



Scripture shows that in the prophecies people were to come from far away places to worship and pay homage to God. The prophecies mentioned the names of Sheba, Midian, Ephah, Tarshish and Arabia. From different seas, different rivers, from the ends of the earth, they were all to come to pay homage to God from far away. These references point to every direction on the compass. In other words, people from the whole world would come to submit themselves to the reign of Jesus Christ. Saint Paul puts all of these people under one term that most of us have heard at one time or another, that is the term 'gentiles'. And so we have the Jews, the chosen people, who gave Christ to the world, and the gentiles, to whom Christ has extended his offer of salvation. So that means everyone. No one is excepted from this offer of salvation.

This universal kingdom that our Lord has come to bring to us also extends to all times. St. Paul again makes this connection and says that he has been given the task of revealing the mystery of salvation in full. Before him the mystery had only been partially revealed to the people of Israel, which we see developed in the Old Testament. The fullness of God's salvation was not completely known, only parts of it. It wasn't until Christ was fully revealed to both the Jews and gentiles that we were able to understand God's entire plan of salvation that extended from the creation of the world to the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. So the coming of the Magi represents all of the peoples of the world, and teaches us that God's kingdom extends through all space and time, and that we are citizens of this universal kingdom.

The Church fathers have always made a point to help us understand that God's kingdom (or the kingdom that our Lord brought to the world) *is* the Church and that the Church is the one that has extended throughout the entire world preaching the Good News of salvation. This is one of the reasons that for centuries and in different places in time, the Church has been hated. There have always been tyrants that have wanted to take control of the Church or to subject Her to them. These tyrants cannot stand the Catholic Church (which represents the kingdom that our Lord brought to the world), because it is a constant reminder that they do not have total control — that they can't — that only God controls all things, that everything is under his dominion, that we are all citizens of His kingdom. This is difficult for people to get accustomed to. You can see this in the history of the Church in the United States. One of the aspects of the Church's suffering in the States has always been persecution — from the earliest days even to the present. In today's society (news, movies, music, etc), if there are any movies that portray Judaism in a bad light, there are cries from the Jews that it is insensitive or anti-Semitic and so forth and so on. If you find a movie or anything that tries to portray Islam in a bad light, again you get outcries from different parts of the world. But if you have a movie that puts the Church in a bad light, that makes fun of Her teachings, or that in some way questions Her authority, you don't hear anybody complain because that's just the nature of the Church. The Church reminds everyone that as *citizens* of God's kingdom, we do not have control — and that makes people feel uncomfortable.

And so today, we should remember that Christ's kingdom is everlasting, incomparable, and universal. It is our kingdom, and we belong to it. It is our Church and this should give us great peace of mind. As Christ's brothers and sisters we are plugged into a kingdom that will never come to an end, as we pray in the Creed every week. As long as we remain friends with Christ, and live according to the laws of His kingdom, then our lives are meaningful and our participation in His kingdom will never be taken from us. This is perhaps what the Feast of the Epiphany teaches us, that the difference between a saint and a mediocre Christian is that the saint lives his virtues heroically, in the middle of a world that is hostile to Christ and to his teachings. So we have to ask ourselves on this day — have I lived my role in the kingdom of God well? Have I been faithful to Him? Have I submitted myself to His dominion in all the things that I do? Are my decisions based on living God's will and pleasing Him? Or where does He fit in my life? We have to lay at His feet whatever we know will please Him most, whatever it is that we are asking for — we should leave it at the altar and ask Him, especially, to help us to be true and faithful citizens of His kingdom, and to live always letting Him reign in our lives.

