



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

December 17 Offerings: \$ 5, 875.00

Offerings amounts for December 24, 25, 31 and January 1 & 7 will be published in the bulletin of January 14, 2018.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL:** Thank you to all who helped us to cover the cost of our beautiful Christmas flowers and plants. Dear Lord, grant your abundant blessing on all those on whose behalf these offerings were made:



Anthony & Grozdana Listes; Tadeusz Rzeszutek; Sean Richardson; Alfonso Mio; Jean & Al Mack; Stella & Stanley Szuskowski; Anneliese Kunz Del Fabbro; Antonio Cabral; Cizaltina Pereira Cabral; Salvatore, Concetta, Sam & Ghislaine Ilaqua; Marian Niznik; Maximo Carandang; Graciana Carandang; John and Helen Gareau; Art and Terry Tobin; Mary Hyjek; Louis A. Pereira; Alain & Angela Meunier; Gerry Emsley; Mary & Mike Saukas; Frank & Frances Corace; Gabriel & Maddelena Scartozzi; Jane & George D'Lima; Cyril & Pauline Stanley Rebeiro; Agnes O'Donnell, Jane & Peter Holloran; Anne Marie Watkinson; Mary Montgomery.

Margarida Aguiar; Manuel Do Monte; Serafim De Torres.

## O COME, LET US ADORE HIM



The light that shone in the night at Christmas illuminating the **Bethlehem Grotto**, where Mary, Joseph and the shepherds remained in silent adoration, shines out today and is manifested to all. The Epiphany is a mystery of **light**, symbolically suggested by the **star** that guided the Magi on their journey. The true source of light, however, the "sun that rises from on high" (cf. Lk 1: 78), is Christ.

In the mystery of Christmas, Christ's light shines on the earth, spreading, as it were, in concentric **circles**. First of all, it shines on the Holy Family of Nazareth: the Virgin Mary and Joseph are illuminated by the divine presence of the Infant Jesus. The light of the Redeemer is then manifested to the **shepherds** of

Bethlehem, who, informed by an **Angel**, hasten immediately to the grotto and find there the "sign" that had been foretold to them: the Child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger (cf. Lk 2: 12).

The shepherds, together with Mary and Joseph, represent that "remnant of Israel", the poor, the *anawim*, to whom the Good News was proclaimed. Finally, Christ's brightness shines out, reaching the **Magi** who are the first-fruits of the pagan peoples.

The Magi worshiped a simple Child in the arms of his Mother Mary, because in him they recognized the source of the twofold light that had guided them: the light of the star and the light of the Scriptures. In him they recognized the **King of the Jews**, the glory of Israel, but also the King of all the peoples.

The mystery of the Church and her **missionary** dimension are also revealed in the liturgical context of the Epiphany. She is called to make Christ's light shine in the world, reflecting it in herself as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Solemnity of the Epiphany 2006

**BECKET PANTRY NEEDS** toilet tissue, Kleenex, paper towels, coffee, stew jam.

**POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 2018 WORLD DAY OF PEACE, JANUARY 1,**



is entitled **Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in search of Peace**, and is divided into six sections with the first offering heartfelt good wishes for peace and inviting people of good will to embrace those fleeing war, hunger and persecution.

The message also poses the question, why so many migrants and refugees? Pope Francis answers this by considering the many conflicts forcing people to leave their homelands, but he notes also the desire for a better life. The Holy Father notes that some people consider the growth in migration as a threat.. But, “for my part, he says, I ask you to view it with confidence, as an opportunity to build peace.”

Contained in the 4th section of the message under the theme, “four mileposts for action”, the Pope points out what is needed in order for migrants and refugees to find the peace they seek is a strategy combining four actions: welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating. Looking at the situation from an international perspective, Pope Francis expresses the hope that this spirit of welcome and integration, “will guide the process that in the course of 2018 will lead the United Nations to draft and approve two Global Compacts, one for safe, orderly and regular migration and the other for refugees.”

Finally, the Holy Father draws inspiration from Saint John Paul II with these words. “If the ‘dream’ of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees’ and migrants’ contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true ‘common home’.”

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



The Christmas season comes to its close when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. To begin his public ministry, Jesus presented himself to be baptized by John the Baptist, and God manifested Jesus as the divine Son. Because we associate baptism with the forgiveness of sins, the idea that the sinless Jesus would undergo baptism seems out of place. But the baptism of Jesus had nothing to do with forgiveness; it had everything to do with manifes-tation. It

was a new beginning because it publicly revealed Jesus’ identity, and that testimony came not from just any witness but from God. Three incidents in the Bible are traditionally called the ‘epiphany’ events or the ‘manifestations of Jesus’: the visit of the magi, the baptism, and the miracle at the wedding in Cana. Paul Turner

*All the Old Covenant prefigurations find their fulfilment in Christ Jesus. He begins his public life after having himself baptized by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan. After his resurrection Christ gives this mission to his apostles: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

*Our Lord voluntarily submitted himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to "fulfill all righteousness." Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of his self-emptying. The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as his "beloved Son." Catechism of the Catholic Church 1223-1224*