



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH

January 02-03, 2016 151 Hong Feng Road, Pudong, Shanghai 201206, China 浦东金桥红枫路 151 号靠近碧云路

CHURCH CLERGY Priests: Rev. Joseph Zeng, Pastor of Chinese Community
Rev. Francis Fang, Pastor of International Community
Mobile: 138-1750-3946 E-mail: bkfang@yahoo.com

MASS SCHEDULE Sunday Masses: 8:00 am (Chinese); 10:30 am (English)
Saturday Masses: 7:00 am (Chinese); 5:00 pm (English)
Weekday Mass: 7:00 am (Chinese); Monday to Friday

CONFESSIONS Saturday and Sunday 20 minutes before the English Masses

RECEIVING COMMUNION Only baptized Catholics who have received *First Holy Communion* may receive Holy Communion.
Adults and children who have not received first communion cannot receive Holy Communion.

RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION for ADULT(RCIA) A process for those who are curious about the Catholic Faith and who wants to become Catholic. Appropriate for (ages 7+) who are not yet baptized, for those who have been baptized in another faith and would like to become Catholic, and for Catholic who have not completed all of sacraments of initiation (Confirmation, 1st Eucharist) Contact I-chien at icliou@yahoo.com

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP Sundays after Mass & Mondays at 10:30am in Room 104 (except for public & school holiday.)

PARKING For everyone's safety, please park your car for free at the Marriott Pudong East basement garage on Xin Jin Qiao Lu across from the Church for Mass attendees. Please refrain from parking in the Church courtyard, except for the elderly & handicapped.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

185 Dongjiadu Road
English Masses:
Sat 5pm; Sun 11:00am

ST IGNATIUS CATHEDRAL

158 Puxi Road, Xujiahui
English Mass: Sun 12 noon

ST PETER'S CHURCH

270 S Chongqing Road, Puxi
English: Sat 5:00pm; Sun 11:00am
Korean: Sun 5:00pm
<http://SPICES.internationalparish.org>

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, January 3, 2016

1st Read: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm: Psalms 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13
2nd Read: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Monday, January 4, 2016

1st Read: 1 John 3:22-4:6
Psalm: Psalms 2:7-8,10-12
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17,23-25

Tuesday, January 5, 2016^{1st}

Read: 1 John 4:7-10
Psalm: Psalms 72:1-2,3-4,7-8
Gospel: Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

1st Read: 1 John 4:11-18
Psalm: Psalms 72:1-2,10,12-13
Gospel: Mark 6:45-52

Thursday, January 7, 2016

1st Read: 1 John 4:19-5:4
Psalm: Psalms 72:1-2,14,15,17
Gospel: Luke 4:14-22

Friday, January 8, 2016

1st Read: 1 John 5:5-13
Psalm: Psalms 147:12-13,14-15,19-20
Gospel: Luke 5:12-16

Saturday, January 9, 2016

1st Read: 1 John 5:14-21
Psalm: Psalms 149:1-2,3-4,5-6,9
Gospel: John 3:22-30

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CLASSES RESUMES

NEXT WEEK

All Children's Religious classes will resume on the next weekend of Jan 8/9. The classes are for:

- Children's Liturgy
- First Communion
- Catechism
- Confirmation

POST-CHRISTMAS PRAYER:



"Long after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains.

The Child in whom we rediscover God's great love for humanity becomes the adult Redeemer who challenges us to imitate his selflessness and compassion in order that we might transform our world in love...

May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away;

May we welcome the adult Messiah and his challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season a reality in every season of the new year."

CONNECTIONS, Jan.1, '95

SHU YOUTH GROUP

I'm Lovin' it



Upcoming Youth Group

Friday Nights

Friday nights resume on Jan. 8th
6:30pm-8:30pm
See you this coming Friday!

marriage moment

"There is an appointed time for everything...A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." Ecclesiastes 3:1,4
The late Bob Benson once wrote that, when his kids grew up and left home, he and his wife would sit and listen to the "laughter in the walls". *Do the walls of your home ring with laughter? Laughter and strong homes go together. Why not leave a little laughter in the walls of your home tonight? How was laughter a part of your home as a child? What laughter have you heard in your present home during the last two days? Pray that the God who calls life from the dead will fill your spirit with new optimism and joy.*

From Moments Together for Couples, Dennis & Barbara Rainey

THE SECOND WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

This week we continue to reflect on the coming of our Lord among us. The week contains two celebrations of epiphanies. An **epiphany** is a showing, a revelation, a manifestation. The day we call the Feast of the Epiphany makes use of Matthew's account of the Magi, the wise seers from the East to whom are revealed the good news of our salvation. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord represents another epiphany. When Jesus comes out of the water, which he enters to symbolize the completeness of his entry into our lives, a voice from heaven makes known to us who Jesus is: "My beloved Son." After all these years of waiting and longing, after all the promises and hopes, he is here - born into conflict, baptized in the Jordan - for us all.

