



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

February 12, 2017

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7:00-8:00 a.m. &
8:30-9:30 a.m.
Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

ROSARY

Daily 7:40 a.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 one year in advance.

Monsignor Jude O'Doherty, Pastor

Father Lazarus Govin, Associate Pastor

Father Ireneusz Ekiert, in Residence

Deacon Don Livingstone

Deacon Norman Ruíz-Castañeda

Deacon Thomas V. Eagan

Deacon Marcos Pérez

Deacon Eduardo Smith

CHURCH ADDRESS

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RECTORY/MAILING ADDRESS

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MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & PASTORAL SERVICES

Mrs. Isabel Prellezo, Director
Telephone: 305.665.0037

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Mr. Thomas Schuster, Organist
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
epiphanycatholicsschool.com

CONVENT

Sister Carmen Teresa, IHM, Superior
Telephone: 305.667.2144

PASTOR'S PEN

Jesus was a rebel. We sometimes forget that and try to make him a supporter of the status quo. But during his early life and public ministry he refused to play that role. He did not belong to the establishment. He was an outsider. He was a friend and champion of the oppressed. He was a disturber of the peace. He was a disruptive factor in the midst of an unjust society. The result of this was a bad reputation. He was accused of all sorts of things, not the least of which was being a lawbreaker. His critics said of him that he was out to destroy the sacred Scriptures and traditions of his people.

Today's Gospel reading is his response to that accusation. It begins with him denying the charges that had been leveled against him. He said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets. I have come, not to abolish them, but to fulfill them." From there, he went on to make one of the loftiest statements on the law that the world has ever heard or read.

Jesus did resist authority. He ignored or deliberately defied many of the religious rules of his day. It was right that he should do that. Most of them needed defying. They were silly; they were petty; they had nothing to do with life. But if we took the time and made the effort to know him, we would discover that Jesus had a profound respect for the law. He was a breaker of petty rules. This is true. But he was not a law breaker. That was a false accusation.

He recognized a truth which many of us have never seen, namely this: that the real law of God - the moral law - can never be broken. Listen to him as he says: "Of this much I assure you: until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the law, not the smallest part of a letter, shall be done away until it all comes true." That sentence simply means that no one can destroy the moral law. It was here before we were. It is here to stay. It cannot be broken. We have just as much chance of destroying the law of gravity as we do of abolishing the moral law. Our only options are to recognize it and cooperate with it, or else be destroyed by it. Immanuel Kant, the eighteenth century German philosopher, said there were two

things that filled him with awe. These were "the starry heavens and the moral law". Jesus would endorse that statement. He felt the same awe centuries before. And he knew that the law would still be here long after the stars in the heavens had ceased to shine.

One other thing we need to see about Jesus and the law is that he understood it. He went beneath the surface and dug into the great principles that the law represented. For example, one of the Ten Commandments says, "You shall not commit murder." Most of us are pleased with ourselves if we take that at face value and never destroy another person's life. In our minds that means we are respecting and keeping God's law. But Jesus would not settle for that. He understood that the principle underlying the commandment is the sacredness of human life. And he knew that it is possible to destroy a person without actually killing him or her. We can do it with anger. We can do it with abusive language. We can do it with contempt. So Jesus went beyond prohibiting actual murder, because he understood its true purpose.

He did the same with the commandment that forbids adultery. On the surface, that law can be kept by merely avoiding the physical act. But once more, Jesus would not settle for that. He understood that the commandment had been given to protect the sanctity of the home and the sacredness of human personality. So, Jesus went to the heart of the matter and forbade us to look lustfully at another person. That means we should not regard another person as a mere object -- as a means of satisfying our appetite or gratifying our ego. That is the beginning point of people being hurt and of homes being destroyed -- when we start seeing one another as mere objects. Deal with it there, and you will stop the problem before it ever starts.

This is the kind of regard that Jesus had for the law of God, he calls us to follow in his steps. He said, "Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands shall be great in the Kingdom of God." That is his challenge to each of us in the midst of these morally lax and easy times.

There come times in the lives of all believers when things get very dark, and they have to believe what they cannot prove, and to accept even though they cannot understand or make sense of what's happening. It's at such times that we really need strong faith, but it's precisely at such times that our faith fails us.

It's easy to convince ourselves that we have a strong faith when things are going well. When a crisis arises we discover what kind of faith we have, or if we have any faith at all. By faith here I mean trust in God.

Of course, there are people who think that if God was with them, and if he really loved them, then no storm would ever hit them. Life should be all plain sailing. So, when a storm does hit them, they experience deep crisis of faith, thinking that God has abandoned them.

