

CONNECTING MEOTA WEEK 134 Jan 4, 2023

This newsletter is meant to inspire, entertain, and keep everyone in the Meota Parish connected to one another throughout the week.

Our next church service, will be

SUNDAY JANUARY 8, 2023, 10:30 am

**One joint service at
CHRIST CHURCH**



LET US WORSHIP THE LORD TOGETHER!!

Did you know that Friday January 6th is

EPIPHANY

In the world-wide community of the Christian Church, January 6 is known as Epiphany Day, and marks the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child! The word "Epiphany" means "revelation" and indeed many things are "revealed" in their visit!

There are several traditions which have come to us from past centuries regarding the Wise Men. One unreliable but nevertheless interesting tradition gives the three names: Gaspar, Melchior, and

Balthasar! Another insists that the Magi represented the white race, the yellow race, and the black race. But we do know this: they were following the Star, for after arriving in Jerusalem they ask, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

The Magi were either of Persian or Babylonian descent. Both of these cultures were steeped in the tradition of studying the movement of stars and planets and the meaning of such, much like astrologers of today. They felt that a momentous event was about to take place in the land of Israel. That is why they came.

They did find the Christ child! Matthew 2:11 records their visit to Jesus in these words:

¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Note that their visit to the Christ Child did not take place at the manger, but in "the house." The assumption is that by the time they started their journey and arrived in Jerusalem, and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus, two years may have passed!

Their visit is remarkable. It is an “Epiphany.” For in this history, we see that the Christ came not just for one nation or people, but for all.

Epiphany lasts for several weeks and comes to an end on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. From that point on, another “revelation” comes to us as we see Jesus heading toward His destiny on Calvary’s cross.

From Trinity DowntownTLC@TrinityDowntown.com



What is Epiphany?

EPIPHANY is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God in His Son as human in Jesus Christ. The word epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning “manifestation.”

The feast also commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, and thus Jesus’ physical manifestation to the Gentiles.

DOMINUS EST 

READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 8th, 2023

Readings

ISAIAH 42:1-9; PSALM 29; ACTS 10:34-43; MATTHEW 3:13-17

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: **I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations**, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

ISAIAH 42:1-9



Second Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Peter began to speak to the Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**"

ACTS 10:34-43

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, **suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."**

MATTHEW 3:13-17



HAVE YOU MADE A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

20 Christian New Year's Resolutions

You'll Actually Want to Keep.

Last week was 1-10, This week: 11 – 20

11. Forgive Past Grudges

The Bible makes it abundantly clear — if you are a Christian, you are expected to forgive those who have hurt you. Note: This doesn't mean what they did is okay or that you need to allow them the ability to do it again, but you do need to get rid of any grudges or unforgiveness you may be harboring in your heart.

This article should help: [Four Things Every Christian Needs to Know About Forgiveness](#)

12. Break an Addiction

Do you have any addictions in your life right now? It doesn't have to be a drug addiction or drinking problem. It could be something as seemingly small as being too attached to your phone, too attached to cookies for comfort, or too attached to social media.

Galatians 5:1 tells us *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."*

What do you need freedom from today?

13. Find a Mentor or Accountability Partner

It's one thing to say you're going to make a change in your life — it's another to find someone to keep you accountable to actually make that change. If you're feeling stuck — or just serious about changing — find a mentor or accountability partner to help hold you accountable.

14. Be a More Loving/Involved Wife, Husband, Parent or Friend

I think we're all guilty of letting our relationships slide a bit at times. Ready to make this year the year you change that? Don't promise to just "do better." Get specific. What are 1-5 specific actions you are going to do this year to improve your relationships and when are you going to do them?

15. Be Content With What You Have

It can be difficult to be content in North America. There are always ads and commercials surrounding us, reminding us to need or want more, more, more. This year — maybe you want to get intentional about fighting that urge. Perhaps you'd like to try a "No Spend" month, and then save that money for something important or give it to charity? Or, start a Thankful Jar. Every evening, or once a week, write down what you have been thankful for today or this past week. Next New Year's Eve, take out the slips of paper and see how God has worked in your life, and be thankful.

16. Keep the Sabbath

This is another Biblical guideline that is all too easy to overlook, and yet I don't think God intended it to be optional. What can you cut out or cut back on this year to leave room for rest and Sabbath?

Related: [6 Powerful Ways to Create a More Worshipful Sunday](#)

17. Refuse to Gossip

Are you guilty of gossiping? Maybe this year is the year you decide to change that. If so, here are a couple articles that may help:

- [How Should Christians Respond to Gossip?](#)
- [How to Stop Gossiping Once and For All](#)

18. Listen to Christian Music

This one is super easy, but it can make a world of difference. Put on Christian radio in the car, at work, or even while you're cleaning the house and see how it changes your mood, your outlook and even the atmosphere of your home!

19. Stop Complaining

Are you guilty of complaining? Philippians 2:14 reminds us to *“Do everything without complaining and arguing.”*

Trust me, I know how satisfying it can be to complain about slow drivers, annoying people at work, opinionated people on Facebook, and grocery cashiers who put raw meat in with raw vegetables (*seriously people!*), but in this case, it really is best to just bite your tongue.

