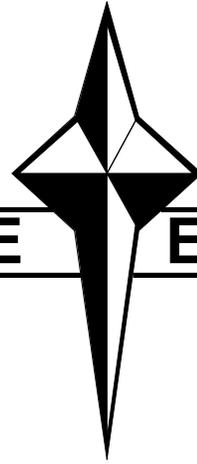


CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

March 1, 2015

Second Sunday of Lent



Church Address

8235 S.W. 57 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33143
Email: info@epiphanycatholicchurch.com

Rectory/Mailing Address

8081 S.W. 54 Court, Miami, Florida 33143
Telephone: 305-667-4911 Fax: 305-667-8067
Website: epiphanycatholicchurch.com

Ministry of Religious Education & Pastoral Services

Mrs. Isabel Prellezo, Directress
Telephone: 305-665-0037

Ministry of Music

Mr. Thomas Schuster, Organist
Mr. Angelo Marchese, Cantor
Mr. Georgi Danchev, Choirmaster
Telephone: 305-667-4911

School

Sister Margaret Fagan, IHM, Principal
Ms. Ana Oliva, Vice Principal
5557 S.W. 84 Street, Miami, Florida 33143
Telephone: 305-667-5251 Fax: 305-667-6828
Website: epiphanycatholicsschool.com

Convent

Sister Carmen Teresa, IHM, Superior
Telephone: 305-667-2144

Masses

Monday-Friday 6:30 & 8:00 a.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
12:30* & 6:00 p.m. (*Spanish)

Rosary Daily 7:40 a.m.
Novena Mondays 8:30 a.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church

Monday-Friday 7:00-8:00 a.m. &
8:30-9:30 a.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel

Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the Parish Office two months in advance.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Call the Parish Office ten months in advance.



Monsignor Jude O'Doherty, Pastor
Father Luis Largaespada, Associate Pastor
Deacon Don Livingstone
Deacon Norman Ruiz-Castañeda
Deacon José Luis Carrión, Jr.
Deacon Thomas V. Eagan
Deacon Marcos Pérez

THE WISE STILL SEEK HIM



Today's Gospel reading tells of one of Christ's highest hours. The light of heaven was on His face. His clothes became whiter than snow. He talked face to face with Moses and Elijah. He heard the voice of God say: *"This is my Son, my beloved."* But He left that Mountain of Transfiguration and walked straight to Jerusalem, where He was nailed to a cross. In a matter of just a few days, He was lifted to the heights of hope and then plunged to the depths of despair. But He kept on believing the testimony of His best hours, against the testimony of His worst hours, as to the meaning of life.

That is one of the major differences between Him and us. For some reason, we come at life from the opposite direction. We have difficulty trusting our best experiences. We find it hard to accept them as reliable witnesses. Why is it that we are so inclined to trust the testimony of our worst experiences, against the testimony of our best experiences, as to the meaning of life? One reason, no doubt, is because the best seems too good to be true. It would be beautiful to believe in peace instead of war, in transfigurations instead of crucifixions, in hope instead of despair. But that is the problem...it is too beautiful. The realistic facts tell another story. This is a harsh and cruel world. To believe in our best hours, in this kind of world, seems only a way of escape for those who cannot face the brutal realities of life. A great religion that believes in the best may afford comfort, but it does not face facts. But let us examine that attitude and see whether or not it deals with reality.

Since when has the Christian faith been primarily a matter of comfort? Which of the great representatives of our faith has enjoyed a life of ease? Certainly not its founder. He was born in a stable, lived without a home, and died on a cross. Certainly none of His apostles. They were ostracized and persecuted, and most of them died as martyrs. Follow the trail of great Christians through the ages, and you will find that same pattern, not ease and comfort, but struggle and sacrifice. Yet, these were men and women who trusted the truthfulness of their highest hopes.

Another reason we have difficulty believing in our best experiences is because they

get overshadowed by our discouraged moods. And that is not without reason. We live in a world where the bad news seems to outweigh the good news by a ratio of at least ten to one. Day after day, we are bombarded with stories of hatred and violence, greed and larceny, wars and rumors of wars. It would be unfair for us to blame the news media for this. They cannot report all of the stores that did not get robbed, or all of the places where people are living together in peace and harmony. Nevertheless, a steady diet of bad news can have a devastating effect on the human spirit. It creates the impression that the whole world is on a slippery slope to hell, and nothing can turn it back.

