

Ministers of the Liturgy January 2 & 3, 2016

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: George Spaulding, Marian Quigley,
Carl A. Guidroz, Jr., Augustine Borrás,
Merle & Charles Dittmer, Patrick C. McKinney,
Flora Maria Be, Rose Marie Greco Federico,
Hubert LaBorde, Marie O'Malley,
Irvin Dares, Karen Hebert (L), Joseph Segari
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
A. & P. Delaup
Cantor: Trish Foti

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: Parishioners
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
R. Meche, P. Manfre, M. Evola, P. Fleming
Song Leaders: Traditional Choir

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Bosvely Pinzon, Warren Duncan,
Irvin Dares, Poor Souls, Joseph Donald Bernard,
Sr. Magdalen Marie Serio, O.P. (L)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
C. & Pitre, J. Ackermann, J. Wright
Song Leaders: Contemporary Choir

Sunday - 6 P.M.

Intention: Isabella Forsythe
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
A. Calongne, T. Keller
Cantor: Lauren Gisclair
Pianist: Beth Kettenring

Weekday Masses (1/4-8)

Monday	7:00 a.m.	Special Intention
	5:30 p.m.	In Honor of St. Joseph
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	In Honor of St. Joseph
Wednesday	7:00 a.m.	Don Rowan, Sr.
	8:20 a.m.	Henry Gsell
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	In Honor of St. Joseph
	5:30 p.m.	Cori Sudderth (L)
Friday	7:00 a.m.	Paul LaRocca, Sr.



The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank its members and the parishioners of St. Benilde for their wonderful generosity in making the Christmas Season brighter for those in need. With your help we were able to deliver 50 baskets of food and bags of gifts. We truly appreciate the support our parishioners give us, especially your overwhelming response to our grocery bag appeals. Thanks to you we have been able to keep our pantry stocked. May God bless you.

The St. Benilde Rosary and Altar Society would like to thank everyone for their generosity of time, talents, and financial support to help decorate the Church for Christmas. We appreciate everyone who helped in any way. Our Church was truly beautiful as we celebrated the birth of the Christ Child.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Jan. 9/10

4 p.m.	K. Hartdegan, D. Martin
9 a.m.	C. Frederick, L. Director, K. Klapatch, R. Theriot
11 a.m.	P. & R. Serio, N. Bostick, L. Frey
6 p.m.	L. Daigle, B. David



Adoration Chapel Sanctuary
Light in memory of
Stuart and Gloria Fourroux

Adoration Chapel Candles
in memory of
Anna and Philip Zanco, Sr.



Altar Ladies

Week of January 3
J. Dunn, C. Batt, L. Segri

Linens

Large - M. Thibodeaux *Small* - J. Rojas

Collection December 19/20

Envelopes	\$4,574.00
Loose	3,390.28
Repairs and Maintenance	236.00
Msgr. Richaud Endowment Fund	231.00
Totaling	\$8,431.28

Fr. Cooper's Corner ***Epiphany Message 2016***

Up till now, all has been quite humble: a donkey-ride to a dusty town south of Jerusalem; hotel rooms all booked up; giving birth in a stable and laying the baby in an animal's feed trough instead of a cozy cradle. Into this scene of obscure poverty suddenly bursts an exotic entourage from a far off land. Dignitaries in dress uniform lavish the newborn with expensive gifts that seem out of place in the humble surroundings. This event is so significant that it is accorded its own feast in the Roman liturgy, celebrated traditionally on January 6th but transferred to this Sunday, following the twelve days of Christmas. This solemn feast is called Epiphany, a word that means "manifestation" or "appearance."

What seems to be no more than another crying baby of an indigent family for a brief moment "appears" for who He really is—the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The gifts He is given, prophesied in Isaiah 60:6, tell the story: gold fit for a king, incense for the worship of God, and myrrh, bitter yet precious, for the hero who will lay down His life for His people.

There are several important things to note about these prestigious visitors. They are Gentiles, not Jews. From the very beginning of His human existence, then, Jesus is clearly not just the Jewish messiah who has come to deliver the people of Israel from foreign oppression. No, He is the universal king, the ruler of all, who has come to tear down the hostile wall dividing Jew from Gentile, nation from nation. If you've ever wondered what the word "Catholic" means, here we have it. Derived from Greek words meaning "according to the whole," it means that Christ did not come to establish some local religious sect for a select few, one "cult" among many. No, the Church He founded is "Catholic" or universal, spread over the whole world, welcoming the whole human race into one nation, one family, under one King.

Something else about these illustrious visitors! As Gentiles, they are pagans. In fact the term "Magi" is clearly linked to the word "magic." It was not in the Bible that they normally looked for wisdom (otherwise they would have known to go straight to Bethlehem). But in reward for their ardent though perhaps misguided search for truth, God led them to Christ anyhow, in His great mercy.

Ever since the days of Balaam, God has shown us that pagans can be mysteriously drawn to Him and used by Him, at times even through their own imperfect traditions of wisdom. If you go to the Sistine Chapel and study Michelangelo's work, you can see evidence of this. Lining the top of one wall of the chapel are famous paintings of many of the Old Testament prophets. Opposite them are not New Testament apostles as one may expect. But rather, a row of the Sybils, the prophetesses of the ancient world, in whose oracles there were discovered shadowy allusions to a future

savior-king. One of Michelangelo's Sybils has her mouth agape with astonishment, her eyes fixed on the fresco of the risen Christ at the back of the chapel. Indeed, the deepest desires of all peoples, the elements of truth found in all their religions and philosophies, are fulfilled in Christ.

Does this mean that all religions are equal and that we should not evangelize them with the Good News of the Gospel? Not at all! St. Justin said that there are "seeds of the Word" scattered throughout the world. But seeds are meant to sprout, grow, and bear fruit. Hearing the full Gospel and partaking in all the means of grace are ordinarily needed to make that happen. All peoples of the world have a right to this "Catholic" fullness. And it is our obligation to share it. Pope Paul VI said it well: "others may be able to be saved without hearing the Gospel, but can we be saved if we neglect to preach it?"

Holy Spirit Women's Retreat

Fr. Richard McAlear, OMI and Dr. Mary Healy will be the featured speakers at the annual Holy Spirit Women's Retreat from January 29-31 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Lafayette, LA. The retreat theme is "All Beautiful is the King's Daughter." Fr. McAlear is known worldwide for his ministry of evangelization and healing. His teachings, both profound and simple, reach people at a very deep level. Dr. Mary Healy has a passion to bring the grace of Baptism in the Spirit to people all over the world. She is highly sought after for her charismatic ministry, as a professor of Sacred Scripture, and an author of many books. Also on the program are Deacon Larry Oney, a dynamic preacher, author and businessman, his wife, Andi, Patti Mansfield and the CCRNO Team. This retreat is sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO) and serves hundreds of women from New Orleans and the entire Gulf South. Weekend and Saturday commuters are welcome. For more information and to register online visit www.ccrno.org or call -504- 828-1368.

Church Cleaning Crew

We are in need of volunteers to help vacuum the Church. Teams vacuum once a month for about an hour. For more information, please call Anita at 835-3119.

Healing Mass

A Healing Mass in Honor of Blessed Francis Seelos will be held Sunday, Jan. 10, at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Assumption Church, 919 Josephine St., New Orleans. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Harry Grille, C.Ss.R., Executive Director of the Seelos Shrine. Confessions will be heard before Mass. The Holy Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be available for those in need. Beginning at 11:45 a.m. one-on-one intercessory prayer in back of Church and in the Shrine. The parking lot is free, and the Church is wheelchair accessible. For more information please visit: www.seelos.org.