

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
THE ANGELUS * JANUARY 05, 2020

Where is He who has been born
KING OF THE JEWS? For we saw His-STAR in the east
and have come to
Worship Him.

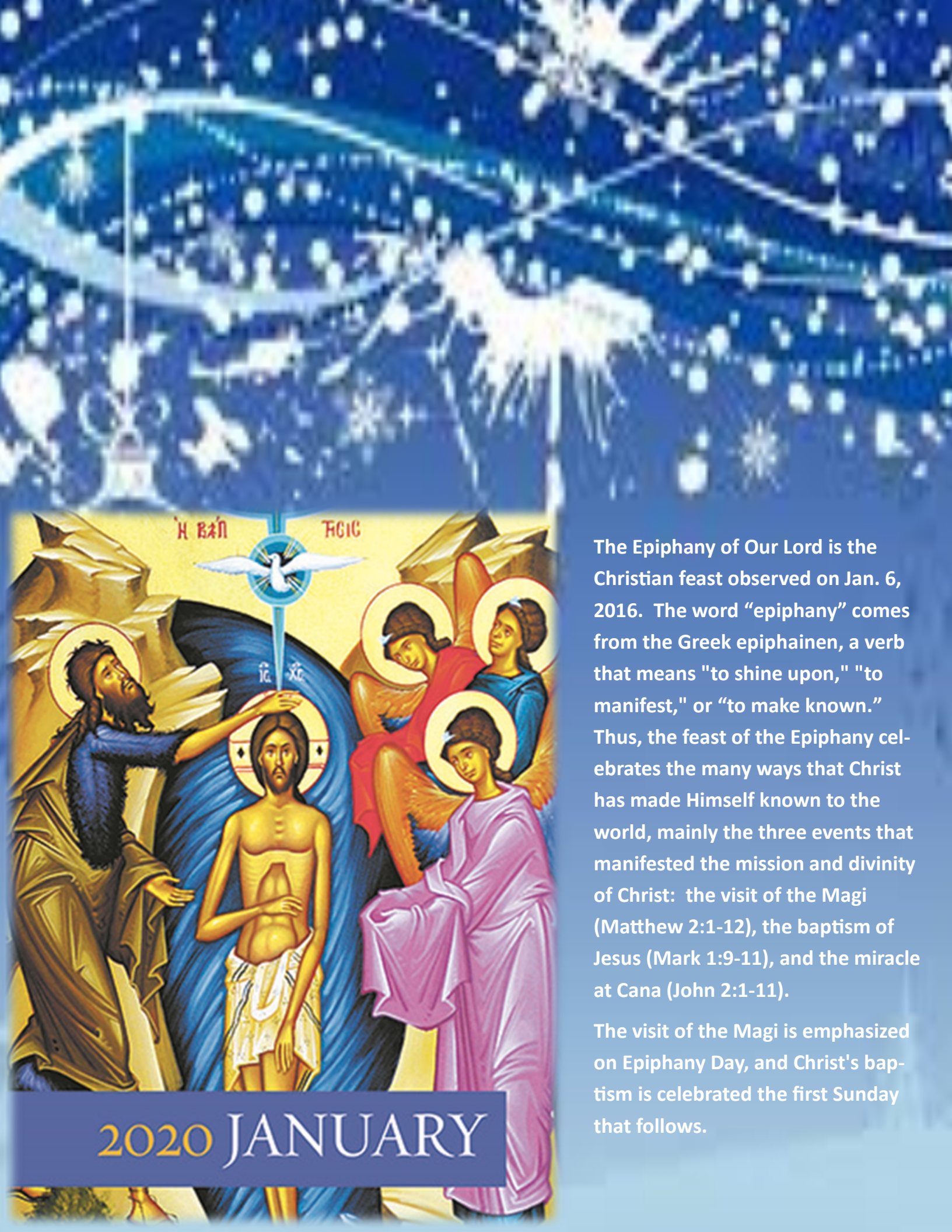


Minister: Susan Jamison
Vice-Minister: Sonia Bernardo
Spiritual Assistant: Michael Huether - Formation Director: Tom McGrath
Secretary: Portia - Treasurer: Carmencita Fiesta
Counselors: Lilian Soriano, Mary Badjo & Irma Jean-Baptiste
The Angelus: Susan Jamison