We are like people who live in a region that is almost constantly covered with clouds. For weeks at a time, they are shrouded in fog and mist. Only occasionally does a rift in the clouds let the sun shine through. But if those people are to live happily in that place, they must believe the testimony of that rift, what it tells them about the sun, and the blue sky, and the world beyond the clouds. We can do the same with those occasional rays of good news that break through the pervasive fog of bad news. They are trustworthy reminders that above the clouds, the sun still shines.

This is what Jesus did and His early disciples learned from Him to do the same. They kept a firm grip on their best experiences, and believed that they were telling them the ultimate truth about life. To them the story of Christ was good news. They did not think of it as idealism, but as reality. It was a message, not about how things ought to be, but about how things really are. God is love; all people are His children; and He is working out a purpose in this world that shall never fail. This was their message, not a new idealism but a new confidence in the reality of the best.

Some of us need to take this truth to our hearts. We are growing older. The decades come and go. And with the passing years, by an inevitable drift, we come to think of life, either in terms of the high or the low. This would be a meaningful hour, if we would go back and recapture some great experience, and trust that it is telling us the truth about life.



Sacrificial giving is a prayer of thanksgiving

"Our gifts are most appropriately presented at the Offertory of the Mass. The celebration of Christ's sacrifice is a fitting context of our own sacrificial offering which is a grateful response to the unfathomable love God has shown for us."

Too often we want to separate the issue of giving, particularly the giving of money, from those more "spiritual" aspects of our faith life. Yet the commitment to sacrificial giving is one of the most important expressions of what our faith means to us. Offering our gifts at Mass places them in an appropriate context of prayer and response to God.

In the offering, we can express our joy in having received and in being able to give. We are able to say, "Thanks be to God!" We can give back some portion of the tremendous gifts that have been given to us, the most important of which we celebrate at the Eucharist. There is no better time, then, to fulfill our commitment to sacrificial giving than in this atmosphere of prayer and thanksgiving.

We remember, too, that commitment is one of personal as well as corporate prayer and part of a lifelong process of turning towards God. Just as our giving forms an integral part of the ritualized expression of our faith, the Mass, so it is woven into the struggles and joys we experience on our personal faith journey.

One who has achieved a sense of Christian Stewardship doesn't ever feel that life is meaningless and absurd. He rather believes that he has a job to do, that by God's grace he has the means to do it, and therefore he must ever be busy at the task of rebuilding this world in accord with God's plan to "reestablish all things in Christ" (Pius X). Your Offertory Trust is such a call to glorify God through loving service to all people.

What to give as your weekly offering? It is a decision that lies between you and your conscience and should be influenced not by ease of convenience, but by prayerful consideration of

God's endless gifts to you. Your weekly offering should reflect your love of God, your interest in His works, and your appreciation of His many blessings to you.

The Cross

In ancient times the cross was an instrument of execution. It was used to punish slaves and non-Romans who had committed heinous crimes, such as murder or rebellion. The cross was a sign of infamy and treason.

With Jesus' death on the cross, it has become a sign of contradiction. For Christians it is no longer a sign of infamy, but a sign of the vulnerability of love.

Being loved

Being loved is always a surprise. The love of another thrills and excites us. It supports us in all that we do. It enables us to value ourselves; and even when we recognize our own self-worth, being loved is still a startling experience. Are we worthy of this devotion? We wonder, even as we are continually recreated by the experience.

The realization that we are really loved by God is difficult to grasp. Yet the signs of God's love are all around us. The Incarnation, the becoming human of the Son, is the Father's fullest sign of his love for us. It is a startling sign. If we believe it, this sign should support, thrill, excite, and recreate us.

Come out of the shadows

Jesus came to save us, not to judge us. When Jesus came, it was as if a great light were turned on in our dark, confused world. The world has been illuminated, we feel its warmth, now we can see to find our way.

Step into Christ's light. See yourself as you really are -- without pretending, without hiding -- because God forgives you and accepts you. God loves you in your strength and your weakness, when you flourish and when you falter.



