

Epiphany of the Lord

4 January 2014

THIS WEEK AT HOLY ROSARY

Sunday, 4 January 2014

Epiphany of the Lord

Scouts Breakfast after the 7, 9 & 11 AM Masses

Confirmation CCD – 10:00 AM

Highschool CCD – 10:00 AM

Epiphany Play Workshop – 2:00 PM

Epiphany Performance – 7:00 PM

Monday, 5 January 2014

CCD K-8 – 4:30 PM

Knights of Columbus – 6:00 PM

Tuesday, 6 January 2014

No Events Today

Wednesday, 7 January 2014

C.L. – 7:00 PM

R.C.I.A. – 7:30 PM

Thursday, 8 January 2014

Cub/Boy Scouts – 7:00 PM

Friday, 9 January 2014

Children's Adoration – 7:00 PM

T4:12 – 7:00 PM

Saturday, 10 January 2014

No Events Today

Sunday, 11 January 2014

Baptism of the Lord

Coffee and Donuts after the 7, 9 & 11 AM Masses

Holy Family Dominican Laity – 8:00 AM

Confirmation CCD – 10:00 AM

Highschool CCD – 10:00 AM

A Reflection on the Christ Child by Gregory of Nyssa, 335-395 A.D.

The Creation of Man, 4 [PGG44, 136]

Just as a craftsman in ordinary life makes a thing in a shape suitable for its intended use, so the Master Craftsman has fashioned our nature to be a fitting instrument for the exercise of sovereignty over the universe, by providing it with spiritual gifts and a bodily shape for a king.

The soul's exalted and royal nature is shown to be far removed from submissiveness by the fact that it is free and independent and acknowledges no master – it has been provided with its own unchallenged power of choice. What is more characteristic of a king than this?

Those who paint portraits of rulers in ordinary life copy the details of their form and underline their kingly importance by dressing them in purple so that the portrait is as that of a king by its composition. In the same way, human nature by virtue of its likeness to the King of All, who created it to rule others, is seen to be a living portrait of him – the portrait has a part in the title and importance of its Master.

It is not dressed up in purple nor does it show its importance by a scepter or a crown – the Original does not have these either – but it is clothed in virtue, which is in truth the most royal of all garments, instead of a purple robe. It relies on the blessedness of immortality instead of a scepter. In place of a kingly crown it is adorned with the garland of righteousness.

Thus the accoutrements of kingship show it to be in all respects an accurate copy of the form of the Original.

EPIPHANY PLAY

Please join the youth of the parish in celebrating the feast of the Epiphany! They will present an original dramatic performance exploring what it meant to be present for Christ's birth and the coming of the Magi. The performance will take place at 7:00 PM today, Sunday, January 4, with a reception to follow.

LIFE: AN "EPIPHANY" OF GOD - "Life is always a good. ... Why is life a good? This question is found everywhere in the Bible, and from the very first pages it receives a powerful and amazing answer. The life which God gives man is quite different from the life of all other living creatures, inasmuch as man, although formed from the dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7, 3:19; Job 34:15; Ps 103:14; 104:29), is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory (cf. Gen 1:26-27; Ps 8:6). This is what Saint Irenaeus of Lyons wanted to emphasize in his celebrated definition: 'Man, living man, is the glory of God'. Man has been given a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites him to his Creator: in man there shines forth a reflection of God himself" (The Gospel of Life, n. 34)

VOCATIONS BENEFIT DINNER

Columbia River Serra Club is hosting its 5th Annual Vocations Benefit Dinner on Saturday, January 31, at 6:30 PM in Marian Hall at St. Joseph Church in Vancouver, WA. Archbishop J. Peter Sartain will be the keynote speaker, accompanied by men and women religious, seminarians, and priests to foster vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. The cost is \$12 per person; all high school youth are free. Proceeds go to support Quo Vadis (Seattle), a 3-day camp for young men to learn about the priesthood. For tickets, contact Kathleen or Tim Tomassi at 503-882-8835 or kathleen.tomassi@gmail.com. Babysitting will be available upon advance request.

MONTHLY PRAYERS FOR LIFE

There will be a prayer service including the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the culture of life at St. Agatha's Catholic Church on Sunday, January 11, at 1:30 PM. St. Agatha's is located at 7960 SE 15th Avenue, Portland. Contact Therese Ruesink if you would like a ride.

From the Pastor



Provincial Chapter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This letter is to let you know that both Fr. Stephen Maria and I will be away for the majority of the month of January. In our absence Frs. Dismas, Gerald, and Paschal will continue to labor in their priestly works here at Holy Rosary Church. Frs. Emmerich Vogt, O.P. and Mariusz Tabaczek, O.P. of our Polish Province will also be assisting.

So where will Fr. Stephen Maria and I be? Every four years, each province of the Order of Preachers holds a chapter when a prior provincial is to be elected and planning is undertaken. Fr. Stephen Maria is to attend *ex officio* as a prior of a Dominican community and I was elected from this particular area.

“The provincial chapter is a gathering of the brothers over which the vicar of the province or the prior provincial presides. Its object is to discuss and to make decisions about all that pertains to the fraternal and apostolic life and the good administration of the province. It also holds elections for the province.” (LCO, 351§ I) In the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Western Dominican Province), electors at a provincial chapter are conventual priors (e.g., Fr. Stephen Maria), additional representatives from larger priories, delegates of the brothers elected from geographical regions (e.g., Fr. Vincent), extra friars selected at large, and the outgoing prior provincial.

For the Dominican friar, the provincial chapter is more than a meeting. It is a sacred undertaking governed by the Holy Spirit according to our ancient laws. It is said by some, that in addition to the Statues of the Republic of Venice and the Iroquois Confederacy Constitutions, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and the other authors of the U.S. Constitution may have also possessed a copy of the Constitutions of the Friars Preachers.

“The chapter shall begin with the Mass of the Holy Spirit. In the prayer of the faithful after the homily, petitions shall be made for the successful outcome of the chapter, and for the living and the dead, mentioning by name those who have died in the Lord since the last chapter.” (LCO, 358 § II) After prayer, the first step of governance is to elect or reelect the prior provincial, who will head the province for the next four years. Following the selection of a prior provincial, the chapter fathers will elect a *diffinitorum*. It is this body that will undertake the most important work of the chapter making declarations and petitions, issuing assignments, filling offices and positions, and attending to other matters in accordance with our laws. While the *diffinitorum* meets, the new prior provincial and the diffinitors together have full governing power, over the entire province, its priors, and brothers, until the end of the chapter. All of the chapter fathers participate as advisers to the *diffinitorum* and form commissions to assist with the work of adding or altering the legislation of the *Acta* (the particular legislation of each province). “Among matters to be dealt with by the commissions are apostolic activity, the state of the province with regard to personnel, disciplinary and economic matters.” (LCO, 358 § III)

According to the Constitutions of the Order, the chapter can last no longer than one month. Only with the consent of the Master of the Order, may it in exceptional cases be extended for a period of fifteen days. Once the *Acta* is completed, it is sent to Rome to be approved by the Master of the Order.

As you can see, this is a major undertaking. I would request that you keep all of the Dominican Friars in your prayers at this time. May the Holy Spirit guide us to a zealous and effective preaching of Christ born for us in the Western United States.

In the Infant Christ,

Fr. Vincent