

***From the Pastor:***

Living in an age well before the internet or social media, the Magi from the East relied upon a single star as a sign that a king had been born. The heavens revealed to these learned foreigners that a matter of great import had occurred in Judea. Today, we celebrate the revelation of the birth of our Lord to the outside world. The star over the little town of Bethlehem has revealed the Light of the World to the ends of the earth!

As we celebrate the Epiphany, may we pray with the meaning of the word and spirit of the day. One of the many definitions of *epiphany* is “an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure.” As we begin a new year, may we – like the Magi – keep our eyes open to the guiding illumination sent to us by God. I am finding this thought particularly important to pray with as our three parishes move ahead into the future. How grateful I am for all of you and for your generosity this Christmas, as well as for how I have been welcomed by so many.

The **American Red Cross** will hold another **Blood Drive** at Immaculate Conception on **January 16**. There is a vital need for donations right now. Please consider giving blood; this is a powerful way to offer life to others. Registration is now open. Call the Immaculate parish office if you have any questions, or simply check the Red Cross website to sign up.

At **Our Lady of Grace, Grace Fay, Joan Suda, and Patty Neumann** recently offered a beautiful Advent Zoom presentation of music, scripture, and prayer. They have shared their gifts generously to bring others together in faith. From all accounts this was a beautiful way to gather the community in song and prayer. Thank you Grace, Joan, and Patty, for all that you do for God’s people.

Recently, a plexi-glass shield was constructed and installed for cantors at **St. Joseph’s**, thanks to **William Schnore and his father Aussie. Tom Neals, Scott Sutherland, and Eric Yager** all consulted with them on the project. William’s mother **Mary Beth Schnore** will soon cantor again. What a creative solution, again – gifts used for the greater good of the community!

**A Stranger, And You Welcomed Me** is a new collection of homilies and reflections for the liturgical year written by a wide variety of contributors, many with names you will recognize, and others who are less familiar. All proceeds from the book will benefit charities that welcome strangers among us. IC’s Pastoral Associate for Administration, **Fran Rossi Szpylczyn**, is one of the contributors. If you are interested in a copy, please call or email her at the office for details. Thank you, Fran, for sharing your gifts with us all!

Until next week, be well, do good deeds, and say your prayers. **Fr. Jerry**

