

*A Few Words from Fr. Gary:*  
Epiphany of our Lord - January 6, 2008

**Merry Christmas!** In fact this could be considered the **REAL** Christmas for our community! Today as we celebrate Epiphany (the realization of God becoming human), we are given a chance to reflect on Jesus coming for all peoples in the world. The magi or three wise men from a foreign faith travel from different parts of the world seeking to experience God's manifestation in the form of a little child. They follow the light of a star to experience God's presence. This may be a good week to ask ourselves, what are the stars or lights we follow to find God in our everyday lives?

In some communities Epiphany is a time at the beginning of the year to bless the home. I would suggest that as a family you consider asking God to be a part of your homes as we enter into the coming year. I am also available and willing to come and bless the homes of parishioners, please call and make an appointment.

In preparation for Christmas I asked the staff to let me know of people who volunteer in their programs. I had an overwhelming response of over 200 parishioners and students who volunteer their time energy and talents to care for the buildings, serve in ministry at liturgy, and serve in different programs for PSR, Youth Ministry and Campus Ministry. On a normal weekly basis, we need at least 85 volunteers to offer the programs we do at St Thomas. For our estimated four hundred families coming to St Thomas we have a good number of volunteers. You are what makes St Thomas an inviting community.

Please mark your calendars for St Thomas Feast Day on January 28 at 6:00 PM. We will have a parish wide celebration of the feast day of our parish.

**MAGNIFICAT, NOWELA CHAPTER**

The *Magnificat*, Nowela Chapter is sponsoring a prayer brunch on Saturday, February 2nd from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm in the Kilpatrick Hall at St. Jude Catholic Church on Viking Drive in Bossier City. The guest speaker will be Sandy Ourso from Baton Rouge.

The *Magnificat* is a ministry for Catholic women and this day is set aside to speak to the hearts of women and rejoice in the presence of the Lord. Please no children. Admittance is \$12 and reservations must be made prior to January 30th by calling either Sandy Chapman at 318-459-3777, Barbara McAlister at 318-747-7029 or Helen Langley at 318-746-6223. Checks for the reservations may be mailed or paid at the door. No admittance will be sold at the door. Mail to: Magnificat NOWELA Chapter

C/O Sandy Chapman  
4686 Hwy 71  
Shreveport, LA 71107

**WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS**

Please welcome the following parishioners who have *registered* within the last 6 months:

Barry, Laurie, Amie, & James Babin

John & Martha Ferracci

Benny Grafton

Neil Hitchen

Tracy Hunter

Charles LeBleu

John, Lori, Madeline, Rebecca, & Samantha Mays

Nicholas & Emily Nelson

Trinidad, Modesta, Noe, Lizeth, Fancisco, Yesica, & Fabian Medina

Charles & Terrie Poehl

Jules & Melanie Saunee

Eric, Amanda, & Leah Sutherland

David, Jessica, Dawson, & Justin Syzmanski

Mark, Kim, & Ty Theodos

Jarrold, Megan, & Ava Whisnant

If we do not have you listed and if you are new to the parish, please pick up a registration packet in the vestibule or stop by the office. We want to meet you and welcome you into our faith community properly. Also, please be advised that registering your children in PSR ("Sunday school") is not considered being registered with the church.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Perry and Dorothy Allison who are celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary on January 7th.

**NEW FLOWER CHART**

The 2008 Flower Chart is now up in the back of Church. It is on the bulletin board next to the pamphlet rack. Please PRINT clearly. Thanks!