During the Last Supper the apostles were thrown into crisis when Jesus started to talk about his death. On hearing this their hearts were troubled and filled with fear. Knowing that their faith would be severely tested, Jesus tried to prepare them for the ordeal. He said to them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, and believe also in me." Since the apostles already believed, in effect what he was saying to them was, "You must go on believing in God and in me."

Jesus assured the apostles that, even though he was leaving them, he was not abandoning them. Rather, he was going to prepare a home for them, and would return to take them to that home. Hence, no matter what happened, no matter how difficult things might get (and they would get very difficult), they must go on believing, go on trusting in him and in the Father. That's all they would have to do. Go on believing, go on trusting. Easier said than done.

But at a time of crisis that is the only thing we can do - go on stubbornly trusting in God. Trust is the greatest thing we can give to another person. At that hour we must believe that somehow there is a purpose to it all, and that good will come of it.

Then the unbearable becomes bearable, and in the darkness a glimmer of light appears.

What real faith does is assure us that God is with us in the midst of the crisis. It is that feeling, that conviction, that we are not alone, that we are not abandoned, which enables us to get through the crisis.

Life is unintelligible and unendurable without God. That's why faith is so important. When the English singer, Charlie Lansboro, became a Catholic he said, "I believe completely. I can't imagine my life without my faith. But it took me a long time to get there."

Those who have faith have a source of comfort and inspiration, especially when trouble strikes. They know that God will be good to them in the end, both in this world and in the next. It is not we who keep the faith; it is the faith that keeps us.

"A person with a grain of faith in God never loses hope, because he believes in the triumph of truth (Gandhi)."

So when things are bad, may we hear the gentle words of Jesus: "Believe in God, and believe also in me."



MASS INTENTIONS

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Mass Intentions</u> | <u>Requested by</u> |
|---|-------------|--|---|
| Saturday Feb. 11 | 5:30 PM | + Francisco Mir & Flora Contino + Lucio & Glicería Pastoriza | Family Family |
| Sunday Feb. 12 | 8:00 AM | + Luis del Valle Nicolas Farach | Family Family |
| | 9:30 AM | + Dorothy A. Sacher + Ricardo Karakadze | Bunge Family Wife |
| | 11:00 AM | PEOPLE OF EPIPHANY | |
| | 12:30 PM | + Maria Encarnacion Montella + Ines Arias de Osorio + Elsa Garcia | Roman Family Evans/Osorio Family Gloria Comas Family |
| | 6:00 PM | + Barry Hanna Ryan Moorman | Family |
| Monday Feb. 13 | 6:30 AM | Paul Tchong Gabriel Millan | Rosalie Elliott Marie |
| | 8:00 AM | + Guillermo Miranda Joann & Bill Lorson | Family Family |
| Tuesday Feb. 14 | 6:30 AM | Liam Michael Bond Marisa Pinero Bond | Grandparents Parents |
| | 8:00 AM | + Delia Perez + Edward Northland | Sotolongo Family Miriam Northland |
| Wednesday Feb. 15 | 6:30 AM | Adriana Maser + Delfin Molins | Family Tere Molins |
| | 8:00 AM | + Andrew Paradise + George Prendes | Family Armenteros Family |
| Thursday Feb. 16 | 6:30 AM | Jack de Goytisolo | Rodriguez Family |
| | 8:00 AM | + Thelma Garcia + Magnolia Ortiz | Margie Suarez Bunge Family |
| Friday Feb. 17 | 6:30 AM | + Father Max Sodja | |
| | 8:00 AM | + Humberto Benedetti + Edna Zugel | Yidi Family Bunny Bastian |
| Saturday Feb. 18 | 8:00 AM | + George & Carmina Aguilera + Arthur F. Mezzullo, Sr. Arthur Mezzullo, Jr. | Family Fredricka Mezzullo Fredricka Mezzullo |
| Saturday Feb. 18 <i>(Sunday Vigil)</i> | 5:30 PM | + Nancy Martinez Mrs. Ferrer | Family Penin Family |
| Sunday Feb. 19 | 8:00 AM | + James & Mary Sachek + Katherine, John, Peter & Luba Chelak | Family Family |
| | 9:30 AM | + Thomas Novitsky + Luis Pavon | Cristina Miranda Beatriz Suero |
| | 11:00 AM | PEOPLE OF EPIPHANY | |
| | 12:30 PM | + Trina M. de Miranda + Manuel Alvarez | Family Aleida Gutierrez |
| | 6:00 PM | + Tere Castro Vivian Eljaiek | Ernesto Castro Yidi Family |

