

## St. Mary of the Angels PSR Newsletter

*January 2, 2022*

**January 16<sup>th</sup> will be our next PSR Mass for Grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be planning the Liturgy this coming Sunday during class. If your child will not be able to help January 16<sup>th</sup>, please let me know before Sunday. Please encourage your children to sign up to help.**

**The Confirmation Class will be taking down Christmas decorations in church after Mass this Sunday. It is a scheduled class, and we will have class when finished in church.**

**If your family would like to provide snacks, please let me know and I will get you scheduled. Thanks!**

**ATTENTION CONFIRMATION PARENTS: If a Candidate misses over 4 classes, they will need to be made up before Confirmation in May. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8 am Mass.**

**CONFIRMATION\*\* Those Confirmation students need to be researching Saints. They will need to pick their favorite and that Saint's name will be their Confirmation name.**

In the Gospel today from Matthew (Mt 2:1-12) we hear about the three magi who followed the star with gifts for the Christ Child. We celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The three magi were astrologers from the East and followed the star upon it's rising to pay homage to Christ the King. When they came to Jerusalem, they had an audience with King Herod, also known as "Herod the Great" as many accomplishments were made during his reign. He was also known as "Herod the Cruel" because of his cruel murder of the "Innocents" or the boys in Bethlehem between a certain age in attempt to kill the Christ Child. He is not to be confused with his son Herod who reigned at the time of Jesus's Crucifixion.

Herod tried to trick the magi into finding the child and letting him know where the baby was so he could do him homage. We know Herod was perplexed upon hearing of a new king, for he was the only king, and this baby was a threat to his reign. Herod planned to have the baby killed. The magi followed the star and it led them to the house where the Holy Family was staying. The magi were each of a different race and each brought him a gift with special meaning.

On the fifth day of in the Octave of Christmas, we hear from Luke's Gospel about the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, which symbolizes God reentering the Temple. Jesus was presented to all of Israel as the King and Messiah for the Jews. The fact that each of the magi were different races has an important symbolization. The Epiphany symbolizes the presentation of Jesus to the Gentiles, or more importantly for the whole world. Jesus is not just the Messiah or savior of the Jewish people Israel, but of everyone in the world.

The magi brought Jesus three gifts, and each tells something important about Jesus. First, gold was given to him because he is King. Second, we have frankincense symbolizing he is fully God, and third, myrrh was given to him for he is fully man and to signify that he would die for the sins of the world.

Jesus died on the cross to take on death and save all people from their sins, not just the chosen people, Israel, as some thought, but the entire world. We as Christians, or followers of Christ have been given a light from Jesus. We must not place this light under a bushel basket and try to save it for ourselves. We are to let this light shine on all we meet and tell them about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We don't have to knock on doors and tell people about Christ, but we must live our lives in the example Jesus

gave us during his life on Earth as proclaimed in the Gospel. If we live as true Disciples of Christ, we will teach others about him without actually thinking about it. The world is full of hate, but we can choose to be kind, and loving. We can all change the world one heart at a time, starting with our own.

St. Matthew, pray for us!