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS
for stepping up to the plate to serve as
Franciscan Servant Leaders for 2020-2022!!!**



L-R Susan Jamison, OFS, Lilian Soriano, OFS ,Sonia Bernardo, OFS, Portia Fiesta, OFS, Carmencita Fiesta, OFS Tom McGrath, OFS, Mary Badjo, OFS and Irma Jean-Baptiste, OFS.



The Epiphany of Our Lord is the Christian feast observed on Jan. 6, 2016. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek epiphainen, a verb that means “to shine upon,” “to manifest,” or “to make known.” Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day, and Christ's baptism is celebrated the first Sunday that follows.

2020 JANUARY



A message from our Minister, Susan...

I am a big fan of Detroit priest Father John Riccardo. I like to listen to his Rosary meditations and podcasts on YouTube. I read this week that he became a priest after the Lord actually appeared to him when he was a single man, already out of college, while he was crying in his car wondering what the Lord wanted from him. He did not feel it was the priesthood. Our Lord reached over and into Father John's chest and appeared to pull something out and toss it out the car window and then put something back in there. Jesus told Father John he was tossing out Father's own hopes and dreams and replacing them with his own. Father sees this moment in his life as Jesus giving meaningful a new direction to his life which ultimately led him to become a priest.

It's so important to keep asking the Lord to make HIS Heart, OUR heart, HIS agenda, OUR agenda, HIS Life, OUR life. It's a powerful prayer. And a worthy one especially when we face adversity or confusion or uncertainty.

Blessings and Happy Holy New Year!

Susan



**LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING
JANUARY FEAST DAYS!**

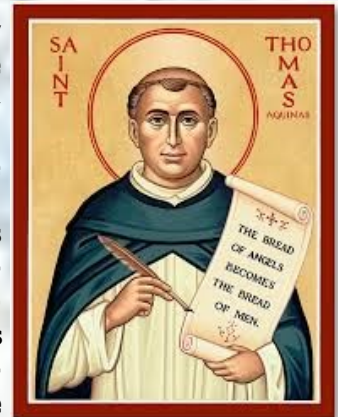
St. Francis De Sales — January 24



There is a popular saying you may have heard: “You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.” This means that if you want people to agree with you or help you, being nice to them is better than being mean or unfriendly. The person who first said that lived more than 400 years ago, and he was a very persuasive speaker — and a saint. Francis de Sales was born in France in 1567 to a noble family. His father sent him to the best schools, and when he was 20 he decided to become a priest. Despite his wealthy background, Francis always thought it was more important to serve God than to have money or power. His father tried to persuade him to marry, but Francis was instead ordained at the age of 26. He quickly earned a reputation for being a kind and understanding man and an excellent speaker who attracted people to the Catholic faith. Many people in his diocese, which was partly in France and partly in Switzerland, followed the teachings of John Calvin, since at one time the Catholic faith had been outlawed in the region. Francis won many of them back. He taught religion to children and helped prepare men to be ordained priests. He wrote several books and helped St. Jane Francis de Chantal to found a religious order of women, the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary, in 1610. Francis died in 1622 and was canonized in 1664 by Pope Alexander VII. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1877. He is a patron of writers and journalists because he used his writing to teach people about the faith.

