

Please continue to pray for the sick of our Parish. To add someone to the prayer list, call Fr. Jim or email Bonnie Toth at: bonnie3871@gmail.com.

Jodi Aerts
Dylan Anderson
Robert Berry
Patricia Bonnewitz
Michael Burke
Sandra Burke
Julie Byron
Toni Capute
Riordan Cavoris
Justin Curtis
Tony Donehoo
Carol Donato
Islea Duncan
Alan Ekberg
John Evans
Kathy Evans
Earl Fishback
Linda Gardner
Elizabeth Gillam
Lorraine Brennen Gilliam

Lynn Goss
Kathleen Hamilton
Jeanne Harper
Jeannine Iannaco
Pablo Ignacio
Patrick Ignacio
Meja Irvin
Leslie Jarrett
Margaret MacDiarmid
Carolyn Martin
Jamie Martin
Greg Moore
Kathleen Moore
Beverly Moyer
Chris Moyer
Ray Moyer
Don Notestein
Patsy Notestein
Angel Ortiz
George Perry

Wendy Pessaro
Gary Peters
Laurie Peters
Frank Powell
Nelson Sanchez
Princess Sanchez
John Seaquist
Ray Servis
Jane Sliwinski
Margaret Smith
Chere Tew
Fred Toth
Amy Tracy
Charles Watson
Danielle Weedon
Laura Williams
Louise Williams
Michael Williams
Travis Williams
Betty Jo Wolfrum

January Birthdays

Chuck Hirtz (Jan 3)
Bev Moyer (Jan 5)
Ray Servis (Jan 6)
Margaret MacDiarmid (Jan 15)
Linda Gardner (Jan 17)
Alice Doepppe (Jan 20)
Alexander Gregory (Jan 21)
Chris Moyer (Jan 22)
Keith Hamilton, Jr. (Jan 29)
Kay Johannes (Jan 31)

January Anniversaries

Charlie & Mary Graf (Jan 4)
Tod & Betty Craft (Jan 20)

Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church

2938 Oakleigh Avenue (PO Box 668)
Appomattox VA 24522-0668

Pastor: Father James Gallagher 434-352-0104
For emergencies: Fr. Jim cell number: 434-238-7030
or Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church 434-846-5245
www.olpcatholicchurch.org

Holy Eucharist

**Sunday 8:30 AM; Tuesday 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM
Thursday 12:15 PM**

Bulletin news and requests for mass cards: contact
Bonnie Toth at bonnie3871@gmail.com

A Reflection by B. Sidney Smith

Epiphany and the Magic Eye

A popular kind of optical illusion was invented in the 90s called Magic Eye. A colorful, computer-generated pattern, apparently meaningless and random, would contain a "secret" 3-dimensional picture that was only visible if the viewer didn't search for it, but instead relaxed their eyes and allowed the image to go out of focus. For instance, a field of blue, green, and yellow squiggles might suddenly appear to the viewer as a unicorn, a castle, or maybe a word.

I often ponder the Epiphany of the Lord that we celebrate this week, and lately it put me in mind of those Magic Eye images. "Epiphany" is Greek for "manifestation," and specifically for Christians it means the manifestation or revelation of Jesus' divinity. It happens over and over in the Gospels; the adoration of the Magi, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God from Heaven at Jesus' baptism, Jesus' miracle at Cana, and so on.

The connection occurred because I remember certain of my friends being very frustrated by those Magic Eye images. They'd try and try to see the "secret image" but end up irritated, feeling it was all an elaborate joke at their expense. These reactions are eerily similar to the reactions I get when people learn I am a Catholic. "I thought you were smart," is the commonest response, mocking me for being taken in.

The truth is that we don't see with our eyes but with our minds, and what we see is not "the world as it is" but "the world as our minds construct it." Our brains are adept at forming figures from the chaos that enters our senses, but if we are too tightly wound to let it work properly, we find we are blind to things around us that others can see.

I believe that our souls are likewise disposed to recognize our Creator, to see Him in His Works, to see Him above all in the Christ. But here, blindness afflicts us too.

For both minds and souls, learning to see is a journey. Our earthly sight is hampered by falsity, presumption, or bigotry. Attention, education, and openness increase our powers of perception of what is earthly, leading us to live in a world ever vaster and more amazing. The smog about our souls is thickened by sin and indifference. Prayer, love, communion, especially celebration of the Eucharist—these clear and empower our soulful vision, and the divine becomes visible to us.

Now when I think about Epiphany, I don't imagine some magical appearance of the sort that would make any ordinary person say, "Whoa, what's that?" I don't think of it as an event external to the witnesses, but as one internal to them. Epiphany is a manifestation that occurs, not because something outside us changed, but because something inside us did.

And then I wonder, if I were kneeling there at the crèche, in the company of the wise, what would I see?

PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Many thanks from Fr. Jim!

Your generosity at Christmas towards Fr. Jim was overwhelming! He expresses gratitude for the many cards, gifts and greetings. Gracias!

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, following 7 PM mass) (Don't forget your ministry reports.)

January Craft Club Meetings: Wednesday, January 10 and Friday, January 26, 10 am to 12 Noon.

Breakfast Sunday is next Sunday (January 14). We look forward to all your famous yummy breakfast treats! All are welcome!