



# the evangelist

NEWS & EVENTS OF THE CHURCH OF S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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PARISH NOTICES  
EPIPHANY LECTONARY  
SCHEDULE

### DATES TO NOTE

January 1st:  
Feast of the  
Circumcision  
of Our Lord

January 6th:  
Epiphany

January 12th:  
Vestry Meeting

**January 31st:**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Single Mass at 9 AM

February 2nd:  
Candlemas

### Church of S. John the Evangelist

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**January 2010**

*My Dear People,*

We begin the month of January thanking God for his glorious Nativity, as we observe the Octave Day on January 1<sup>st</sup>, commonly called the Circumcision of Our Lord. The revised Episcopal calendar calls this day the Feast of the Holy Name and our Roman Catholic friends observe it as the Feast of Mary the Mother of God. Why then do we observe the first day of the New Year with a feast named after a Jewish requirement for all males eight days after their birth?

Our Lord Jesus Christ is like us in all things, except sin. He took our human nature upon himself and humbled himself to be born as a little child. Being God of God and Light of Light, he certainly could have appeared among us in an instant, fully grown. He could have elected to undergo what usually happens only in soap operas, Rapid Aging Syndrome, shooting up from infancy to adulthood in a matter of months. However, the Incarnate Word didn't choose those methods by which he would come and live among us. Instead, he placed himself in the trust and care of a young girl and the man chosen to be her husband. He allowed himself to be born in the meanest of conditions with no prospect of it getting much better. He was cold, he was hungry and he was poor: conditions he could have alleviated in the blink of an eye. Yet he did no such thing. Why?

Our Lord became man for our sakes. In order to know us he elected to be like us in all things. That meant he would grow as one of us, learn like us, and toil in some field or profession like us. He would know us through sharing our joys and sorrows. In order to do that, there would be no short cuts. Indeed, being born into his chosen people, he who gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, submitted himself to its commandments and rituals. So then, as the Law stipulated, after eight days, his parents brought Jesus to the rabbi in order to circumcise him. Although he needed no redeeming, being Redemption himself, he allowed himself to undergo the rite whereby he was made a member of the chosen of God. He shed his blood, for the first time, in order to be with his people, and share their lot.

While it is true that Our Lord was given the name which was told Our Lady by the Angel Gabriel at this event, the Church observes the giving of his Name, which is above every name, on the Second Sunday after Christmas, this year, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The most holy Name of Jesus is the name of God Incarnate, the name which alone brings salvation. Not only do we have a personal God in that Jesus took our human nature upon himself so that we are his brothers and sisters; but, we are given the singular honour of knowing our God's name. The Holy Name is a balm for the soul, it drives out the enemy and is preached by missionaries to those who need a Saviour.

The next feast we celebrate comes at the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas. January 6<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Three Kings, the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, commonly called The Epiphany. This is one of my favourite feasts; more so, because it comes at the darkest time of the year with the hint, even after almost two thousand years, of an exotic encounter between the divine and the mundane. Whether they were kings or not is of no significance. What is significant is that they were men of immense prestige. Kings with their armies would tremble at the pronouncements of these men, as indeed, we see from their encounter with Herod the Great as they made their way to Bethlehem.

What a meeting must have taken place when they finally arrived where the Star had led them! It must have been a wondrous encounter between these men of distant lands and the Holy Family. Here were great potentates of tremendous magnificence bending low before a Jewish infant and offering gifts of rich and mystic meaning: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Our Lady kept all these things in her heart, and you can imagine her telling S. Luke about it years later. The wonder and awe would never go away. During the Mass which will be offered at 6 PM on January 6<sup>th</sup>, we'll sing the familiar Epiphany carol. Ponder anew what these gifts mean and what that means for you as you seek to come closer to the Infant King this Epiphany. In addition to the procession and familiar hymns, I'll be blessing gold, frankincense and myrrh as well as chalk. The blessed chalk is used to inscribe the initials of the three Wise Men, Gaspar, Melchior & Balthasar, above or near the door of your house with a prayer for God's blessing and presence to be in the house through the year. It's a charming and ancient lay practice which I hope will become a part of S. John's living tradition.

Although I had announced that we would have a guest preacher for Epiphany in last month's newsletter, sadly due to a conflict, Fr Lancaster will not be able to visit us. We shall have the Mass of the Feast nonetheless and the Reception at the Rectory to follow. I do hope you will come for our celebration and enjoy some refreshments and a good chat with your friends and parishioners.

The Epiphany Season will not be too long this year. Before you know it, Holy Family will have raced by and then Epiphany II and III. The Annual Meeting of the Society of King Charles the Martyr is at Grace & S. Peter's, Baltimore, January 30<sup>th</sup>, and I'd hoped I would be able to attend. However, coming as it does so close to our Annual Meeting the next day, I find I won't be able to make it. One of the plusses of making a return to the East for me was the chance to involve myself in the life of the devotional guilds once more. I hope Dr Wuonola, who runs the SKCM will forgive my absence.

