

This Sunday's *Counsel*

THEME: God's glory is revealed when we offer to Jesus our time, talent and treasure.

PROMISE: "...He shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him." (Ps 72:12)

WORD: Is 60:1-6/
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/
Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12

ORDERS:

- "...do him homage." (Mt 2:2)
- "...see and be radiant..." (Is 60:5a)

DIRECTIONS:

- Be attentive at Mass.
- Spend more time with Jesus in prayer and adoration.
- Share generously our resources.



BLD Trenton

Community News

Volume 19, Issue 1

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 4, 2019

Meant To Be A Star



REFLECTION: The magi, or wise men from the East, had been tracking this particular star for a couple of years. Their preoccupation culminated in them finding Jesus and adoring him, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the course of their journey to look for the newborn king of the Jews, they lost sight of the star but later found help from Herod who, being greatly troubled, deceitfully told them he, too, wanted to see the king to do him homage. In fact, Herod wanted the child dead,

fearing he was the messiah who would soon oust him from power.

The Star of Bethlehem, as this star has come to be known, shone brightly to the magi and revealed the glory of God to the whole world, not just the Jewish nation. Its great light still remains today, illuminating our path to holiness through Jesus Christ who is himself the "*way and the truth and the light*" (Jn 14:6). When we follow Jesus we "*will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*" (Jn 8:12). Sometimes, though, we become so engrossed in worldly pleasures or in deep suffering that we lose sight of or choose to look away from the light of Christ. Just as the starlight can come and go as it did to the magi in their journey, we also can shut Christ out of our lives; but if we humble ourselves and reconcile with him, his light can reappear anytime to shine even more brightly on us that we become the light ourselves.

For we are not called to just follow the star. We are designed to be the star that gives light to others. Being a light

To Be A Star —See Page 2

Tending the Flock

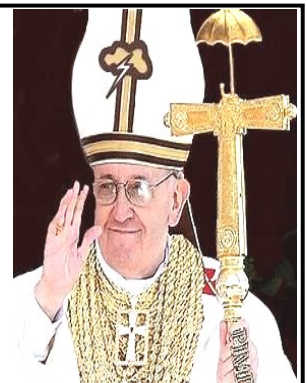
Did You Know...

...these words of wisdom of Pope Francis on forgiveness?

There is no perfect family. We do not have perfect parents, we are not perfect, we do not marry a perfect person or have perfect children. We have complaints from each other. We disappoint each other. So there is no healthy marriage or healthy family without the exercise of forgiveness. Forgiveness is vital to our emotional health and spiritual survival. Without forgiveness the family becomes an arena of conflict and a stronghold of hurt.

Without forgiveness, the family becomes ill. Forgiveness is the asepsis of the soul, the cleansing of the mind and the liberation of the heart. Whoever does not forgive does not have peace in the soul nor communion with God. Hurt is poison that intoxicates and kills. Keeping heartache in the heart is a self-destructive gesture. It's autophagy. Those who do not forgive are physically, emotionally, and spiritually ill.

Parents are the children's source of life. They are there to protect their sons and daughters and not to compete with them. That is why the family must be a place of life, not of death; Territory of cure and not of illness; Stage of forgiveness and not guilt. Forgiveness brings joy where sorrow has produced sadness; Healing, where sorrow has caused disease.



Teaching Schedule

Jan 12 - ME 18 Siena Test

Marshall Assignment

Jan 4 - Art Monta & Raul Caragay
Jan 11 - Toti Lukban & Al Guerrero

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Jan 4 - Alina Szurlej & Jennifer Scotto, Gloria Oquendo

The Lord's Provision - December 28, 2018

Tithes: \$470.00 Love Offering: \$173.00
Thank You For Your Generosity

God's Blessings

Birthday

Grace Bustamante	1/3	Jay Mijares	1/6
Malou Yosuiico	1/4	Carmela Palumbo	1/6
Patrick Mazo	1/5	Woody Woodard	1/7
Eppie Rebong	1/5	William Colon	1/10

Anniversary

Joel & Estela Bermudo	1/1
Vic & Lucy Mabunay	1/2
Jay & Tet Edralin	1/4
Rene & Edna Perez	1/4
Manny & Jocelyn Rodriguez	1/5
Leo & Nona Alquiros	1/8
Wendell & Mildred Lumapas	1/8
Epoy & Joy Pagente	1/8

Our Life of Contradictions

*"They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, found the Child with Mary His mother."
— Mt 2:10-11*

The wise men found the infant Jesus in a house some days after Jesus had been born in a stable. Their coming may have occurred around the days of Jesus' Presentation in the Temple forty days after His birth when Simeon prophesied that Jesus was both "a revealing Light to the Gentiles" and "a Sign of contradiction" (Lk 2:32, 34). Possibly the wise men were wise because they did not contradict Jesus, a Sign of contradiction.