Mass Intentions

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By	Readings
Saturday Feb. 28	5:30 p.m.	+ Estela Fernandez + Elsa D. Perez	Family Pasken Family	
Sunday Mar. 1	8:00 a.m.	+ Walter & Dorothy Kelley + Dolores Hernandez	Ortiz Family	Gn 22:1-2,9a, 10-13,15-18
	9:30 a.m.	+ Sante De Leo + Roberto Suero	Gina De Leo Beatriz Suero	Ps 116:10,15-19 Rom 8:31b-34
	11:00 a.m.	People of Epiphany		Mk 9:2-10
	12:30 p.m.	+ Juan Carlos Hernandez Hamel + Rev. Madre San Luis Luisa Antonia Rendiles	Scarlett Hamel-Roman Cisneros Family	
	6:00 p.m.	+ Fernando Barros Freire + Francisco Torres de Navarra	Son & Family Wife & Family	
Monday Mar. 2	6:30 a.m.	+ Ramon Abel Vergara + Natalia & Alfredo Castroverde	Vergara-Rodriguez Family Alicia Aixala	Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9,11,13
	8:00 a.m.	+ Juan E. Tamayo + Ritta Hogan Pre-K D Parents	Family Bunny Bastian Sister Margaret	Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday Mar. 3	6:30 a.m.	+ Richard Truka + Humberto Gonzalez, Jr.	Sheehe Family Alicia Aixala	Is 1:10,16-20 Ps 50:8-9,16bc-17,
	8:00 a.m.	+ Alex Carrion + Isaias & Ubaldina Diaz-Forero	Family Waddell Family	21,23 Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday Mar. 4	6:30 a.m.	+ Holy Souls in Purgatory Colin Campbell	Harold Zabsky Alicia Aixala	Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6,14-16
	8:00 a.m.	+ Lula Abdou In Thanksgiving	George & Maria Shahin De la Osa Family	Mt 20:17-28
Thursday Mar. 5	6:30 a.m.	+ Francisco R. Ferran + Maria Teresa Garcia-Montes	Jorge Larrieu & Family Lita V. Pino	Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4,6
	8:00 a.m.	+ Jonathon Perez + Servant of God Luisa Piccarella	Fernandez Family Marianela Perez	Lk 16:19-31
Friday Mar. 6	6:30 a.m.	+ Jose Luis Campos + Balbina Comas	Campos-Noguera Family Lisa & Jorge Pereira	Gn 37:3-4,12-13a, 17b-28a
	8:00 a.m.	+ Epiphany Parishioners + Delia Perez	Michelle & Alfred Sotolongo	Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43,45-46
Saturday Mar. 7	8:00 a.m.	+ Juanita Batista + Joan Zabsky	Family Harold Zabsky	Mi 7:14-15,18-20 Ps 103:1-4,9-12 Lk 15:1-3,11-32
(Sunday Vigil)	5:30 p.m.	Soldiers in Harms Way + Gomez & Perkins Family Members	George & Maria Shahin Gomez Family	
Sunday Mar. 8	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention + George & Gertrude Mouly	Tiernan Family	Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:80-11
	9:30 a.m.	+ Santiago Lamela + Maria Macuca Mendez	Lamela Family Pinero Family	1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25
	11:00 a.m.	People of Epiphany		
	12:30 p.m.	+ Marcelino Martinez + Jose Manuel Alonso	Beba Rams Tere Molins	
	6:00 p.m.	+ Silvia Tolon + Esther de Fernandez	Tolon-Gallinal Family Fernandez Family	