20. Do Random Acts of Kindness

This is a fun one — and it's actually really easy to do if you're willing to get creative! Choose a set number to do every week or month, and get your kids involved if you can. It will be well worth it!

Here are a few ideas to get you started thinking:

- [52 Random Acts of Kindness for a More Charitable New Year](#)
- [Why You Shouldn't Do Acts of Kindness \(and What You Should Do Instead!\)](#)



Gentle Goals for a New Year

Watch more sunsets.

Share smiles with strangers.

Discover a new favorite song.

Say yes to adventures whenever

possible. Try a new recipe. Read

good books. Say what you mean.

Treat yourself with respect and

affection. Hydrate. Listen with

interest and compassion. Allow

gratitude to change you. Spend

time in nature. Create. Love hard.

Dream wildly. Wring every drop of

goodness from each day. Live

deeply, courageously, and honestly.

Be open to wonder and delight.

Nanea Hoffman



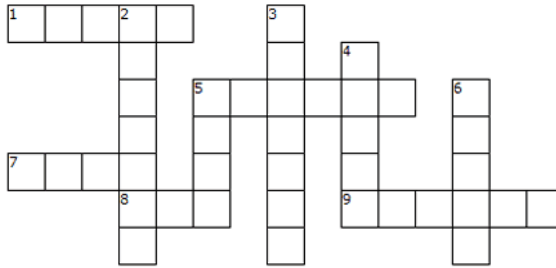
FUNNY BONES



The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Based on Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



ACROSS

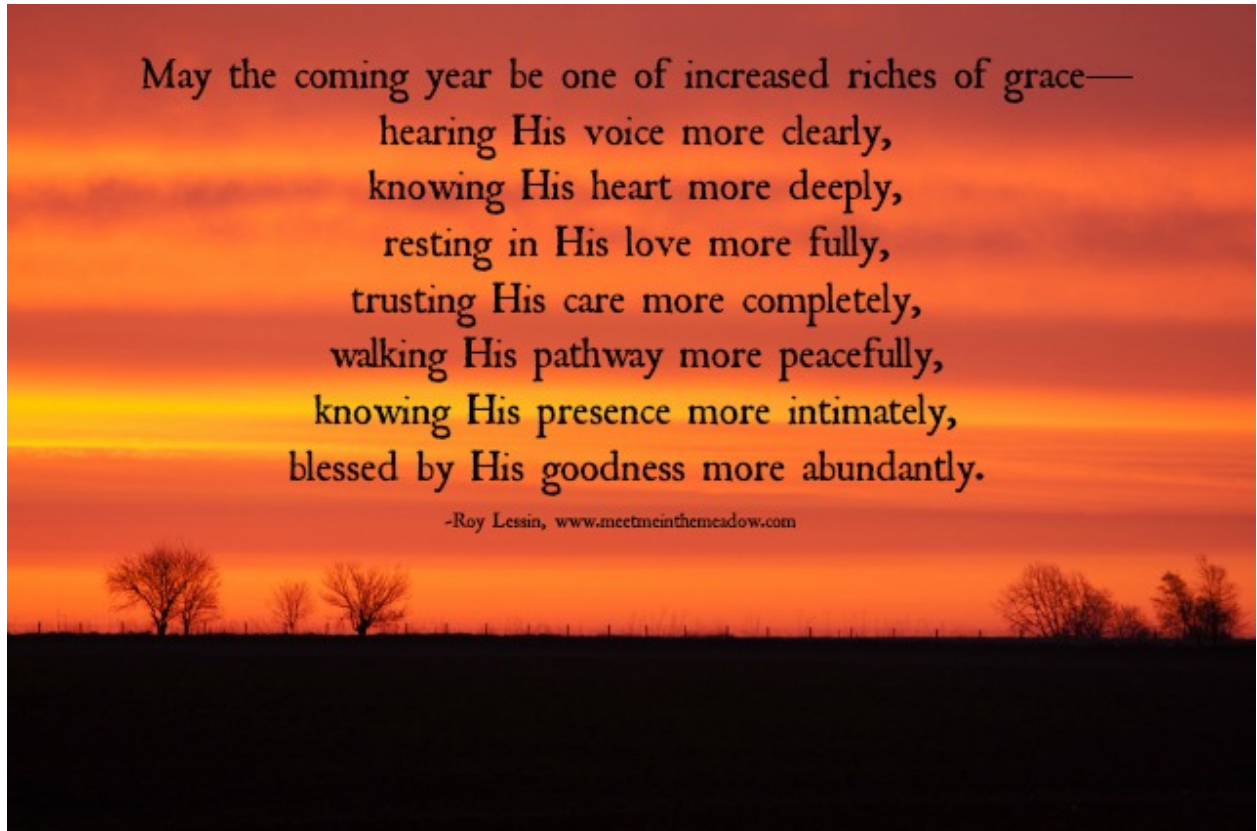
1. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.
5. The river where Jesus was baptized.
7. The Spirit came down from heaven like a _____.
8. To break one of God's commandments.
9. To turn away from sin.

DOWN

2. To admit that you have done wrong.
3. To pardon for sins.
4. The liquid used to baptize someone.
5. Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
6. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

FORGIVE	JORDAN	JOHN	DOVE	REPENT
CONFESS	WATER	SIN	VOICE	HONEY

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD



ALLELUIA!!