Because they believed the star of Bethlehem was announcing the birth of the King of the Jews, the wise men followed the star, prostrated themselves before Jesus, and "presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt 2:11). The actions of the wise men did not contradict Jesus. However, Herod, after having said he would offer Jesus homage (Mt 2:8), contradicted himself and tried to murder Jesus (Mt 2:16).

We too contradict Jesus and ourselves when we say:

- we believe in God, but we don't tell others about Him,
- we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion, but we don't center our lives on receiving Communion,
- the Bible is the Word of God, but we don't read it daily, and
- prayer is communicating with God, but we don't set aside a daily prayer time.

There may be other contradictions in our lives. Yet the wise men and women are not contradictory; they are prostrate in worship of Jesus.

Adapted from www.presentationministries.com

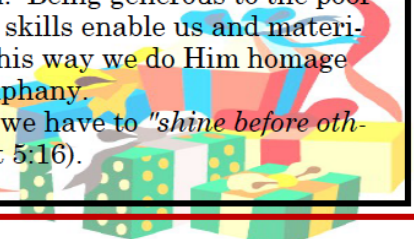


To Be A Star: Continued from Page 1

for others requires us to radiate love, peace and charity in this world that has been darkened by widespread hate, violence and greed. Everyday around the world millions of people are suffering from hunger, homelessness and disease, or getting killed or displaced because of wars. The scourge of abortion has erased the lives of countless innocent babies. Popular culture has evolved into one of misplaced priorities and away from the moral code God intended His people to abide by. We can let our light shine through by stepping up and living as faithful witnesses obedient to the word of God every day of our lives.

God has provided us with the resources to do our mission in this world, the oil to our lamp. Our time, talent and treasures are gifts the Lord gave us to be able to beam our light to others. Our faith calls us to see Christ in every person - "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40). If so, then by all means we have to give them our care and attention. Being generous to the poor and the needy, serving our church and our community in whatever way our skills enable us and materially supporting our missionaries would certainly be pleasing to the Lord. This way we do Him homage and offer our gifts just as the magi did to the child Jesus that day of the Epiphany.

As Christians, we are meant to be the "light of the world" (Mt 5:14) and we have to "shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Mt 5:16).



**This Sunday's
Counsel**

THEME: God's glory is revealed when we allow the Holy Spirit to renew our lives.

PROMISE:
“...upon whom I have put my spirit, he shall bring forth justice to the nation.” (Is 42:1b)

WORD: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/ Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10/ Acts 10:34-38/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

ORDERS:
• “...bring forth justice to the nations.” (Isaiah 42:1b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Believe in the Gospel and proclaim it boldly.
- Speak justice for the poor and the needy.
- Actively participate in mission works.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 2

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 11, 2019

Summoned to Mission



REFLECTION: The baptism of Jesus is acceptance of his mission as God's suffering servant. He freely chose to go through everything sinners would have to go through, a symbol of Jesus giving up his will up to the Father. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners. Jesus' victory over the tempter in the desert anticipates his victory at the Passion, the supreme act of obedience to the Father. Jesus anticipates the 'baptism of his

bloody death' (Lk 12:5) and his coming to 'fulfill all righteousness'. Out of love, Jesus consents to this 'baptism of death for the remission of our sins' (Mt 3:15). For Jesus, his whole life expresses his mission 'to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many' (Mk 10:45). And God the Father responds, proclaiming his entire delight in his Son: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased," (Lk 3:22b).

Jesus having accepted his mission, went out to proclaim the gospel of God, announcing: "this is the time of fulfillment...repent and believe in the gospel," (Mk 1:14-15). Through his teaching, healing and proclaiming the gospel, Jesus establishes justice on earth. He brings us together to fulfill God's plan of salvation. He brings light and enlightenment that all of us needed to be reconciled with the Father. He calls each one of us for a change of heart and conduct for God who "shows no partiality", for "whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him" (Acts 10:34-35). Scripture tells us, through Jesus "the grace of God appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires, and to live tem-

Summoned —See Page 2

**Know
Your
Saints**

St. John Neumann, Patron of Immigrants

John Neumann was born in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. Zealous for the missionary life and to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support.