Mass Schedules

March 7/8	Celebrants	Lectors	Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Saturday 5:30 p.m.	Msgr. Jude O'Doherty	Bob Dickinson Sarita Baigorri	A. Aguirre I. Aguirre M. P. Bermudez S. de la Torre J. de la Viesca D. Fdz.-Siman S. Ferrer A. D. Gomez	Coordinator: (Natalia Cacicedo) Natalia Cacicedo Ray Cacicedo Alfredo Arguelles Kathy Moorman John Moorman Phil Prellezo Lynn Arguelles
Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Fr. Ireneusz Ekiert	Calene Candela Henry Pujol	I. Gomez A. Gudjonsdottir	Coordinator: (Chuck Broyard) Amanda Rodriguez Tony Friguls Juan O'Naghten Chuck Broyard Mariana O'Naghten
Sunday 9:30 a.m.	Fr. Luis Largaespada	Jason Johnson Pat Parker	L. M. Moas L. A. Moas J. Pozo A. N. Rodriguez	Coordinator: (Lucy Moas) Lucy Moas Nydia Gonzalez Lourdes Gonzalez Monica Perez Alfie Perez Charbel Heshema Al Gonzalez
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Msgr. Jude O'Doherty	Manuel Lasaga Vivian Lasaga	S. E. Diaz N. Diaz-Silveira A. P. Garcia I. Guzzo C. Kovacs J. E. Marantos C. Miles A. Perdomo	Coordinator: (Ely Fleites) Mirta Robelo Arnoldo Robelo Al Salas Gonzalo Santana Leticia Santana Gloria Barbier Marisa Salas Ely Fleites
Sunday 12:30 p.m.	Fr. Luis Largaespada	Jorge Torres Marcela Torres	D. E. Siman J. L. Siman	Coordinator: (C. Von Reitzenstein) Carmen Von Reitzenstein Bern Von Reitzenstein Tere Molins Pedro Marrero Bernuil Marrero Liliana Balepogi Delfin Molins
Sunday 6:00 p.m.	Msgr. Jude O'Doherty	Emily Loos Julio Ramirez	A. Eiroa C. Gaston M. Herrero M. Herrero N. Jacobs E. Lerma F. Martell M. L. Milton	Coordinator: (Rosa M. Portuondo) Rosa Maria Portuondo Ignacio Portuondo Georgina Angones Diana Yidi William Yidi Javier Ruiz Frank Angones



Stewardship Corner

BE ACTIVE DURING LENT

In the book *Three Minutes a Day*, published by the Christophers, the following short reading was very appropriate during Lent.

“In prayer, as in life, it’s advisable to take an active rather than a passive approach.” Father John Catoir, former Director of the Christophers preaches this principle in his syndicated column.

Many people these days fall into the trap of inactivity. The truth is that, except for salvation itself, God helps those who help themselves. Father Catoir uses the example of a fictitious man he called Tom to prove his point. Tom is a man who longs for a job, but makes no concrete effort to look for one. He prays daily for God’s help, but does nothing in the meantime.

Don’t just sit there hoping for God to change your life for the better; do something to try and make the ideal possible. If you get discouraged, cling to the love of God, “a love so great that He sacrificed His only Son to save us from death and by giving us the hope and promise of eternal life.”

The reading teaches us to be active...especially during Lent. Therefore, become more forgiving, stop complaining and be more grateful, give up being always angry, and become more patient. Listen to your spouse and children without always thinking they are wrong. Become more trusting and believe in your fellow man.

Above all, if you have been away from the Sacraments, stop making excuses why you don’t go to confession, make up your mind and go. You will never have the greatest weight taken off our shoulders than when you utter the words... “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.”

Remember, God will always forgive you, but you must take the first step. Be active during Lent and God will love you for it. Why not give it a try...it beats being passive.

Lenten Devotions

- ☞ We have **Mass** every day at 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. There is no better way of turning towards God than attending daily Mass.
- ☞ The **Blessed Sacrament** is exposed every day in the **Church**, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and again from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
- ☞ The **Blessed Sacrament** is exposed in the **Adoration Chapel** (next to the entrance to the Cafeteria) every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- ☞ The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available every Saturday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- ☞ Making the **Stations of the Cross** is a spectacular way of meditating on this part of Christ’s life. You can make the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Epiphany’s Living Emmaus I

A Morning of Reflection for all Emmaus women.

Saturday, March 14

7:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

For more information, call Michelle Sotolongo at 305-431-7772 or Rosie Bardisa at rbardisa@me.com

A Deeper Kind of Optimism

Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness. Hoping is knowing that there is love, it is trust in tomorrow; it is falling asleep and waking again when the sun rises.

In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land. In the yes of another it is to see that he understands you. As long as there is still hope there will also be prayer. And God will be holding you in His hands.



