My Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Christmas Season that has the unusual name: Epiphany. It’s a Greek word that can be translated as “a manifestation,” “a revelation” or “a showing” – and what is manifested, revealed or shown in this case is Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world (not just the Jewish people, as was expected at the time of Jesus’ birth).

It’s a beautiful feast: we hear in today’s Gospel (Matthew 2: 1-12) how heaven and earth bow down to the newborn Jesus. A star leaves its celestial course to shine above the birthplace of the Lord, foreign sages come to do him homage with rare and expensive gifts, and even King Herod senses that Christ’s true power outshines the importance of his Herod’s royal throne.

One of the first mysteries of our faith is that all of this glory and power manifests itself in the simplicity of a stable, in a helpless infant born seemingly to two people without rank who were travelling on their way to a national census.

What does this Gospel, this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, tell us? The glory of the Savior is found in the most common of places, in the most basic surroundings, among the simplest of people. This is the Good News... which reveals the radical pervasiveness of God’s grace, God’s unparalleled love for human beings, present to us – and to everyone – in the most ordinary and everyday circumstances of our lives. No part of the human experience is too mundane, too boring or tragic or broken for the presence of God!

How are we to respond to all this information? I think that the first response of any of us is just to try our best to “soak it in....” God indeed works in mysterious ways, motivated solely by God’s need to be in an intimate, loving relationship with all of those he has created in his own image and likeness. Our second response can be one of taking seriously our role as evangelizers (or, “spreaders of the Gospel,” to put it somewhat awkwardly) that we have by virtue of being baptized into the Body of Christ and living as Christ’s disciples. The role of evangelizer does not require a special degree or particular technical training. It only requires that we live the Gospel. That’s the best way to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people. We don’t have to stand on a soapbox, or browbeat others with doctrines, or nag our adult children to go to church, or twist the arm of someone who believes differently than we do. All we have to do is simply live what we believe. Once again, I’m reminded of what St. Francis of Assisi was reputed to have advised: “Proclaim the Gospel. If necessary, use words.”

May we not only “celebrate” Epiphany today... may we “do” Epiphany throughout this New Year!

Grace and peace in Christ,

Fr. Charles G. Kieffer
Pastor
PARISH NEWS

All are invited to our next evening of family enrichment NEXT Friday, January 13th from 6:30-8:30PM in Fr. Feeney Hall. Our January Date Night will include a presentation on “God’s Original Plan for Marriage”. How the meaning and purpose of Marriage is revealed through the Old and New Testaments. Tell your married or engaged friends about this wonderful opportunity to grow in appreciation of our spouses and the covenant of our marriages. The evening is free, and light refreshments will be served. Childcare available for children over one year old. Please RSVP all childcare to stpdatenights@gmail.com. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED We always need more Safe Environment Trained Adults to help with childcare. Contact Olivia @ 480-262-5916 for more information on how to help.

Certificate/Letter Requests We ask that all requests for copies of Sacramental Certificates/letters/forms be given a minimum of 5 business days to be completed. All requests will be processed within 10 business days on a first come/first serve basis. PLEASE NOTE: All Sacramental certificate requests REQUIRE a photo ID and a request form to be filled out. If the certificate request is for a minor, a legal guardian will need to provide a photo ID and fill out the request form. For any questions, contact the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850.

St. Vincent De Paul Our next 5th Sunday collection will take place the weekend of January 28th & 29th. Members of the St. Vincent De Paul will be at the church doors after the Masses to accept your donations.

Spring 2016 Adult Confirmation And Reception Into the Catholic Church

Are you a practicing Catholic over age 19 who somewhere along the way, missed celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation? Are you Baptized in another Christian Tradition and would like to be in full communion with the Catholic Church by this Easter? Start the new year off by growing in faith and personal spirituality. Six week preparation sessions will be offered starting Sunday, January 29th after the 11AM Liturgy at noon in the Convent Upper Room. All participates work schedules will be accommodated. Candidates must be registered members at St. Theresa Parish and provide a copy of their Baptism Certificate. Registration materials & schedule will be available at the first session. We look forward to journeying with you. For more information, please contact Patty & David Pettit at pdpettit@sttheresaphx.org.

