



## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JAN 2-3, 2015

### CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Epiphany of the Lord Sunday, January 3, 2016*

#### **Saturday, Jan. 2.:**

Vigil at 5.00 pm (blessing of water, chalk, gold & incense)

#### **Sunday, Jan. 3:**

8:30 am English Mass, preceded by Lauds; (blessing of water, chalk, gold & incense)

10:30 am Novus Ordo High Latin Mass. (blessing of water, chalk, gold & incense)

12:30 pm Extraordinary Form of Roman Rite Latin High Mass.

### EPIPHANY

Epiphany is celebrated on **January 3** and with special solemnity in churches in the United States on the Sunday between January 2 and 8. It closes out the Christmas season. “Epiphany” comes from the Greek *epiphanein*, “a showing, appearance, or revelation”.

In the Western Church, the Epiphany evolved into a celebration of the gospel story of the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12) on the occasion of

Jesus' birth; His epiphany to the Gentiles. In the USA this Feast is transferred to the nearest Sunday (this year January 5th). The Blessing of Water, Incense and Chalk will take place during all Novus Ordo Masses (Sat. Jan. 4th, 5.00pm and Sunday January 5th 8.30 & 10.30am) and Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Please bring bottles for Holy Water.

**MAGI** - The Gospel story of the Magi, is closely associated with Epiphany. It is a reflection on an important aspect of the mystery of the Incarnation: The Messiah has come to all people and not just to the Jews, a theme highlighted by Matthew's Gospel. The word "magi" is Greek and refers to a learned caste in Babylonia, probably astrologers. It fits into the symbolism of supernatural circumstances that led representatives of the Gentile nations to the Messiah. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the three gifts mentioned in the gospel, were traditional symbols of homage in the East. Traditionally, they have come to symbolize the destiny of Jesus; gold for his royalty, frankincense for his divinity, myrrh for his suffering and death.

This gospel reflection on the birth of the Messiah was embellished by popular details as the centuries passed. The number of Magi was set at three by Origen (d.254) because of the three gifts mentioned. The Magi were turned into Kings in the 6<sup>th</sup> century because of Old Testament references (Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:3ff.). The representation of the Magi as three kings along with their physical appearance comes in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. They described the kings as representing the three major races and gave them names: Melchior, an old, white man with a long, white beard, bearing the gift of gold; Caspar, young and of darker hue, carrying incense; and Balthasar, a black man, offering myrrh.

## **TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

The celebration of Christmas was stretched even further than a week. The twelve days of Christmas, secularized in a popular song, was an ancient, sacred, and festive celebration of Christmastime. The twelve days began on December 25, Christmas, and ended on January 3, the feast of the Epiphany, which is still a major feast of the Incarnation. Christmas Time is at Baptism of the Lord, January 10, 2016.

**HOLY MASS INTENTIONS:** If you would like to have Holy Masses celebrated on certain days and times, please book earlier. Donation for the Mass, please give to the Secretary at the time of booking. In our diocese the minimum donation for a Holy Mass is \$10.00. Write your check to St. Margaret Mary. **We have available Masses on January, 2016: 7,9, 11,. and 13-16, 18-23, and 25-31.** If you would like to have a Holy Mass celebrated for your intentions or those of your loved ones ( l. or d.), please contact the parish office at: stmargaretm@yahoo.com or call at 510-482-0596.

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Sunday Jan. 10th.**

During the first four centuries of Christianity, the Catholic Church celebrated three primary Feasts. These were the Feasts of: the Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost. In the Eastern Church, Epiphany meant celebrating: the birth of Jesus, His Baptism and the Wedding at Cana. Since 376 A.D., the Western Church separated the Feast of Christmas, which is celebrated on December 25th as the day of the birth of Jesus, from the Feast of the Epiphany that is the day that remembers the visit of the Magi. Epiphany was separated in order to emphasize that God revealed Himself to the Gentiles. Today's Feast, following the tradition of the early Church, is the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus. This special feast teaches us that through Jesus, God opened the door to the Kingdom of Heaven to all those who would hear Him.

During all Novus Ordo Masses (Sat. Jan. 9th , 5.00pm and Sunday Jan. 10th 8.30 & 10.30am) will be the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

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**ANNUAL SEMINARY COLLECTION.**

Our Diocese prepares the seminarians to serve our parishes as priests. Education and formation in the Seminary is costly. Our diocese conducts, once a year, a special collection to help to pay for these expenses. On **January 16/17** weekend we will have a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection to support those called to serve us as future priests. Write checks to: St. Margaret Mary Church with memo: for Oakland Seminary. **Thank you for your generosity. MAY GOD REWARD YOU.**

## **PRIESTS' LUNCH UPDATE AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

**Thank you to Tom & Deanna Gray, Lianne Claver, Judy Wendel, Gloria & Rosa Marquez, and Ann Graves** for serving the priests in October & November. **March and May, 2016, are still in need of volunteers.** This is a 2-3 person task; you can get a friend to join you, or I can find people to work with you. If you are available to help, please **contact Lily to sign up [lily.mullen@gmail.com](mailto:lily.mullen@gmail.com) or (925)827-1946.** Our parish priests and priests from other parishes who join them for this monthly morning of prayer and recollection appreciate our efforts to provide a homemade meal and serve them very much. In this little way we say **THANK YOU** for their ministry to US. Won't you consider serving?