Ordained a priest by the bishop of New York in June 1836, he later became a bishop of Philadelphia in 1852, at the age of 41. As a bishop, Neumann was untiring in visiting his vast diocese.

Neumann had a strong effect on the religious life of the United States by founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. In just seven years, he built 89 churches, as well as several hospitals and orphanages.

On January 5, 1860, at the age of 49, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a Philadelphia street. Neumann was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on the occasion of Neumann's canonization, Pope Paul VI summarized the activity of the new saint: "He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants."

St. John Neumann is invoked as a patron of sick children and of immigrants.



Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Jan 11 – Al & Judy Guerrero, Nestor & Cecille Vasquez, Bert & Cora Velez

Marshall Assignment

Jan 11 - Toti Lukban & Al Guerrero
Jan 18 - Elner Jamolod & Tony Riggio

The Lord's Provision - January 4, 2019

Tithes: \$540.00 Love Offering: \$168.00
Thank You For Your Generosity

God's Blessings

Birthday

Ash Young	1/5	Yoly Crisol	1/14
Jeric Balmaceda	1/11	Lilia Mejares	1/16
Gening Mabutas	1/11	Nanette Smith	1/17
Rosalie Angeles	1/14	Patricia DeJean	1/18

Teaching Schedule

Jan 12 - ME 18	Siena Test
Jan 26 - ME 20	Prayer Praise & Worship

True, Good & Beautiful Life

*"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."
- 1 Cor 6:20*

As Jesus' present-day disciples and having received the "new life" when we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior, we are expected to testify to the goodness and beauty of our transformed life. Indeed, it is tough but we will not be in this alone. We remain empowered by the Holy Spirit who is our Guide, Companion and Sanctifier. Our role is to place our lives under the action of the Holy Spirit and permit Him to control our thoughts, change our hearts and influence our way of life.

As our Guide, the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts enlightens our mind to enable us to see, know and understand God's word and Truth. He grieves when we rebel, and lovingly convicts us of our wrongdoings and eventually leads us to repent and ask forgiveness of our sin.

As our Companion, He is always there to strengthen us in overcoming challenges and trials, fortify us when we are tempted and comfort us in times of suffering. He brings us into an intimate relationship with God and to communicate with Him in our prayers to experience His loving presence.

As our Sanctifier, He makes us learn to live holier lives by applying our spiritual gifts to develop tenderheartedness, compassion, humility, forgiveness, joy and hope.

We cannot succeed in living a life of obedience to God and becoming Christ-like if we are full of pride, conceit, and ambition; if we are self-seeking and attuned to worldly pleasures. Jesus wants His Spirit to dwell in us so that God's glory may be manifested in the work He does in us and through us. This is His promise to us: "...upon whom I have put my spirit, he shall bring forth justice to the nation." (Is 42:1b). Jesus is the hope of the glory of God on earth today and for all eternity.

Adapted from www.bldworld.com



Summoned: *Continued from Page 1*

perately, justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ," (Ti 2:11-14). Jesus did not leave us on our own to contend with the world. He laid down a foundation where all of us can come and nourish our spiritual hunger through His Church. John the Baptist' prophesy that "...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Lk 3:16b) was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord's Baptism, we remind ourselves that we are members of the living mystical body of Christ, that all of us are part of the living body of Christ, connected with one another and grafted unto him through our own baptism. Our baptism marks the beginning of the life of Christ in us. To live that life, the Church, through Jesus has instituted the sacraments that would sustain us. As we are challenged daily by the principalities of this world, Christ, out of his love, has seen fit that we be reconciled with him through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and nourished through his living body, the Holy Eucharist. This living mystical body will continue to transform us as we live the life in Christ!

Just as the Sacraments are signs of God's grace instituted by Jesus Christ and entrusted to the Church (CCC 1114), through our baptism, the Holy Spirit fills us with gifts to share. Given these gifts, we are called to speak out for justice, for the poor, the blind, the downtrodden, those who are ostracized, to never silence those around us, to remove the blind spot in our lives that we may have a clear vision to see Christ in others. We are summoned to mission, to make ourselves readily available for the well-being of our Community, our Church and others. And when we listen and allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us, God's Glory is revealed!!!

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: God's glory is revealed when we are obedient to pastoral authority.