Got Paper? Our green paper retriever bins are located behind the McMahon Center Gym and are ready to accept your recycled paper. All proceeds go to support Student Council-sponsored activities of St. Theresa Catholic School. PLEASE, paper only... no shredded paper, cans, glass or trash.

Rock & Roll Marathon Weekend Mass Schedule Change

Due to restricted access to the parish campus during the annual Rock & Roll Marathon, we will have a special Mass schedule on January 14th & 15th. Two vigil Masses will be offered on Saturday, January 14th – the first at the regular 4:00PM time, and a second at 6:00PM. Only two Sunday Masses will be offered in the afternoon on Sunday, January 15th – the first at 3:00PM, and the second at 5:00PM (regular time). Please note that there are no morning Masses on January 15th.

Thank you for your understanding, and we'll look forward to seeing you here!
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ATTENTION:
Parents & Guardians of Elementary School-age children who do not attend St. Theresa Catholic School—
we still have room in our Traditional Sunday Classroom RE Program and we always have openings in our Home-School RE Program. Both of the programs are offered to children 3 years-old through 5th grade. If you would like more information, please contact Rita Laguna in the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850 ext. 110 or by email at Rlaguna@sttheresaphx.org.

Reminder: Parents of first grade (this year) RE children, please note that in order for your child to plan to receive their second grade sacrament (next year) of First Reconciliation, they must be registered in and attending a Religious Education Program (either the Traditional Sunday Classroom or the Home-School Program) here at St. Theresa Parish this year. If you have any questions, please contact Rita Laguna at the above phone number or email address.

PASTORAL CARE

Hospitalized Or Homebound? Please contact the Pastoral Care Ministry Office (Maureen Schaaf @ 602-586-7429) so that we can be there in your time of need.

“When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then, when you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now.”
~Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Adoration takes place every Thursday in the Convent Chapel from 9AM–8:30PM. Come to understand how much Jesus loves you.

Pray For Those...
Who Are Sick: Kathleen Himmelberg & Sister Noreen Joyce

RCIA

The preparation for the Christmas Season includes exchanging gifts for those whom we love. You can give no better gift than the gift that God has given to us: his Son, JESUS.

Invite someone who is not Catholic or Catholic and away from the church to attend Mass with you!
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults starts with each one of us and a welcoming heart...
Let’s share our chosen Faith with others this year.

For more information regarding RCIA, contact Patty & David Pettit, Adult Initiation, 602-840-0850 #116.

Mail Received At Parish Office For Parishioners
Incidents have been reported to the Diocesan Pastoral Center where inappropriate, unsolicited mail has been sent to parishioners in care of their parishes. How does the sender know which parish to send a letter to, addressed to a specific parish family? The newspaper and online obituaries. These letters take advantage of grieving families, and the senders are able to put together the name of the family with the church here the funeral Mass is celebrated. Rather than to subject a bereaved family to a disturbing or inappropriate mailing, St. Theresa Parish reserves the right to open and/or refuse any mail delivered to a parishioner in care of the Parish Office. If the mailing is “legitimate” (i.e., not a solicitation or inappropriate message), we will of course forward it to the parishioner to whom it is addressed. Otherwise it will be destroyed. Thank you for your understanding!

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Happy 70th Anniversary! On behalf of St. Theresa Parish, we want to commend and thank the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on the occasion of their 70th Anniversary in Arizona, in particular a BIG thank you to the St. Theresa Parish Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. Members of the Society demonstrate their Christian faith daily by their devoted care for the poor.

Bunco

Tuesday, January 17th at 1:45PM in Fr. Feeney Hall. The game is easy and fun! Join in for laughter, friendship and prizes.

RCIA

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Alzheimer’s Support Group: Tuesday, January 31st in the Parish Office Conference Room at 4PM. It can be exhausting caring for someone with memory loss. Our group is honored to have one of our own, Dr. Anna Burke, who can help answer questions, and guide families through this journey. Anna is a Geriatric Psychiatrist and Dementia Specialist.

Grief Support Group: Do you need support while grieving the loss of a loved one? We want to help. Our next Grief Support Meeting will be held on Monday, January 23rd at 2:30PM in the Parish Office Conference Room.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Xavier College Preparatory Entrance Exam
Saturday, January 21, 2017: Registration for the Xavier Entrance Exam (HSPT) for prospective 9th Graders is available online at www.xcp.org. (Advance Registration preferred but walk-ins are welcome.) The exam begins at 7:30AM and approximate dismissal is at 11:30AM. An exam fee of $50 will be collected at the beginning of the exam, payable in cash or check. (No credit cards accepted.) Additional information regarding the admissions process for the school year 2017-2018 is also available at www.xcp.org.