The other part of the process of revelation, of showing, of epiphany is the part where we observe, recognize, take it in, and receive the good news as it is given to us. When we receive the gift, the gift giving is complete. When we recognize the one revealed, the epiphany is accomplished. When we accept who God is for us in Jesus, we let the Spirit give life to our salvation. The continuing readings from the First Letter of John are perfect to grow in a sense of how loved we are and how we are called to love. The gospels this week manifest to us a Lord who is full of compassion, who feeds the hungry and heals the sick.

This is a powerful way to end the Christmas season and, long after the wrapping paper is thrown away, to look back and give thanks for the real gifts we have received this year.

*He shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.*

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;

the lives of the poor he shall save.

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel

tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found

only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Can you recall the feeling of an epiphany, or sudden insight, allowing you to grasp in an instant what you couldn't before? Today's feast is about the Epiphany: the revelation of Jesus to all those lost in darkness. The coming of the Magi from the East foreshadowed how nations from around the world would be drawn to Jesus. It tells us that just as these men followed a star and found the king of

the Jews, so too will all people from all nations see Jesus' light shining in the world and come to him.

No doubt the home where the Magi found the Lord was a place of welcome, hospitality, and love for those around it—a small

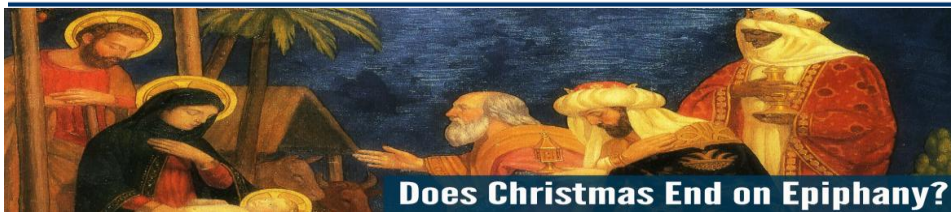
fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. You can just imagine how Mary and Joseph's home cast a warm glow on their neighbors, radiating the peace and contentment that everyone longs for. Surely everyone in their neighborhood respected this family deeply for the way they related to each other and to those around them!

The good news of today's readings is that our homes can be like that place of blessing. While darkness covers the earth, our homes can be beacons of light, places of welcome where the weary, the lonely, and the anxious can feel God's love and receive his encouragement.

There are countless ways you can fulfill this call. In fact, no two homes will be the same, because no two families are the same. You don't even have to try to figure out how you're going to shine the light of Christ. Instead, ask how your family can receive his light. For anyone who is being touched by its warmth and glow will naturally begin reflecting it to everyone around them. So let the light of Christ shine on you today! Ask him for a new epiphany for yourself and your whole family. Then, even the slightest acts of love, generosity, and hospitality will be filled with divine light!

"Lord Jesus, come into my heart and home. Shine your light through me onto the world, especially those longing for rays of your love."





A Bit of History on the Feast of the Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany originated in the East as a major feast day. The name Epiphany, meaning 'manifestation' or 'theophany' (understood particularly as a manifestation of Israel's Messiah to the Gentile nations), has also been associated with the other biblical manifestations of Christ. Historically, at least three events were celebrated on the same January 6 feast day—the feast of the Nativity (not on Dec. 25), the visit from the Magi, and the Lord's Baptism—in various locations in the first centuries of Christianity, and sometimes also a fourth, Christ's first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. It was called generally the feast of the Epiphany because these were all epiphanies of Christ. Eastern Rite Catholics today, for example, celebrate the 'epiphany' of the Lord's baptism on January 6, and not primarily the 'epiphany' of the visit from the Three Wise Men, while Latin Rite Catholics currently celebrate these two feasts on consecutive Sundays.

To make things even more confusing, the visit from the Magi that is today most associated with Epiphany in the Latin Rite likely occurred after the Presentation in the Temple (which is celebrated on February 2), because it was after the Magi visited the Holy Family that they fled to Egypt to escape Herod's murderous threats.

So, When Does Christmas End?