**The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Church of S. John the Evangelist will take place after Mass on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.** All parishioners counted as electors ought to be present for the meeting. We have much to accomplish, including elections to fill vacant Vestry seats, Diocesan Delegates and their alternates, receive the various guild reports for the previous year, and the Treasurer's Report. We will also receive the Budget for 2010 and make plans for the year ahead. This being my first Annual Meeting at S. John's, I hope you will support me and the Parish with your presence.

January 31<sup>st</sup> is also the beginning of Pre-Lent. Septuagesima means the slow transition to Lent has begun. Once again, violet is the colour of the Masses of the Season, the *Gloria in excelsis* ceases and we no longer say "Alleluia." Because Septuagesima occurs before the Purification of Our Lady (Candlemas-February 2<sup>nd</sup>) our beautiful Creche which has been open since Christmas Eve will be closed on January 30<sup>th</sup> this year.

Looking ahead, despite the beginning of Pre-Lent, we will celebrate Candlemas with all the pomp and ceremony we can muster on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM. I'm sure the weather will be damp and cold; but, the brightness of this feast should warm even the coldest of hearts! We'll have more on that, next issue.

I have one brief period when I shall be out of the Parish, January 20-22. I will be on Retreat at Mount St Alphonsus Retreat Center in Esopus, NY with priests of the SSC from up and down the Eastern Seaboard. I am looking forward to seeing my colleagues again; and, to recharging my spiritual batteries after our busy Christmas and Epiphany observances. It's an important way for me to be the kind of priest Our Lord wants me to be, and to be a better servant of his in this Parish.

*Affectionately, your Friend & Pastor,  
Fr Trent Fraser*

## **Sundays**

**Low Mass at 8.00 a.m. Adult Forum at 9.30 a.m. Sung Mass at 10.30 a.m.**

## **Weekdays**

**Tues, Weds & Fri.: Low Mass at 12.15 p.m.; Thurs. at 10.00 a.m., Sat at 9.00 a.m.**

**Evening Prayer is recited Tues & Thurs-Sat. at 5.30 p.m.**

**Solemn Choral Evensong: Wednesday at 6.00 p.m.**

*Potluck dinner follows on the first Wednesday of each month.*

**The Rosary is recited weekly after the Saturday Mass.**

## **AGENDA for January**

*Services and Events in addition to our regular Sunday schedule.*

- January 1<sup>st</sup>: **CIRCUMCISION OJLC.** Low Mass at 10.00 a.m. Parish Office closed.
- January 3<sup>rd</sup>: **THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS.** Low Mass 8.00; Sung Mass 10.30
- January 7<sup>th</sup>: **Financial summary forms for 2009 of Parish guilds are due. Please submit them to Ed Carnes, Treasurer.**
- January 6<sup>th</sup>: **EPIPHANY OJLC.** Procession, Sung Mass & Sermon: 6.00 p.m.  
Reception at the Rectory, following the Mass.
- January 10<sup>th</sup>: **THE HOLY FAMILY (Epiphany I).** Low Mass 8; Rector's Forum 9.30;  
Sung Mass 10.30.
- January 12<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Meeting of Vestry at 6.30 p.m.
- January 17<sup>th</sup>: **Deadline for Service Groups to have reports submitted to the Office for inclusion in the 2009 Annual Report. This will be presented to the Parish at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.**
- January 17<sup>th</sup>: **EPIPHANY II.** Low Mass 8; Rector's Forum 9.30; Sung Mass 10.30.
- January 20 – 22<sup>nd</sup>: Father Fraser on retreat in Esopus, NY. Masses on Thursday and Friday cancelled unless otherwise specified.
- January 24<sup>th</sup>: **EPIPHANY III.** Low Mass 8; Rector's Forum 9.30; Sung Mass 10.30.
- January 31<sup>st</sup>: **SEPTUAGESIMA. One Mass only at 9.00 a.m.**  
**Annual Parish Meeting of the Corporation of the Church of S. John the Evangelist.**  
Business to be transacted includes a review of the previous year, Vestry and Diocesan Convention delegates elections, and receiving the Budget for 2010.

## Stewardship Report

Dear Friends in Christ:

It is with great joy that we can report as of this writing (30 December) we have 37 pledges totaling \$79,200 towards our target of \$85,000, with several pledge cards still outstanding. Our faith in God has brought to within striking distance of our goals both in terms of pledge numbers and total dollars. With that same faith I know that when we receive the pledges from several remaining supporters we will have met those goals, and that we will be able to meet our budget requirements for 2010.