Catholic Women’s Conference Registration is now open for the 7th Annual Phoenix Catholic Women’s Conference on February 18, 2017 at Xavier College Preparatory. Our theme this year is Perhaps You Were Born For Such A Time As This and our speakers include Author Marge Fenelon and our own Sr. Mary Jordan Hoover, Principal of the new John Paul II High School. Early registration is $50 through January 15th. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. To register go to our website at www.pdccw.com or call 602-471-1944.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Sometimes we need to reflect how to let God live with us in our marriages. Explore how by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter the weekend of February 24th-26th in Phoenix. To apply for this weekend, for other dates and for more information please visit www.wwmearizona.com.

A New Year Blessing

God of time and of eternity, God of every generation, with Christmas joy we praise you for the year gone by and for the year we have begun. Your Son comes among us to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim a year acceptable in your sight. Knit us in harmony and love, who are flesh of His flesh. Fill the year with good gifts for all the world as we join the angels in proclaiming your praise: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and for ever. Amen.
ST. THERESA PARISH – PHOENIX, AZ     SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017

Mass Intentions (JANUARY 9TH-JANUARY 15TH)

MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH
6:30AM  **EDWIN MERKEL**- Fr. JC
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH
6:30AM  **ANN NOVAK (MOTHER)**- Fr. JC
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11TH
6:30AM  **PAULETTE JAWORSKI (SISTER)**- Fr. JC
6:30AM  **EVELAND MALESKI**- Fr. CHUCK
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH
6:30AM  **ALL THE HOMELESS**- Sp. Int.- Fr. JC
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH
6:30AM  **ALL THOSE BATTLEING CANCER**- Sp. Int.- Fr. JOACHIM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH
8:00AM  **FOR THE PARISHIONERS**- Fr. JC
4:00PM  **FRANK DIBUGNARA**, Jr,- Sp. Int.- Fr. CHUCK
6:00PM  **GILDA DIBUGNARA**,- Sp. Int.- Fr. JC
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH
3:00PM  **SISTER NOREEN JOYCE**- Fr. JOACHIM
5:00PM  **SISTER DOLORES SLOSAR**, OP.- Fr. JC

The Priest scheduled to celebrate the Mass IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

~ Readings ~

Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday  Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-5a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Monday  Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 5, 7-9; Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday  Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 1:21-28
or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday  Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-2, 5-6, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday  Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday  Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday  Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday  Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10, 1 Cor 1:1-3, Jn 1:29-34

The Week Ahead

Sunday
8:30AM  Pancake Breakfast (Msgr. McMahon Gym)
10:15AM  RCIC (Club Rm)
10:30AM  RCIA (Convent Upper Rm)
         RE Classes (School Classrooms)
12:30PM  4th-12th Grade Sacramental Prep (Life Rm)
6:00PM  Life Night (Life Teen Rm)

Monday
1:00PM  Pastoral Care Book Club
        (Parish Conference Rm)
3:30PM  Youth Choir Rehearsal (Church)
5:30PM  Core Team Mtg. (Life Teen Rm)
6:30PM  Boy Scout Mtg. (PJP Rm)
         SVDP Mtg. (Convent Conference Rm)
7:30PM  Adult Basketball (Msgr. McMahon Gym)

Tuesday
9:30AM  Centering Prayer  (Convent Chapel)
5:00PM  Reconciliation (Church)
6:00PM  Choir Rehearsal (Church)
         Pastoral Council Mtg. (Club Rm)
6:30PM  Rosary (Convent Chapel)

Wednesday
9:00AM  Adoration (Convent Chapel)
7:00PM  Infant Baptism Formation Class
         (Parish Office Conference Rm)
         Kevin Saunders Bible Study (Fr. Feeney Hall)

Friday
6:30PM  Covenant Of Love Date Night (Fr. Feeney Hall)

Saturday
8:30PM  Al Anon (Classroom 16)
         Alcoholics Anonymous (Classroom 17)

Epiphany