

Pastor's updates

January 6, 2023



Things you may want to know this week

1. This Sunday, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**, commonly known as "Three Kings Sunday." Three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. In ancient times before calendars were common, the proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts were done on Epiphany. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date, and most people did not know the dates for the upcoming Liturgical year. So on Epiphany Sunday, the upcoming dates were "proclaimed" after the gospel. See Epiphany Proclamation below.
2. On the Sunday after Epiphany, we usually celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which marks the official end of the Christmas season. Since last Christmas and New Year were celebrated on a Sunday, the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**, like the Feast of the Holy Family, is not celebrated on a Sunday. It is moved to Monday, January 9. Ordinary Time starts on Tuesday, January 10.
3. **Pope Emeritus Benedict**, who died at the age of 95, was finally laid to rest last Thursday, January 5, with a Funeral Mass officiated by Pope Francis. It was the first time a pope officiated a funeral for his predecessor. The Vatican says that the body of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was buried in the grottoes beneath St. Peter's Basilica.
4. Yes, **everything is in God's time**, but we can cooperate and even be creative! So, while the convent painting was put on hold due to the rain, it did not put a damper on our painting projects. We actually had some **repainting done** in the church particularly in the Confession Room and the choir loft area. I was tasked to pray for good weather so that the convent painting could commence right after the school was out for Christmas break. However, I only prayed for that week. I did not include in my prayers the weeks after Christmas. God, indeed, has a sense of humor, but more importantly, He knows that we are in dire need of rain!
5. After the storm, Barry Manilow's song was playing on my mind: "*I made it through the rain.*" Yes, we made it through the rain although a paddle of water made it to our CCD office. Thankfully, our Religious Ed directors, **Joanne Bartolotti** and **Leslie Fong**, were around to use sandbags and control of the situation.
6. We will be taking down the **church Christmas decorations** this Monday, July 9, 2023 around 9 p.m. Any help is always appreciated.
7. **Matthew Coates'** funeral is scheduled on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. in our church.

FAZnotes
(Father Arnold Zamora)
January 6, 2023



Dear St. Robert's parishioners and friends,

**It takes a lot of rain to make rainbows,
more lemons to make a good lemonade,
and sometimes it takes difficulties to make us stronger.**

The storms in our lives prove the strength of our lives.

**As we love, trust and depend on GOD,
HE will give us strength to do the impossible.**

**Have a great day ahead!
Be safe always!
*Fr. Arnold***