PROMISE: "You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord." (Is 62:3)

WORD: Is 62:1-5/
Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/
1Cor 12:4-11/ Jn 2:1-11

ORDERS: "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5)

DIRECTIONS:

- Live and lead by example.
- Be obedient to those with pastoral authority over us.
- Pray for mother Mary's intercession.
- Immerse ourselves with the word of God.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 3

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 18, 2019

A Wedding For The Ages

REFLECTION:

Jesus performed his first miracle at the Wedding at Cana. What is the significance of the wedding in the scriptures? The Old Testament meaning of marriage is that the man brings his wife into his life,



he shares his name, status, privilege, and his wealth. He elevates her and brings her into his life. The wedding at Cana fulfills Isaiah's prophecy. We exist because God loves us. God loved us into being. He loves us so much that He wants us, His Church, to be His bride and He is our bridegroom. The Holy Catholic Church has become a crown of beauty and a royal diadem in the hand of the Lord. Jesus' incarnation is the wedding of Heaven and earth. He is the mar-

riage of Divinity and humanity. The wine at The Wedding at Cana represents our intoxication with Divine life. When Jesus is within us, we are full of joy and inner peace. When the wine is running out,

Mary notices that we are reaching spiritual dryness and by instructing the servants to "Do whatever he tells you", she reflects the voice of all the prophets with the call for the desire to be continually replenished by the Holy Spirit.

This brings us to ask: what are the obstacles that prevent us from following Mary's instructions? First, let us look at some examples from the Old and New Testaments. For Moses, it was his

A Wedding—See Page 2

FUN FACTS OF OUR FAITH

Santo Niño Festivals

The Santo Niño is a Catholic title of the child Jesus widely associated with an image of the Christ child. While various representations of the child Jesus exist around the world today, the Santo Niño de Cebu is considered to be the oldest Catholic relic in the Philippines. The dark wood statue was originally made by Flemish artisans based on a vision of St. Teresa of Avila. The explorer Magellan gave it to Rajah Humabon, the ruler of Cebu, and his wife in 1521 as a gift on the occasion of their baptism to the Catholic faith.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI granted a canonical coronation of the statue and raised its shrine to the status of a minor basilica. Pope John Paul II gave his papal endorsement for the image while Pope Francis called it the "protector" of the Philippines.

Since the 16th century, there has been a great deal of devotion to the Santo Niño de Cebu. Pilgrims from different places make their annual trek to the church to take part in the procession and festival called the "Sinulog". Although the first "Sinulog" parade only took place in 1980, the dancing itself is said to have started with Queen Juana who, after her baptism, danced with joy carrying the statue in her hands with the other natives following her example.

Many other annual festivals in honor of the Santo Niño are also taking place in January in other parts of the Philippines, among them the "Ati-atihan" of Kalibo and the "Dinagyang" of Iloilo.

Viva Señor Santo Niño! Viva!!!



Teaching Schedule

Jan 26 - ME 20 Prayer
Praise & Worship
Feb 2 - ME 19 Mind of Christ
Walking in the Spirit

Save the Date

Feb. 23, 2019 : Washing of the Feet Retreat
Venue : St. Thomas Church, Old Bridge, NJ
Mar 22-24, 2019 : Solo Parents Encounter
Venue : Days Inn, New Brunswick, NJ
Apr 26-28, 2019 : Marriage Encounter # 21
Venue : Executive Suites, Carteret, NJ

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Jan 18 - Nestor & Cecil Vasquez, David & Liberty
Balisco, Toti & Inna Lukban

God's Blessings Birthday

Patricia DeJean	1/18	Jing Nieveras	1/21
Ino Dominguez	1/20	Ron Padolina	1/21
Fe Odon	1/20	Rissa Gomez	1/24

Anniversary

Raul & Mimi Caragay	1/18
Mahny & Em Ho	1/18
Eugene & Malou Yosuco	1/20
Toto & Sette Lemon	1/20
Roy & Arlene Roldan	1/21
Jun & Gay Anito	1/22

Marshall Assignment

Jan 18 - Elner Jamolod & Tony Riggio
Jan 25 - Erwin Bustamante & Eric Tan

The Lord's Provision - January 11, 2019

Tithes: \$490.00 Love Offering: \$330.00
Thank You For Your Generosity

Empty Without You, Jesus

"The wine ran out, and Jesus' mother told Him, 'They have no more wine.' " —John 2:3

In John's Gospel, Jesus began His public ministry at a wedding feast where they had "no more wine." Likewise, many people begin to let Jesus work in their lives when they realize they are out of wine, love, strength, energy, ideas, or hope. In the weakness of our emptiness, God's power in us can reach perfection (2 Cor 12:9).