St. Thomas of Aquinas — January 28

Thomas was born in Italy around 1225 or 1227. He was originally Thomas of Aquino, the region in which he was born, but he has become known as Thomas Aquinas since that time. When Thomas was just five, his parents sent him to study with the Benedictine monks. He was a good student and was sent to the university in Naples at an early age to pursue more studies. He studied math, science, grammar, logic, and music. His parents had hoped from the time he was born that Thomas would become a Benedictine monk like his uncle, who was the local abbot. But Thomas was drawn to the religious order founded by St. Dominic, the Dominicans. He tried to join the Dominicans, but his parents locked him in a tower of their castle! For two years they tried many different things to make him change his mind. But Thomas would not. He spent the two years studying his faith and trying to educate himself as if he was preparing for ordination. He escaped from the castle and went immediately to join the Dominicans. After he made his vows he went to Rome and told his story to Pope Innocent IV, who told Thomas’ family they could not interfere with his vocation. Thomas was sent to Paris and then to Cologne to study and to teach. He was an inspired writer of philosophy and theology. He wrote more than 60 works, some of which are still popular and used today. Popes consulted with him, too. One pope wanted to appoint him Archbishop of Naples, but Thomas wanted to have time instead to write and spread the truth about the faith. Thomas believed that both faith and reason are required to reach the truth, and both come from God. He also said that some truths can only be revealed through faith. Today we refer to his thought as “Thomism.” Thomas died in 1274 at Cistercian Monastery of Fossa Nuova. He was canonized by Pope John XXII in 1323 and was named a Doctor of the Church in 1567. He is the patron saint of Catholic universities and students. called the Apocalypse, although this identification is less certain.





A message from our Secretary, Portia...

God's love has been poured into our hearts How can we love one another as Christ has loved us? Paul the Apostle tells us that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). Jesus poured out his Holy Spirit on his disciples at Pentecost and he pours out his Spirit today on all who believe in him. If we yield our hearts to Jesus and submit to his will for us, then the Holy Spirit will purify all that is unloving, unkind, and unforgiving in us. The Lord wants to transform our minds so we can understand his word of truth and life which has power to set us free from ignorance, unbelief, deception, and prejudice. This is the power that overcomes the world - the triumphant cross of Christ which breaks the destructive forces of sin, hatred, and division. And we share in the power of Christ's victory by embracing the cross which the Lord Jesus sets before each one of us.

**What is the cross that I must take up
daily in order to follow the Lord Jesus?**

When my will crosses with God's will, then his will must be done.

The cross of Christ sets us free to live no longer for ourselves but for Christ and his kingdom of peace, joy, and righteousness (moral goodness). Our calling and privilege is to serve as Christ has served and to love and he has loved. That is the way we share in the glory of our heavenly Father who gave us his beloved Son who laid down his life for each one of us. The distinctive mark of every disciple and follower of Jesus Christ is love - a love that is ready to forgive and forget past injuries, to heal and restore rather than inflict revenge and injury.

The cross of Jesus is the only way to pardon, peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Every other way will fail or fall short of the glory and victory which Jesus Christ has won for us through his death and resurrection. If we embrace his love and truth and allow his Holy Spirit to purify and transform our hearts and minds, then we will find the inner freedom, joy, and strength we need to love without measure, to forgive without limit, and to serve without reward - save that of knowing we are serving the One who wants to be united with us in an unbreakable bond of peace and joy forever.

"Lord Jesus, your love knows no bounds and surpasses everything I could desire and long for. Fill me with the fire of your love and with the joy of your Holy Spirit that I may freely serve my neighbor with loving-kindness, tenderhearted mercy, and generous care for their well-being."

**Daily prayer is courtesy of Don Schwager © 2019. Don's website is located
at DailyScripture.ServantsOfTheWord.org/Readings**

Starting with this one, my next three articles will be three parts of another of my writings I was assigned during my spiritual assistance training. As I have done in the past, I will share this with you as well. It will cover the topic of Our Father Francis's deep devotion to prayer and is based upon the tenth chapter of Saint Bonaventure's, "The Major Life of Saint Francis".