MASS SCHEDULES

February 18/19

Lectors

Altar Servers

**Extraordinary Ministers
Of Holy Communion**

Sat 5:30 PM
Fr. Govin

Debra Menegay
Eddy De Arcos

A Gomez
C Hassan
E Myrtetus
M Ortiz
B Palacio
C Paar
M Roberts
J Salvat

C Natalia Cacicedo
1 Natalia Cacicedo
2 Ray Cacicedo
3 Shari Ferrer
4 Gloria Garity
5 Maria Iglesias
6 Carl Lowell
7 Beatriz Lowell

Sun 8:00 AM
Fr. Ekiert

Calene Candela
John R. Steinbauer

A Pagliery
T Valcarcel

C Frank Acosta
1 Mariana O’Naghten
2 Juan O’Naghten
3 Frank Acosta
4 Manuel Paucar
5 Juan Farach

Sun 9:30 AM
Fr. Ekiert

Astrid Isom
Mike Herold

M Quintana
D Recio
A Reed
I Roche

C Delia Valcarcel
1 Delia Valcarcel
2 George Valcarcel
3 Nydia Gonzalez
4 Donna Alfano
5 Tom Alfano
6 Grace Casamayor
7 Manny Casamayor

Sun 11:00 AM
Msgr. O’Doherty

Ramon Garcia
Gloria De la Osa

E Paredes
C Prieto
D Ramos
M Recuset
R Rodriguez
A Rodriguez
C Ros
D Baboun

C Ely Fleites
1 Lourdes Cooper
2 John Cooper
3 John W.M. Cooper
4 Roberto De Leo
5 Katerina Velikopoljski
6 Manolo Dominguez
7 Maite Dominguez
8 Ely Fleites

Sun 12:30 PM
Fr. Govin

Bernd Von Reitzenstein
Susana Agurto

E Agurto
A Arguello

C Mary Gonzalez
1 Mary Gonzalez
2 Humberto Gonzalez
3 Gabriel Gurdian
4 Raul Zabala
5 Liliana Acosta
6 Gloria Acevedo
7 Plinio Gonzalez

Sun 6:00 PM
Fr. Govin

Margaret Gidel
Emily Loos

A Yaniz
J Yaniz
A Zurfluh
C Zurfluh
M Alexander
C Candela
I Cardenal
F Castro

C Gelcys Campo
1 Gelcys Campo
2 Rafael Campo
3 Jorge Echenique
4 Janet Iglesias
5 Rene Iglesias
6 Mary Lee
7 Steven Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship CORNER

A KICK

Tommy had just received his brand new driver's license. Mom, Dad and his two younger sisters troop out to the driveway and climb in the car. Tommy was going to take them for a ride for the first time. Dad immediately heads for the back seat, directly behind the newly minted driver.

"I'll bet you're back there to get a change of scenery after all these months of getting in the front passenger seat teaching me to drive," says the beaming boy to his father. "Nope," comes Dad's reply, "I'm going to sit here and kick the back of your seat as you drive, just like you've been doing to me all these years." They all laughed as Tommy drove off.

Tommy was raised in a happy, loving, and faithful family. Seeing him behind the wheel brought back many memories from the day he was born. Mom and Dad were just proud of their son. Kicking his seat was a sign of love and a hope that they had taught him to be a caring, responsible person.

Success in raising children is not easy. It depends on a lot of people. It includes grandparents, relatives, teachers, friends, but first and foremost, it is the responsibility of the family to instill love, stability and responsibility. Being a good mother or father is a huge task. It calls for hard choices as often as tender love.

The following suggestions could help...*be a strong example*--children learn by watching their parents; *be there*--make your children know you will never abandon them; *be flexible*--consistency is most important, but giving them a break helps; *be faithful*--to each other and to God so that children know how important God is in their lives.

Tommy will never put this together...his father kicking the back of his seat as a sign of the family's love, and sixteen years ago, Tommy gently gave his mom "a kick" while he was in the womb as a sign of his love.

Love is many things, even a "Kick."



Epiphany School Happy Camper Book Fair

Please stop by the Epiphany School
Happy Camper Book Fair
in the Library Media Center
and support our school.

It will be open from Monday to Friday,
February 13-17, from 7:30am – 4:30pm.

February 15 from 12:30-2:30pm
**(Read S'more Family Day with a bake sale,
snow cone truck, nail/face painting,
raffle, crafts, games, and more)**

There will be books for all interests and age levels. There will be gift certificates available to purchase for your child's teacher to build the classroom libraries. Stop by and support literacy and Epiphany school!

***Every Moment, Every Day,
Is an Opportunity to Become a
Better Version of Ourselves...***

EMMAUS XXV
March 3 -5, 2017

Join us on a journey to enrich your spirituality, get closer to our Lord and feel the friendship and love of our Epiphany community.