It is literally true that without Jesus we can do nothing (Jn 15:5). Of ourselves, we are always on "empty" in the important things in life. Life is an impossible situation. This gradually or at least eventually becomes obvious. We are doomed to despair. Who can save us? (see Rm 7:24)

Jesus alone is our Savior. "There is no salvation in anyone else, for there is no other name in the whole world given to men by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12). So the most important thing in life is to give our lives and our emptiness totally to Jesus. We must take Mary's advice and do whatever Jesus tells us (Jn 2:5). Jesus is our only Hope.

Hope in His lordship over our lives. Hope through our obedience to Him. He will take us from our emptiness to the fullness of the wedding feast of heaven (see Rv 19:7). Thank You, Jesus!

Adapted from www.presentationministries.com



A Wedding: Continued from Page 1

doubts of his own abilities, "If you please, my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and tongue" (Ex 4:10). "If you please, my Lord, send someone else!" (Ex 4:13) For Naaman, the commander with leprosy, it was his pride and arrogance: "Are not the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be cleansed? With this, he turned about in anger and left." (2Kgs 5:12) For another biblical character, the time was inconvenient: "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." (Mt 8:21) And finally, for the wealthy young man, he could not let go of his earthly possessions: "...he went away sad, for he had many possessions." (Mt 19:22) We now know the result when those biblical characters were able to follow God's will, they were able to change their personal, national and even the course of humanity.

We must also remember that we need to have an active involvement in the Body of Christ much like the servants were asked to be instruments in Jesus' changing water into wine. Similar to the multiplication of loaves and fishes, we must do our part by filling the six stone jars with twenty to thirty gallons of water each. In order for us to be part of God's plan of salvation, we must know and obey His will and authority over us.

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME: God's glory is revealed when we live our faith as one body of Christ.

PROMISE: "...the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple." (Ps 19:8b)

WORD: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/ Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/ 1Cor 12:12-30/ Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

ORDERS:

- "...rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!" (Neh 8:10b)
- "...allot portions to those nothing prepared;" (Neh 8:10a)

DIRECTIONS:

- Listen attentively to the word of God.
- Reach out to those who are in need.
- Share our spiritual and material bounties with others.



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 19, Issue 4

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 25, 2019

God Reveals Self Through Jesus

REFLECTION: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."* (Lk 4: 18-19)

Jesus reads this passage from Isaiah in a synagogue in Nazareth. All eyes and ears are on Jesus and as he sits down to teach, he says, *"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

Such big promises only God can fulfill. And God is trustworthy. God reveals himself to us in a way that is both wise and simple. Through Jesus who lived like us through the adversities, difficulties and temptations of life, God gives us the example on how to live like a pilgrim here on earth. We can live with detachment from the world and all its allures and distractions when we are filled with the Spirit. We can bring good tidings to the poor, almost



virtually bring sight to the blind in their need and make the world a happier and more peaceful place. We can let the oppressed go free in charity, compassion and justice. These are some of many ways that we respond to God's revelation of himself through Jesus as model. Sadly we respond to God not always in acceptance, joy and surrender. Our responses include

doubt, inattention, procrastination, suspicion and sometimes denial and rejection.

God desires us for heaven but we create conflicts, dilemmas and problems for ourselves and others. Sometimes we have unfounded doubt and suspicion of God's words and promises. Sometimes we believe that we have to earn God's love to be worthy of his blessings and favors. Or that we have to repay God's gifts like we could. Sometimes, in our pride, we falsely believe that we already have everything that it takes and trusting in God will only make us depend-

God Reveals—See Page 2

Tending the Flock

To Be Catholic Is To Be Joyful

Catholicism and Joy should go hand in hand.

Saint Thomas Aquinas was once asked what God does all day. The answer of the greatest theologian in the Catholic tradition was simple and beautiful: "He enjoys Himself!" To put this more technically, God rests in the perfection and goodness of His own existence and in that act finds unsurpassable joy. That same Thomas Aquinas, following the Platonic tradition, also taught that "bonum est diffusivum sui" (the good is diffusive of itself), meaning that goodness tends to overflow, effervesce, give itself away. This is why, furthermore, God's sheer joy in Himself bubbles over into creation, the Creator, as it were, sharing the goodness that He has. How wonderful and mysterious that on the night before He died, Jesus, an emissary from the very inner life of God, said to His disciples, *"I have told you these things that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."* (Jn 15:11).