Mon. 01/06 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**
Feast Saint Andre Bessette, Religious
8:00 AM Mass Robert Buck, *Cathy Madden*

Tues. 01/07 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**
Feast Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
8:00 AM Mass Janet Pufka, *Mary Ann and Dave Lysinger*

Wed. 01/08 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**
Feast Christmas Weekday
8:00 AM Mass Helen Pufka, *Estate*

Thur. 01/09 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**
Feast Christmas Weekday
8:00 AM Mass Stanley Wilinski, *Janice Jorkasky*

Fri. 01/10 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**
Feast Christmas Weekday
8:00 AM Mass Aus Hallinan, *Jack, Mary Ann and Linda Wharton*

Sat. 01/11 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**
Feast The Baptism of the Lord
4:30 PM Mass Health of Patricia Byrne, *Mary Siefert*

Sun. 01/12 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**
Feast The Baptism of the Lord
9:00 AM Mass David C. Riley, *Wife Carol and children, Dave and Kim*
11:00 AM Mass Our Lady of Fatima Parish Family

*Lord
Jesus
Christ
Son
Of
God
Have
Mercy
On
Me
A
Sinner*

Happy Birthday:

01/06 Paul Kowalski
01/08 Jenn Adams
01/09 Tom Smith
01/11 Kayla Conrad
01/12 Tom Hofer
 Avery Wallace
01/13 Orvita Knott
 Bryan Starr

Wedding Anniversaries

01/13 Connie and Tom Andros

*Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we
pray the Holy Rosary Daily
At O.L.F. before each Mass and pri-
vately from 8:30am to 7:00pm*

MONEY MATTERS 1

See January 12th Bulletin

Word from the Chancery:

"OLF has not reached the Diocesan ACA Assessment of \$14,855. It is \$715. short of goal." The reason for this is that several parishioners have not as yet finished making their Pledge payments. If you are one of those procrastinators (as I used to be before I chose the automatic withdrawal method of payment ... *hint, hint,*) you have until Jan 9th to send your payments to the Diocesan Office. *You must **back date** your checks to **December 31, 2013**, to meet the 2013 ACA goal.* This is just a reminder. If you can't do it, you can't do it! Everybody understands and nobody is coming after you. Start gearing up for ACA 2014.

OLF joins other parishes in making adjustments to new PA Lottery Rules

You can't fight City Hall is an old and perpetually valid dictum. It's a long and convoluted story but the bottom line is that legally we can no longer practically use the Lotto Daily Numbers as the index for our private small games of chance fund raising activities. Personally, I think this should be a "Catholic" wedge issue for the next election. Why can't they just leave us alone? Gambling laws, rules, and regulations are (or should be) made to control the big money gangster types, not struggling (mostly Catholic) Churches. (And please - let's leave *the "scandal"* out of this.) It's not my role to do the politics thing ... but it is yours. I don't view myself as a "Tea Partier" but I do like the sound of their rally cry - "Let's take back our government ."

Anyway, for the time being we are going to have to start finding other income streams to keep the boat afloat. When I was much younger and much more naïve I used to argue that any Catholic Parish that couldn't support itself from the weekly real tithes and long term endowments really had no right to exist. Both my friends and enemies told me to go be a Protestant. Well, I didn't and don't plan on doing that, so, I'm counting on you to help me perfect some of those old time Catholic fund raisers. One we've already got going is our Hoagie Sales. We have the perfect product. We have to perfect production and perfect sales. Help!

Our Super Raffles have been pretty successful - even thought they sometimes were competing with the now defunct bi-monthly Co-Op Sales. For a while, I don't know how long, we are going to have to depend on Monthly Hoagie Sales and Monthly Super Raffles. Help!

For obvious reasons we can't do weekly Bingo, monthly chicken dinners, yearly Christmas Festivals, or any of those traditional activities THAT REQUIRE A HALL. Help!

Don't whisper your good ideas as thinly veiled criticisms. If it is important for you to have your name attached to some brilliant game changing program we will make sure your secret leaks out.

Check the other side of this insert for notice of your Super Bowl Raffle. Let's make it a Super Success. Only 300 tickets to be sold.

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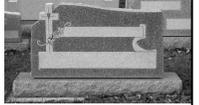
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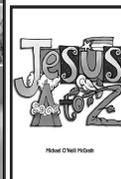
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