When Christmas ends depends on the Rite (Latin or Eastern), the liturgical calendar (Ordinary or Extraordinary), and whether you're looking for the end of the Christmas 'feast' or the end of the Christmas 'season'. But overall, here is what sounds good to me:

The Christmas feast proper ends on the final day of its octave, which is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on January 1st. Keep your feasting and merriment going for the full 8 days.

The 'peak' of the Christmas 'season' is Epiphany, the end of the 12 Days of Christmas. Jesus is now revealed as a light to the Gentile nations. Keep your Christmas decorations, especially your Christmas tree and lights, up at least until this day is over; or better, 8 days

for the full octave of Epiphany since historically this is such a major feast.

The official end of the entire Christmas season is the Baptism of the Lord the following weekend (the end of the octave of Epiphany), after which Ordinary Time begins. Keep your nativity scene displayed up through this day or until the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.

These are just suggestions of course. The varying Christmas traditions reflect the universal nature of the Church (all tribes and tongues!) which has been going strong for 2,000 years. Everyone is on the same page generally speaking in keeping the feast of Christmas, even though there have naturally arisen differences over the millennia in exactly how this is done from place to place.

A NEW BEGINNING, WITH A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS



WHY SHOULD I MAKE ANY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS? I NEVER KEEP THEM.

Almost all of us have had the experience of wanting to begin a new year resolving to improve, to do some things better than we have before. It is natural to have hope, to want to believe we aren't stuck in the ways we currently behave, and yet, all of us have the experience that we haven't done too well with our past resolutions. In fact, at this time of the year, the newspaper cartoons almost always point out the humorous side of our trying to make resolutions that don't seem to have a chance of succeeding.

Why do our resolutions so often fail? So often our good intentions fail and fail quickly. There are many reasons, of course, and some of them relate to how realistic our resolving is, but sometimes, we resolve to end addictive behavior without really giving it a chance. Most of the time, most of our resolutions are our best attempts at just having stronger will power. Though there are outstanding

examples of heroic virtue, and some people really do quit addictive behavior "cold turkey," there are far too many examples of failure.

One instinct deep in Ignatian Spirituality is the sense that, while it is good to develop stronger will power and self-control, real change in our lives actually happens most reliably when it comes from our deepest desires. Ignatius knew, from his own experience, just as we often discover in therapy, in spiritual direction, upon reflection on our own experience, that we usually do what we want to do. We rarely do what we don't want to do. The secret to change is to reform our desires - discovering what our deepest desires are and trying to change or re-form them. This was no self-help process for Ignatius and many of the Saints. It was the process of getting to know Jesus and falling in love with him. Once we fall in love with someone, all our desiring changes.

Don't I already know Jesus? Don't I already have a relationship with him?

Often this sounds too simple to us. Don't I already know Jesus? Haven't I already fallen in love with him? Of course, hearing the invitation at the beginning of this new year to examine our relationships with Jesus and let them be renewed this upcoming year, begins with the freedom to acknowledge that there is room for growth here. And, it starts with something of an attraction, a small desire, even a bit of curiosity that wonders, "What more can I discover?"

How might my heart be more captured by Jesus?"

Love always directs our hearts. But, there are other spirits, too. At times we discover the sad reality that falling out of love changes our hearts dramatically, too. Once we lose that affection, that attraction, that draw, then trouble begins. Whereas before we experienced a wonderful energy that wants to spend as much time as we can with someone we love, and wants to do anything we can for the one we love, now we experience a coolness, an emptiness, a distance, and unfortunately, at times, the other starts to annoy us. Sometimes we say, "it just happened," but upon reflection, we realize sadly that there was sin involved. We made some bad choices, some selfish choices. We stopped contributing to the relationship. What isn't growing is usually dying. And, of

course, sin is contagious and we live in a culture that doesn't support self-less loving. There are the messages: What about me? What about my needs? We tend to keep score. There are bad spirits among us that seem determined to make loving difficult, that seem to prevent wounds from healing, that seem to promote division, highlight differences and ultimately lead to war. This whole pattern, which we have understood as "Original Sin," has described for us what we overcome by Jesus' coming, and by his life, death, resurrection and gift of the Spirit. Jesus destroyed sin and death's power over us. Re-connecting with him this new year is re-connecting with his power to free our hearts to love again.

How do we get to know and fall in love with Jesus?