Congratulations to the families whose children were baptized during the month of **February**:



- Sofia Isabella Arellano**
child of Mary & Antonio Arellano
Jack Bradford Dammrich
child of Maryanne & Daniel Dammrich
Santiago Alfredo Franco
child of Victoria & Xavier Franco
Bettina Isabel Herrera Caldera
child of Mariana & Fernando Herrera
Declan Alan McCarty
child of Jennifer & Dennis McCarty
George Francis Puerto
child of Nicole & Roger Puerto
Jack Logan Schele
child of Leila & Alexandre Schele
Lily Sara Thomas
child of Sara & George Thomas
Anthony Esteban Yester-Pino
child of Laura & Anthony Yester-Pino



Congratulations to those who were married during the month of **February**:

- Marelis Rodriguez & Michael Diaz**
Jannike Smit & Ozmy Zuniga

Thoughts on Repentance

There is no thirst of the soul so consuming as the desire for pardon. The sense of its bestowal is the starting point of all goodness. It comes bringing with it, if not the freshness of innocence, a glow of inspiration that nerve feeble hands for hard tasks, a fire of hope that lights anew the old high ideal, so that it stands before the eye in clear relief, beckoning us to make it our own.

To be able to look into God's face and know with the knowledge of faith that there is nothing between the soul and Him is to experience the fullest peace the soul can know. Whatever else pardon may be, it is above all things admission into full fellowship with God.



Contemplative Cenacle of the Divine Mercy

Monday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.
in the church

We meet as a community in adoration and recollection to contemplate and venerate the image of the Divine Mercy. With songs of praise, prayers, the reading of the Gospel of the day, reciting the Chaplet and meditating on the Diary of the Divine Mercy in our souls under the spirituality of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, we allow ourselves to deepen our faith drawing closer with trust to the Fount of Mercy of Jesus Christ.

Parish Pilgrim Virgin Ministry

During the week of **March 1**, the Parish Pilgrim Virgin will be in the home of:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Juan & Monique Farach | 305-663-5676 |
| Cesar & Janet Armstrong | 305-665-4482 |

To schedule your visit, please call Patricia & Luis Siman at 305-238-4555.



PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Arturo Carrion; Pat Clarke; Jeannette Conner; Ursula Everbush; Ana Alicia Fernandez; Dario Jaramillo; Rene Maresma; Caridad Mora; Carolyn Nuin; Maribel Robayna; Richard Roth; Jessica Rotolante; Victoria Rotolante; Frank Rotolante; Paulina Tawil; Cindy Welbaum; Teodula Wong.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Sr. Catherine Doyle; Barbara Truka Graham; Maria de la Concepcion (Mari) Gutierrez; Julio Cesar Jaramillo; Vicente Llopis; Dr. Donald Parker; Israel Perez-Siam.

Compassion

Clothe yourself with Compassion.

Think about...

a mother's compassion as she wipes the tears from her child's face;

a friend's compassion as he listens to the problems and pain of one who is suffering;

a physician's compassion as he comforts the family of someone who is terminally ill;

Jesus' compassion as he cured the sick and forgave sinners.

Jesus' compassion as he hears your prayers and shares your burdens.

Clothe yourself with Compassion.

The world would rather offer criticism than compassion. Criticism pushes the burden and pain on someone else's burden and pain. Criticism is much easier than compassion.

But the Lord's invitation is clear.

Clothe yourself with Compassion.

When you embrace someone in compassion, you embrace the Lord!



Humility

Clothe yourself with Humility.

Humility means knowing yourself, accepting yourself, liking yourself, even as you strive to become better. Humility is so hard to achieve.

A caterpillar doesn't try to fly. It knows it can't. It can only crawl and climb and make sticky webs. It has to be content with that as it lives day by day, moving slowly and growing slowly until one day it is able to spin a cocoon instead of just a web. Then after more changing and growing, the caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly. Then it can fly, and it does!

Clothe yourself with Humility.

Humility means accepting yourself and liking yourself even when it seems that you are only able to crawl or only able to climb a tiny bit.

Humility means accepting and using the talents you possess and which enable you to fly. Humility means appreciating who you are right now, even as you strive to become all that the Lord wants you to be.

Clothe yourself with Humility.