It is with equal joy that we can report that we have been granted \$15,000 by the Foundation for the Preservation of the Faith for the replacement of the Guild Hall roof. This extraordinary and generous gift, when combined with several additional donations designated for the project, have made it possible for us to enter into the contract for the work; look for more details in the February *Evangelist*.

Remember that full membership in the Parish (which includes voting rights at the Annual Meeting) must include a recordable gift in support of the work of the Church. Any amount is valid; but it continues to be a truth that where our treasure is, there also are our hearts. Give all that you can – the rewards received far exceed the gift given.

In Christ's Peace,  
Jono Babbitt, Stewardship Chair

### ***THE EPIPHANY LECTIONARY***

*One of the mysteries of the 1928 American Book of Common Prayer was its departure from both the Universal Church's and the Anglican Communion's traditional set of readings during the Epiphany Season. For reasons only the compilers of the 1928 Prayer Book understood, it was decided that the Baptism of Christ ought to be celebrated with a Sunday in Epiphany. They determined to select the Sunday outside the Octave of Epiphany, with the Second Sunday after Epiphany becoming the place which would contain S. Mark's account of the Baptism of the Lord in the River Jordan by S. John Baptist. In order to do this, the traditional Gospels for Epiphany II and III, the Wedding at Cana and the healing of the Leper and the Centurion's son, respectively, were pushed back one week. However, the problem then arose in that there were too many Sunday Gospels after Epiphany so that it was decided to eliminate one of these ancient Gospels. The Wind and the Waves and the herd of swine, Epiphany IV's Gospel was omitted and the Episcopal Church of the day, through a provincial decision to change an ancient series of gospels which highlighted the theme of Epiphany, the Manifestation of Christ's Divinity, put themselves out of the mainstream. (Sole decisions in matters that usually required the consent of the whole Church, have by no means been limited to the liturgy, as subsequent decisions by the Episcopal Church over the 20<sup>th</sup> Century have proven). For those of us who use the Missal, the Baptism of the Lord occurs on the Octave Day of the Epiphany, January 13<sup>th</sup>. So, for parishes like ours, this change created an unnecessary repetition of an event already commemorated.*

*The liturgical changes of the 1960's and 1970's, particularly the abandonment of the ancient one year Lectionary, rendered the 1928 Epiphany lectionary obsolete in most parishes.*

*Now, at least according to the Roman three-year Lectionary, the Holy Family, the finding of Christ in the Temple (formerly Epiphany I) belongs on the First Sunday after Christmas. The now vacant Epiphany I has become the Baptism of Christ. S. John's continues to use the traditional Missal and so the ancient and universal Epiphany readings are kept intact. Thus, Epiphany I is the Holy Family, Epiphany II is the Wedding at Cana and Epiphany III is the healing of the Leper and the Centurion's son.*

Thanks to the members of the Rector's Forum for bringing this subject up during our discussion of the Advent Lectionary back in early December! Ed.



### **JANUARY is the month of the HOLY FAMILY**

1	<b>CIRCUMCISION OLJC</b>	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
2	Oct. Day of St Stephen	St Stephen's House, Oxford, UK
3	<b>HOLY NAME OF JESUS</b>	<b>Parish</b>
4	Octave of the Holy Innocents	
5	Vigil of the Epiphany	The homeless & oppressed
6	<b>EPIPHANY OLJC</b>	Intecession of the Magi
7	Within the Octave	That all may know and worship the Lord
8	Within the Octave	The Rector
9	Within the Octave	Organist & Schola
10	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY (Epiphany I)</b>	<b>Parish</b>
11	Within the Octave	
12	Within the Octave	The Vestry
13	<b>Baptism of Christ</b>	The newly Baptized
14	St Hilary, BCD	Theologians
15	Monthly Requiem	January Chantry
16	St Marcellus, PM	Pope Benedict
17	<b>EPIPHANY II (St Anthony, Abbot)</b>	<b>Parish</b>
18	<b>CHAIR OF S. PETER AT ROME</b>	
19	St Wulfstan, BC	The Church of England
20	SS. Fabian, P., & Sebastian, MM.	Anglican/Roman Catholic Dialogue
21	St Agnes, VM	
22	St Vincent, Dc.M	
23	St Raymond of Pennaforte, C	Prisoners & Captives
24	<b>EPIPHANY III (St Timothy, BM)</b>	<b>Parish</b>
25	<b>CONVERSION OF ST PAUL</b>	
26	St Polycarp, BM	Acolytes
27	St John Chrysostom, BCD	Eastern Orthodox Churches
28	St Peter Nolasco, C	The Guild of All Souls
29	St Francis de Sales, BCD	SSC
30	Beheading of Charles I, KM	Society of King Charles the Martyr
31	<b>SEPTUAGESIMA</b>	<b>Parish</b>