Getting to get to know Jesus in a new way, at a deeper level is just like getting to know anyone. We begin by spending more time with a person. We pay attention to him/her. We get to know the story of that person more completely. Eventually, we become more and more curious and more and more fascinated by how the person acts, what motivates that person, how he or she thinks. Of course, the key here is not only to learn more about Jesus, but to come to really know him, to experience a relationship. It is easy to imagine that Jesus knows me. It is more difficult to imagine that I am in a relationship with Jesus, and we know each other and there is something special about this relationship. For example, some of us will get to know Jesus and become really fascinated by his mother and father and that will shape our sense of who he is and our relationship with him. Some of us will come to love the way he chooses and interacts with his disciples. Many of us will learn a great deal about Jesus from how he tells stories and reveals things about God and about the Kingdom of God. Still others of us will become engaged by how Jesus interacts with and heals sinners and sick people. Perhaps we will identify with this or that story which will characterize our particular relationship with him.

What about my resolutions?

While we are getting to get to know the Lord, the things we may have been tempted to resolve begin to change. We may still need to lose weight and exercise more, but what will inevitably

rise to the surface are patterns that are like his. Attraction so naturally leads to imitation. Jesus is our friend, a wonderful Lord with a powerful way of loving and surrendering his life to the plan of his Father -- that he be Servant for us. The more we open our hearts to a deeply personal friendship with Jesus, the more we will open our hearts to ask the Father to use us, to be servants, too.

New Year's Resolutions

Then our desiring starts to be transformed. We will gradually and more deeply begin to ask for the graces we need - which is a more humble place to begin than making bold promises. We'll ask our Lord to purify our desiring. We will ask to for the grace to be drawn into the pattern of Jesus' loving and forgiving. We'll ask for the desire to surrender more, to let go of our own needs more completely so that we can give ourselves to the needs of others first. We will begin to see the people closest to us with Jesus' eyes, with Jesus' heart. Our love for them won't depend upon how much they please us or even how much they reciprocate our love. That isn't the way Jesus loves us. Jesus loves us because we are sinners. Jesus loves us because we need forgiving and healing. Jesus loves us because we need loving. Gradually, our resolutions get freer and more about self-donation. We open our hands in prayer and say, "Lord, these are my desires and I am asking you for the grace to live them." Gradually, the other spirits lose their power, their attraction. As Jesus confronts and contradicts the values of our culture in us and around us, the sillier all that kind of desiring becomes. We don't change our way of consuming, our way of seeing our role in the world or hear the cry of the poor day after day by strengthening our own will power. Our life style and our choices really become transformed when we become people who know, beyond anything else, that we are loved unconditionally by our God. When we become lovers of Jesus, we will naturally love the way he loves. When we become followers of Jesus this will be a blessed new year, indeed. And those who are sinners among us, the poor around the world, and those who suffer the tragic effects of sin, division and war, will experience the difference.

Lord Jesus, shine your light in every dark corner of the world today. By your Holy Spirit, stir hearts to seek you. Help those who know you to stand ready to share from their hearts the good news of your love and mercy.

Light of the Epiphany

Phyllis A. Tickle, "What the Heart Already Knows"

A Book of Christmas, Nashville: Upper Rooms, 1988, p. 13

"The twelve days of Christmas come to an end on January 3, and the season of the Epiphany begins. But Epiphany not only ends Christmas, it also fulfills it by celebrating the revelation of the Christ to the whole world. The coming of Incarnate God to all people, especially to those of us who are Gentiles, is the bridge from birth into life, the event that makes Easter possible for most of us. The light of the Epiphany illuminates the church's year as it illuminates the human race from whom the kings came."

Epiphanyes are Made for Sharing

Father Thomas Rosica, CSSR.

Solemnity of the Epiphany, Year A, Dec. 25, 2010

"The word '**epiphany**' means 'to show forth.' Epiphanyes, both large and small, tend to be private events – yet events with great significance for the public. Trying to share the details with another of an epiphany is fraught with complications. The words are never quite right, and even the most sympathetic listener cannot fully bridge the gap between description and what it was like being there. Most of us keep our personal experiences of the Holy to ourselves. Who would believe it? And who would really understand? The irony is that epiphanyes are made for sharing, even as they are impossible to communicate fully...."

"Unlike the poor shepherds, the Magi had to travel a long road; they had to face adversity to reach their goal. It was anything but a romantic, sentimental pilgrimage that we often see in our manger scenes!..."

"The experience of the magi reminds us that all who make the tedious journey to the truth will finally encounter it and be changed in the process. They can never go back to a 'business as usual' way of life. When we meet Christ and see who he really is, we will never be the same – and only then can we hope to begin to share in his mission...."

Thought of the Day

I no longer believe on New Year's Resolutions.

I believe on Daily Resolution.