Applications are available in the Rectory. If you are interested in attending, please submit your application by February 20, 2017. For information, please call Cristi Vonder Haar, 305.979.9150 or Marcela Reardon, 786.208.2364.



REMINDER: The last session will be on
Thursday, February 16, 2017 from
7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.



Collection of Old Palm Branches

We are soon approaching the season of Lent. The Church calls us, through very powerful symbols, to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.

The Church uses the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. This reminds us that power, victory, vanity, adulation, money, and pleasure quickly pass us by.

We remember that we are dust, ashes, weakness. We remember that God engraved His own image on us, on our dust. It is only through faithfulness to Him that we find fulfillment and peace.

Next **Sunday, February 19**, we invite you to bring all the palm branches that you may have at home from previous years. They will be collected and burned to make the ashes which will be placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday.



The call to love one another must not be taken lightly. Neither should we give up when it's hard for us. Sometimes we will succeed at this challenge, and sometimes we will fail. The challenge is that we at least try.

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY WEBSITE

We invite you to visit the website of the Church of the Epiphany and become familiar with the many activities of our parish community.

www.epiphanycatholicchurch.com

Our Prayer List

The names in Our Prayer List remain on the list for four consecutive weeks. If you need a name added or kept on the list, please call the Rectory at 305-667-4911 or leave a note for the Bulletin Staff.

Parish Pilgrim Virgin Ministry

During the week of **February 12** the Parish Pilgrim Virgin will be in the home of:

Fedora Rice 786.200.0843
Evelin Villanueva 305.733.0795

To schedule your visit, please call
Luis & Patricia Siman at 305.238.4555



PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Rosa Maria Alvarez; Daniel Beltran; Pat Clarke;
Ana Alicia Fernandez; Alfredo Franco;
Stephen Hohaus; Fernando Hubert;
Patsy Kamercia; Daniel Manichello; Michael Nuin;
Carolyn Nuin; Ana Pinedo; Leticia Podesta;
Richard Roth; Estela Ronderos; Esther Suarez;
Paulina Tawil; Margie Vail; Teodula Wong.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Father Noel Bennett; Brian Brodeur;
Maria May; Francisco Pereda; Jorge Prendes.

HONESTY

Real religion requires honesty. There is no other way to approach God. He knows everything about us - who we are, what we do, and why we do it. That is what makes the attitude of the Sadducees such a sham. Jesus was in no way intimidated by their question. He gave them an honest and direct answer, but it did little or nothing to change their lives. Their spiritual problem was not a lack of information; it was a lack of basic honesty. They missed the truth because their minds were closed and sealed.

These Sadducees have one primary message for you and me. It is this: Be honest. In our approach to life, in our dealing with God, honesty is primary. Nothing else matters without it. Christ himself, cannot change our lives until we open our hearts to his love and our minds to his truth.

To begin, let's be honest enough to admit there are many things about life we don't know. This was what the Sadducees failed to do. They came to Christ, but their trip was futile. They talked with Christ, but the interview was fruitless, because they did not come in search of truth. Their attitudes about life were so fixed, their minds were so closed that they could stand in the presence of Christ and never ask an honest question.

In this life, you and I will not have the opportunity of a face to face interview with Jesus of Nazareth, but I hope we do have a healthy curiosity about life. I hope there are some things that we know we don't know, things we wonder about, things we would ask if we were in the presence of Christ. This confession of ignorance, this element of mystery is nothing to fear or be ashamed of. It is, in fact, one of the most beautiful things about life. I read somewhere about a man who went to the theater with the author of the play, and he said he would never do it again. The author, or course, knew the story from beginning to end. He knew every line before it was spoken, every event before it happened. He would whisper the next line in the ear of his guest, and he would reveal the

next scene before it ever took place on stage. God is much wiser than that. He knows the story of life from beginning to end, but he doesn't spoil the plot for you and me. All of the excitement and anticipation of the unknown are ours to experience. Life is a mystery. It is filled with the unexpected and the unpredictable, but that is a large part of it's beauty and charm.

It is not enough to know the right answers; we must also ask the right questions. You can have the right answer to a lot of questions and still fail the test of life. Where can I make the most money? That question is not unimportant, but neither is it ultimate. A lot of people have answered it perfectly and yet have miserably failed the test of life. How can I have the most fun? There is nothing wrong with having fun. In fact, to live without enjoyment is probably as pagan as worshipping idols. But the people who major on fun, who seek it above everything else, usually fail the test of life.

We should stay with the major issues; we should ask the big questions. Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? Those are the big issues. Those are the major questions. Ask them sincerely; answer them honestly; and you will be on your way to doing something worthwhile with your life.