## **CCD/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:**

### **Classes offered this Fall:**

PRE FIRST COMMUNION (Grade 1)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (Grade 2)

POST FIRST COMMUNION (Grades 3-4)

GRADES 5 & 6

PRE CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION

TEEN YOUTH GROUP (Post Confirmation)

**RCIA** are held on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Rectory.  
RCIA Teachers: Dr. Steve Cortright, Dr. Lynn Suer

**PARISHPAY INFORMATION:** ParishPay, our electronic donation partner, recently announced its acquisition by YapStone, the largest electronic payments-as-a-service (ePaaS) provider. While ParishPay has assured that our parishioners will experience zero interruption in service, you may notice the name YapStone pop up occasionally in literature provided by ParishPay or on card or bank statements. Please rest assured those donations are for your St. Margaret Mary offerings and should also continue to identify the charge on your bank or card statement as "ParishPay Donation." Existing ParishPay parishioners are requested to ensure they update their ParishPay profiles with new numbers or expiration dates whenever a new or replacement credit or debit card is received. To contact ParishPay you may do

so **online at [www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com)** or call **866-727-4741**. Thank you for your continued support. **NEW SUPPORTERS OF ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH - WELCOME!!! THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

**FOOD AND HOUSHOLD NEEDS FOR CARMELITES SISTERS IN KENSINGTON:**

Some of our parishioners are covering some expenses. If you like to help, please write check to St. Margaret Mary and in memo write Carmelite Sisters. There are the collection boxes under the names: For the Carmelites Sisters and For the Poor which are attached to the wall by the St. Anthony statue in the church. Thank you for your generosity.

**PARISH PAY and 2015 YEAR-END DONATIONS**

***Charge a Year-End Donation To St. Margaret Mary Church Directly To Your Bank or Credit Card Account!***

We are rapidly approaching the end of another year! For those interested in making a catch-up donation for missed plate collections or a one-time, year-end tax deductible donation, you can make a donation to St. Margaret Mary Church through Parish Pay, a third party service which allows parishioners to charge their contribution directly to their own bank account or to any major credit card. There is *no cost* to you for this service. See the paragraph titled **One-time donations** below for more information on how to make a special one-time donation. You can sign up for this service online by going to the website listed below and clicking *on "Start giving now"*. If you will be donating via direct debit to your bank account, you will need your bank's routing number and your account number. Your monthly donation will be debited to your bank account on the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) of every month.

**IMPORTANT:** If you plan to make a tax-deductible donation in December, **please use your credit card for all donations made after December 1** in order to ensure that it will be received by St. Margaret Mary Church before December 31. Any donations made after December 1 which are charged to your bank account may not be debited to your account until January 2016

and, therefore, may not be deductible for 2015 income tax purposes.  
<https://www.parishpay.com>

If you don't have a computer you can call Parish Pay's customer service center and they will sign you up. Their customer service center can be reached seven days a week, 24 hours a day at:

**1 - 866 PARISH 1 (1-866-727-4741)**

### **How do I calculate how much to give each month for my regular Offertory donation?**

To determine your monthly offertory donation amount, multiply your weekly donation amount by 52 and then divide by 12.

### **What about second and special collections?**

You can also make donations to second and special collections using Parish Pay. All of the second and special collections for St. Margaret Mary Church through the rest of the year are listed at the Parish Pay website.

### **If I use Parish Pay, what do I do with my weekly envelopes?**

If you sign up to make your donations to St. Margaret Mary Church through Parish Pay, you can still put your weekly envelopes in the collection basket. Just make a notation of "pp" in the amount section on the envelope before placing it in the basket.

### **One-time donations**

You can also use Parish Pay to make a one-time donation any time during the year. Just go to [parishpay.com](http://parishpay.com), login to your account and enter the contribution amount in the "Special Collection" box. Or you can call their customer service center at 1-866-727-4741. Just mention St. Margaret Mary Church in Oakland CA when making the donation.

## **ALMS GIVING**

Many people around the world are hungry every day. They have no chance to satisfy their hunger even once. Every time of the year is a good time to share. Our Lord Jesus said: **"I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"!!!** Please share whatever you have with others, who are less fortunate than you. We are collecting imperishable food items for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society to feed the

hungry people in Oakland. In the vestibule of our church barrels are placed.  
**PLEASE SHARE YOUR FOOD WITH HUNGRY PEOPLE.**

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**Theme for 2016:  
"Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord"  
(1 Peter 2:9)**

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated **between 18-25 January**, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

In order to prepare for the annual celebration, ecumenical partners in a particular region are invited to produce a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. Then an international editorial team of WCC and Roman Catholic representatives refines this text to ensure that it can be prayed throughout the world, and to link it with the search for the visible unity of the church. The text is jointly published by the Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the WCC, through the's Commission on Faith and Order, which also accompanies the entire production process of the text. The final material is sent to WCC member churches and Roman Catholic episcopal conferences, and they are invited to translate the text and contextualize or adapt it for their own use.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/week-of-prayer/week-of-prayer>

**Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee of Mercy:**

“Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord raised and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with His anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.”

<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/preghiera.html>

### **THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD - CANDLEMAS**

This feast is celebrated on **Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. It could be considered the closing of the season of lights so evident during Christmastime. The gospel for this feast proclaims the words of Simeon that the infant Jesus will be “a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel” (Luke 2:32). This feast was celebrated in Jerusalem as early as the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It originally commemorated the purification of Mary, in accordance with Jewish law, 40 days after Jesus’ birth: “When the day came to purify them according to the law of Moses, the couple brought Him up to Jerusalem so that He could be presented to the Lord, for it is written in the law of the Lord: “Every first-born male shall be consecrated to the Lord”.



(Luke 2:22-24: see Leviticus 12:6-7). By the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century, this feast was celebrated in Rome on February 2 with the addition of a candlelight procession. This procession seems to have originated as a substitute for a similar pagan torch procession of expiation around the city walls. A hint of this penitential and expiatory theme continued until recent times with the wearing of purple vestments. The day eventually received the popular title of Candlemas (Candle Mass) because candles were blessed before the Mass and procession. Today, this feast is called the Presentation of the Lord.

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**END OF PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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