

# St. Cletus Faith Formation Newsletter

Friday, January 6, 2023



This week we said goodbye to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. He was a man of great faith, a theologian, a scholar, and a pastor called to lead the Church through difficult and traumatic times.

Elected Pope after the death of St. John Paul II, it must have been difficult to assume the role of Pope after the long pontificate of the beloved and charismatic John Paul II. Although many speculate he would have preferred to continue his academic research, he said yes to the call of leading the Roman Catholic Church. In 2013, at the age of 85, Pope Benedict XVI resigned as Pope, due to his advancing age and health concerns. He continued to live out his life in service to the Church, dedicated to prayer.



On Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany simply means revelation. We are celebrating the revelation that Jesus Christ is the true Light of the World. The Epiphany of the Lord is God's revelation to the Gentiles (and all nations) that Jesus is the Savior of the world. The wise men presented gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These were not ordinary gifts, but gifts fit for a king. The wise men from the East represent us, the Gentiles, recognizing Jesus as our Lord, Savior, and King. Jesus is the only star that we should follow, because once we find Christ, we have found what we are truly longing for: the only One who can bring us fulfillment and joy. I pray that we all recognize Jesus as our Savior and King.

## Our Prayer for the Week

*Father, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Savior was born. May our lives reflect Your light day by day, as we seek to serve wherever You have placed us. Teach us how we might be the means through which others may encounter our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*

**Calendar:** Remember, we are on break through January 20, 2023. Our Confirmation Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 21. Regular classes will resume on Sunday, January 22, and Monday, January 23.

**Catechetical Event:** Mark your calendar! On Saturday, January 28, we will be hosting a Catechetical Event for our Faith Formation families and children.

**Parent Group Needed for Catechetical Event:** we in the Faith Formation office are seeking a group of parents to help plan our annual Catechetical Event on Saturday, January 28. This volunteer Parent Group will work together (a) planning the children's fun, educational games and activities; (b) recommending special food & treats; (c) determining the number of volunteers needed, including student volunteers; and (d) directing the general flow of the Event. If you are interested, please e-mail Lawrence Manetti at [lmanetti@stcletusparish.com](mailto:lmanetti@stcletusparish.com).

### **Sacramental Preparation**

**Confirmation:** Our Confirmation retreat will be on Saturday, January 21, beginning at 12:00 noon with lunch. We will be looking for a few volunteers to help with lunch and organizing activities. If you would be willing to help, please contact the Faith Formation Office: [lmanetti@stcletusparish.com](mailto:lmanetti@stcletusparish.com) or [hobregon@stcletusparish.com](mailto:hobregon@stcletusparish.com).

**Reminder to All Confirmation Students:** please turn in your Pastor's Letter the day of the retreat. There are also a number of students missing their Saint Report. By Monday, if your child is missing any other item(s), those parents will receive an e-mail, itemizing what is still needed.

**Special Sacraments Group:** This group is our children in grades 3–7 who have not yet received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The next session, which will focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, will be held on Saturday, February 4, from 9:30–11:30 a.m. An agenda for the day will be e-mailed to families the week of January 16. This Sacramental service will be on Saturday, February 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the Church. Second graders who were absent from the First Reconciliation service in November will be invited to attend this service.

### **Good News to Share**

- I attended my home parish on Christmas Eve. My family has a long tradition of attending the midnight Mass and participating in the caroling before Mass (and, yes, it is at midnight!). I mention this, because I missed the Christmas Masses at St. Cletus and understand they were beautiful!
- If you have the opportunity, read the article by Mrs. Ziembra this weekend in the church bulletin. She mentions one of our fifth graders, Megan Koziol, who led the psalm response with great confidence. I understand it was the first time she has done it. GREAT JOB!!
- I also learned from with Mrs. Ziembra that a number of our Faith Formation children are singing in the St. Cletus children's choir. As a former principal who also served as the parish DRE, incorporating Faith Formation children into the choir can sometimes be challenging. It is GREAT

to see our children participating. Singing in the choir or being an altar server are two parish ministries in which our children can participate. I thank our families for encouraging your children to do so.

### **January Parish Events**

- On Sunday, January 22, at 2:00 p.m. and Monday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m. the CREDO group and the PPC are hosting two presentations at St. Cletus. Deacon Keith Strohm, author and speaker, will be presenting two talks. His Sunday talk will be, “*Called to Be Sons & Daughters*” and on Monday, “*Walking in the Path of Discipleship.*” The location(s) will be announced.
- On Wednesday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m., our parish will be hosting a “*Holy Moments Event,*” an evening of sharing for parents, students, and parishioners in Church. This will be a wonderful evening of conversation about how God is impacting all of our lives. All are invited to attend.

### **For Our Kids!**

**[Bible Stories: The Three Wise Men](#)** (The video is based on the Gospel of Matthew).

**[Gospel Coloring Sheet](#)**

**[Gospel Activity Sheet](#)**

**[Epiphany Cross Word Puzzle](#)**

We thank you for your continuous support.

God Bless,

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