Knowing that his love for Christ gave him no desire for worldly things, our Father Francis was deeply concerned with being without the Lord's presence. So, to assure that his spirit would always be in the presence of Christ, he prayed continuously for his comfort. The contemplation and comfort of his prayer made him a citizen with the angels and His Beloved in heaven. Prayer was his refuge trusting only in God's providence and the burden of his cares on Him. He felt that the grace of prayer is something that all religious should long for, insisting that all his friars practice it. He was constantly engaged in prayer through every minute of the day and during all his everyday activities and movements: all of his efforts, including his heart and soul, were always dedicated to prayer.

Francis would make the most of any call of the Holy Spirit, enjoying the consolation it gave him, experiencing them and never letting them go unanswered. He would stop whatever he was doing, letting his companions move on if they are with him, just to give God's spirit his undivided attention and welcome. He was beside himself, taken out of himself, lost in ecstasy in a rapture of contemplation while experiencing the Spirit, oblivious of what is going on around him. He was in this very state while riding an ass through the crowded village of Borgo San Sepolero, totally insensible to the crowd pushing in on him. He was in poor health at the time and his companions had to guide his animal for him. When they came upon a leper hospital, he requested about when they would be arriving in Borgo, totally unaware that they had been in the village for a while. His companions understood, however, knowing well that he often had times like this--so fixed on the glory of heaven and so lost in keeping track of changes in places, people, and times around him.

Francis realized that removing yourself from worldly concerns brought about sooner the presence of the Holy Spirit. He went to remote and lonely places in the out-of-doors or in abandoned churches to pray. Unfortunately, he put himself in harm's way with Satan who attacked him and tried to distract him from praying. Francis, however, became all the more fervent in his prayer with his supernatural weapon had from the Lord as the demonic attacks became more and more severe. He would confidentially say to Christ, "Hide me...safe from the evildoers(Psalm 16:8)" To the demons, he would say, "Do what you can to me...you can do nothing beyond what God allows you and i will be happy to suffer everything God decides me to...". Confounded and confused, the demons left him realizing they were no match for his steadfast courage.

Next month, we'll talk about Francis's prayerful behavior which showed his friars how intimate he was with Christ.

May you all have a blessed New Year!

Mike



MINISTER'S MESSAGE by Susan
“Lets never stop trying!”

Reflection and Prayer

—*Genie Dutton*

SOLDIER OF CHRIST
BEARER OF HIS WOUNDS
WHERE ARE YOU TODAY?
WHERE ARE OUR WOUNDS?
WHERE ARE THE POOR, THE LONELY,
THE GASPING FOR FREEDOM F
ROM APPALLING ABUSE?
WHY ARE WE HERE?
WHY ENJOY OUR COMFORTS,
DIRECTLY PROVIDED
FOR FROM THE KING OF KINGS
AT HIS CRUCIFIXION?
CAN WE DO MORE?
WILL WE?
CAN I CALL UPON MY WARRIORS
IN THIS AGE FOR LOVE,
AND COMFORT AND CARE?
WILL YOU STEP OUT
INTO THE DISCOMFORT
OF MY CHILDREN?
I AM CALLING YOU.
I AM FRANCIS
I AM CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*****Our annual Christmas Party will be no longer be held at Lilian's. We will keep you updated on the new location. *****

January Birthdays

- 21 – Michael Huether;
- 23 – Hazel Cummings and Brenda Dawson;
- 25 – Marilyn Wall

No Profession Anniversaries

***PRAYERS ***

- Alfio Mazzaglia is undergoing cancer treatment.
- Pray for babies Luke, Alina's grandson and Ian, Susan Jamison's grandson

Refer to the October 2019 Angelus for more prayer requests

**The next monthly Mass for the living and deceased members will be held
Friday, January 10, at 9:00 a.m. at
The Shrine of St. Jude Church.**

Let's gather together for sustenance from Our Lord Jesus Christ who supplies all our needs.

Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Genie