

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3, 2021 ~ Bulletin No. 1 Vol. XXXVII

CALENDAR ~ January 2-10, 2021

Sat 2	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Dr. Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton
Sun 3	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Walter & Wanda Chimiak by Nancy Frei Mass for ROS Fr. Gabriel Meehan by the Knights of Columbus Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call 289-6336 for information
Mon 4	9:00am	Mass for ROS Beverly Axline by Don Axline
Wed 6	7:00pm 10:30am	Mass for ROS Hank Sunderman by Tom & Judy Bonhaus Prayer Group, Parish Hall
Thurs 7	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass for ROS Beverly Axline by Don Axline Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 8	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Tom & Peggy Jaski by Dianna Pendleton Men's Prayer Group
Sat 9	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Parks & Virginia Austin by Ginger Austin
Sun 10	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Terexa Pham by Kim Tran Mass for ROS Fr. Gabriel Meehan by the Knights of Columbus Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, Parish School Bldg; call 289-6336 for information

From the Holy Fathers



"And this is clearly the reason: You first loved us so that we might love You-not because you needed our love, but because we could not be what you created us to be, except by loving You."

~ William of St. Thierry ~
 1085-1148

Wisdom of the Saints

"We know certainly that God calls us to a holy life, that He gives us every grace, every abundant grace; and though we are weak of ourselves, this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty."

~ Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton ~
 Feast January 4



For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or
 Email: Rachel_harrill@yahoo.com

Jan 10 **HOSPICE** Next Sunday is Hospice Sunday. Our item to donate is Ensure, any flavor.

COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS: We encourage parishioners to make their contributions by mailing them in to: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RC CHURCH, 1024 W. Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043. You can make online donations through the following link: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>.

Jan 17 There will be a second collection for the Combined Missions.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 To you God entrusted his only Son;
 in you Mary placed her trust;
 with you Christ became man.
 Blessed Joseph, to us too,
 show yourself a father
 and guide us in the path of life.
 Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
 and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Submit information for the bulletin to Penny Watkins, at pjwlm@gmail.com; Deadline: 12:30pm, Wednesday before the bulletin comes out.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

An Introduction

The Mosaic Law, or the Ten Commandments, set the Jewish people on a path that was different from the rest of the known world. These Ten Commandments established a format for human behavior that would help to build a path for living a moral life. They serve as a guide for our relationship with Our Father in Heaven, and with our human family and neighbors here on earth.

In *A Catholic Introduction to the Bible: The Old Testament* by John Bergsma and Brant Pitre, we read “Each of the specific commandments can be linked back to God’s call to the people of Israel on Mt. Sinai to be “holy” or “set apart.” They point out how each commandment is a means to holiness. We all know the list of the commandments, but the chart below combines the words written by the “finger of God” with the words of two of our foremost contemporary Scripture scholars.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS The Decalogue, the “ten words of God”		
	The Ten Commandments in the Catholic Tradition	Interpretation by Bergsma and Pitre
I	I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.	Sanctity of God
II	You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.	Sanctity of the Divine Name
III	Remember to keep holy the LORD’S Day.	Sanctity of Time
IV	Honor your father and your mother.	Sanctity of Paternity and Maternity
V	You shall not kill.	Sanctity of Life
VI	You shall not commit adultery.	Sanctity of Marriage
VII	You shall not steal.	Sanctity of Private Property
VIII	You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	Sanctity of Speech/the Truth
IX	You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.	Sanctity of Another’s Spouse
X	You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.	Sanctity of Another’s Property

When Jesus came on the scene he taught that the Ten Commandments were the basics; but if we wanted to get to heaven, we had to do more. His Eight Beatitudes showed how we could live a higher moral life. He said: *“Think not that I have come to abolish the Law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”* (Mt 5:17-18)

Saint Irenaeus (d. 147) explained this when he wrote: “The Lord prescribed the love of God and taught justice toward our neighbor so that man might not be unjust or unworthy of God. Thus with the Decalogue, God was preparing man to be his friend and to have the same heart for his friend...the words of the Decalogue persist also among us. Far from being abolished, they have received an amplification and development in the Incarnation of the Lord.”

In addition to the Ten Commandments, the Law given by God, and the Eight Beatitudes which are the teachings of Christ, we are also bound by the Precepts of the Church, five specific directives formulated by the Magisterium of the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes these precepts are overlooked.

These Precepts are:

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and rest from servile labor on these days;
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year;
3. You shall receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season;
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church; and
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church which includes our own parish community, parish priests, the worldwide Church, and the Pope.

Over the course of the next few months we will be discussing the Ten Commandments, the Eight Beatitudes and the Precepts of the Church. Our sources of information will start with the Scriptures, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and more. In the end we will better understand how to live by them in our everyday lives.

NEXT WEEK: The First Commandment

