you back in full communion and back at the Eucharistic table. Those adults who need the Sacrament of Confirmation should also contact me, so that we can prepare you to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and be fully initiated into the Church. I ask for your prayers for all of these needs and those unforeseen in this upcoming year.

Thank you again to all of you who baked or cooked or sent a card during these holy days. It is truly a blessing from the

2010 PARISH CALENDARS

The 2010 parish calendars have finally arrived. They are available at the church entrance, one per family please. We are grateful to **Artero Memorial Chapels** who sponsored the calendars this year.

Liturgy / Mass Schedule for the week ahead

Tuesday, 5th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Anne Mundine + S. John Neumann</i>	by <i>Lonnie & Anne Gregorcyk</i>
Wednesday, 6th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>David Escalante, Sr. + 12th Day Family of Christmas</i>	by <i>Arnulfo & Janie Gonzalez &</i>
Thursday, 7th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Beatrice Cantu +</i>	by <i>M/M Daniel Tillez</i>
Friday, 8th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Isidoro Perez +</i>	by <i>Richard & Frances Mendez</i>
Saturday, 9th	5:15-5:45 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance	Rosary – leader: <i>Lupe Olguin</i>
	5:40 p.m.		
	6:00 (vigil)	Mass – <i>Beatrice Cantu +</i>	by <i>M/M Robert Cisneros</i>
Sunday, 10th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Pro Populo</i>	
		<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	
	10:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Mildred Mikulenka +</i>	by <i>Gary and Christy Parenica</i>
		<i>Vocation Awareness Week</i>	

Readings – Baptism of the Lord

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday 9th, 6 p.m.

Lector	Lisa Canales
Cup Ministers	Jeanette West, Paulette Brandl
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	A. Chamberlain, P. Canales, J. Canales Sr., R. Brandl

Sunday 10th, 8 a.m.

Lector	Bacilio Gonzalez
Cup Ministers	Deacon Fred and Patty Soto
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	A. Posada, H. Cardona, T. Cabral, H. DeLuna

Sunday 10th, 10 a.m.

Lector	Ismael Perez
Cup Ministers	Mary Helen Garcia, Margaret Escalante
Altar Servers	Jason, Michael, and Angelica Valenzuela
Ushers	L. Rivera Jr., D. Hybner, A. Rodriguez, A. Reyes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This Wednesday

Regular classes resume

K-6 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

7-12 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Please arrive early so as not to be late.

Collection Overview:

Last Sunday: \$ 1788.04

Christmas Offering: \$1169.10

JANUARY MEETINGS

12 Catholic Daughters Meeting 7 Heritage

21 Knights of Columbus Mtg. 7:30 Heritage

30 Pre-Baptism Instruction 10-12 Heritage

To baptize, you must live within the parish boundary and should be attending Mass. If from another parish (immediate family [i.e., parents or grandparents] are active parishioners) you must provide a letter from your pastor stating you are active and you must attend your parish's baptismal class. Baptisms are held the first Sunday of each month except during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Birth certificate of child is required before baptism.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

15 minutes prior to each daily Mass

Saturday: 5:15 - 5:45 P.M. and by Private Appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact the parish office to register for the preparation class. Godparents should be practicing, church-going Catholics, who have celebrated their Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning to marry should contact the parish at least six months prior to their desired time of marriage.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

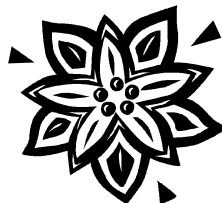
This healing sacrament is available when one is preparing for medical procedures or is seriously ill. Please call when needed.

New Parishioners

Welcome. Please call the parish office to register.

The bulletin is provided for the explicit purpose of communicating information weekly to the people of God in Bloomington, Texas concerning the pastoral mission of the parish. For more information or to have something included, please call the pastor.

**Christmas Flower
Offerings cont.**



*Rivera and Edson Families
by M/M Lupe Rivera.*

*Carl L. Brzozowski
by Donna Brzozowski*

Mark Your Calendars – 2010 Major Events

April 24 - Spring Barbecue

May 1 - 50th Anniversary Mass 10:00 a.m.
w/Bishop Fellhauer presiding and
invitation to former pastors
R.S.V.P. lunch in hall (*details coming*)

September 26 – Fall Turkey Dinner

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Pastor

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Bloomington, Texas

Quinceañeras/Quinceañeros

Young ladies/men approaching their fifteenth birthday, who are of the parish, are attending religious education classes, and have been enrolled for three years, may contact Mrs. Torres six months in advance to arrange the church celebration.