Catholicism is indeed about doctrine, liturgy, sacraments, the saints, art and architecture, councils, and popes, but finally it's about the joy of sharing the Divine life. Don't we sense this in the playful humor of Saint Philip Neri, in the exuberance of G.K. Chesterton, in the wry smile of Saint John Paul II? And wasn't the poet right when he said, "joy is the flag that flies over the castle of our hearts, announcing that the King is in residence today"?



— Bishop Robert Barron

Teaching Schedule

Jan 26 - ME 20 Prayer
Praise & Worship
Feb 2 - ME 19 Mind of Christ
Walking in the Spirit

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Venue : Executive Suites, Carteret, NJ

Rosary Leaders, Prayer Warriors & Proclaimers

Jan 25 - Manny & Eve Palacios, Al & Judy Guerrero,
Butch & Gel Chioco, Roy & Chinky Rubiato

God's Blessings Birthday

Aileen Ciocon	1/25	Weng Alberto	1/28
Patrick Calugay	1/25	Giña Sarmiento	1/28
Grace Padolina	1/25	Bernadette Sunga	1/28
Manny Ho	1/31		

Anniversary

Gerald & Rosalinda Mirandilla	1/26
Dan & Jean Catarata	1/28
Al & Judy Guerrero	1/30

Marshall Assignment

Jan 25 - Erwin Bustamante & Eric Tan
Feb 1 - Claro Gomez & Jojo Legaspi

The Lord's Provision - January 18, 2019

Tithes: \$520.00 Love Offering: \$254.00
Thank You For Your Generosity

Make Today Your Freedom Day

For nearly thirty years, Jesus had habitually entered the synagogue on the sabbath to worship God (Lk 4:16). Then, on one special sabbath day, the time "of favor" came (Lk 4:19). On that day, the Holy Spirit anointed and sent Jesus out, Scriptures were fulfilled, Jesus prophesied in power, and was nearly killed (Lk 4:23ff).

Since Jesus is the same today as He was then (Heb 13:8), He is working in power today, His day, the Lord's Day. Therefore, we should never be comfortable and complacent walking into Church; rather, we should approach "the liturgy of the Lord" (Acts 13:2) with trembling, anticipation, reverence, and awe. At any moment, in any Mass, the Spirit may explode and an international, earth-shaking ministry could be born (see Lk 4:18; Acts 13:2). Great healings (Acts 20:7-12) or life-changing revelations (Lk 24:30-32) might occur. Miracles will occur, as bread and wine are being transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus, Who is God. The proclaimed Scriptures will be fulfilled in the lives of many today as Jesus comes alive in their hearts and sets them free (Lk 4:18; Jn 8:32).

Today is the Lord's Day, "the first of all days" (*Catechism*, 2174). "Today is holy to the Lord" (Neh 8:9). Today the Holy Spirit anoints you (Lk 4:18). Expect today's Mass to be charged with power as Jesus makes all things new (Rv 21:5) — today.

Adapted from www.presentationministries.com



God Reveals: Continued from Page 1

ent, poorer, more vulnerable and needy. We must believe and trust that God wants to rescue us from these lies and from ourselves. Life is God's gift. God continues to hold our life, support and sustain us in his love and grace with no conditions. God desires us for heaven. This decree of the Lord is trustworthy.

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS?

In the book of Nehemiah, Israel, as it returned from Babylonian captivity, gathered for the first time as one body of God. All Israel requested that the book of the law which for years they had forgotten be read to them. Scripture was read to them from daybreak till midday. They listened attentively and wept as they heard the Word of God.

Today, there are places where Christians are persecuted, where the practice of faith is severely restricted. In such places Christians in their thirst and yearning for the word of God still weep, suffer and sometimes die for the chance to proclaim their faith. We are the one body of the universal church. As the human body is one, though it has many parts, so also the universal church, so diverse and vast, is the one body of Christ. So God reveals his glory to us, sometimes in dreams, in images or signs. Sometimes he has a message for us in the guise of persons or events, or as a book, news broadcast, picture, play or song. Often we are inattentive to the Lord. We casually ignore his presence. Sometimes we take note and listen but we hesitate to believe it is God's message, and worse, we sometimes reject God. But God is generous, patient and trustworthy. God remains faithful to us though we misuse his graces. God remains forgiving and loving though we squander his gifts. God ceaselessly showers us with blessings. O if only we can be constant in our appreciation of the Lord. O if we can only believe God's promise to be faithful, then Spirit filled, we too might promise to be faithful.