



From the Senior Warden...

THE EPIPHANY

Epiphany begins on January 6th marking the end of the Christmas season. This day has also come to be called the “Three Kings Day” as this season emphasizes the visit of the Magi (the Three Wise Men), the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God and sometimes the Baptism of Jesus is also celebrated. In Spanish, the Three Kings Day is also known as el Dia de los Tres Reyes, la Fiesta de Reyes or el Dia de los Reyes Magos.

The word “epiphany” means an appearance or manifestation (i.e. to make clear or plain) especially of a deity. The Christian community uses the word Epiphany to commemorate the “appearance” of Christ to the Gentiles.

The colors for this season will be white and gold which represent joy and celebration. These colors are a continuation of the same as those for Christmas which represented the celebration of light and purity.

The symbols for Epiphany are the Star, the Three Crowns, the Three Gifts and the Cross Crosslet. The Star in the East is what led the Magi in their search for the one who was born King of the Jews. The Three Crowns represent the Magi. The Three Gifts are symbolized by three small chests which represent the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Gold is symbolic of Christ’s kingship and royalty; the frankincense his divinity and the myrrh, his humanity. The Cross Crosslet are four Latin crosses arranged so that their bases overlap and this symbol denotes the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth.

Though Epiphany marks the end of Advent and the Christmas season, we celebrate our preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ via the coming of the Magi, and the birth of Jesus. We observe this time to focus on the mission of the church to reach others by showing that Jesus is the Savior of all people and to focus on the Christian community and fellowship. We give thanks to our Father in heaven for revealing himself to us in Jesus the Christ.

A NEW YEAR

New Year 2019 is the day when we, and almost all people around the world, will bring in a brand new calendar year. We will celebrate a year that has gone by and welcome a new year in hopes that it will bring us good tidings.

We celebrate the beginning of the new year on the first day of January with parades, fireworks, parties, and meeting with loved ones. We use this day to reflect upon the past year while looking ahead to the future. New Year’s Day is considered to be one of the oldest celebrated holidays and has grown from its own celebration and unfortunately has become somewhat disassociated with religion.

One type of tradition that we proclaim is the common resolution. Making resolutions are our own goals that we make to improve our lives. Some common resolutions concern diet, bad habits and other issues that impact on our personal wellness. We use this first day as a beginning to improve our lives.

To bring in the new year, the song "Auld Lang Syne" is usually sung at the stroke of midnight i.e. New Year's Eve. This song is an old Scottish tune which literally means "old long ago" or simply "the good old days".

Although the New Year gives us the hope of a better year in our own lives, it also means the welcoming of Christian seasons once again. Those seasons are Epiphany (the visit of the Magi or the Three Wise Men and Christ's baptism), Lent (the forty days prior to Easter beginning with Ash Wednesday), Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost (the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church).

Let us all take the beginning of the New Year to enhance our own worship and therefore our relationship with God.

*Yours in Christ,
Joe Maldonado, Senior Warden*

CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Episcopal Church continues to celebrate the Christmas season during January; the excitement of preparing our family gatherings and some break from our jobs has ended but our spiritual life continues with this beautiful season in the liturgical calendar that is called Epiphany. Perhaps we begin to contemplate our new year's resolutions or simply hope for the best as we start 2019.

We look forward to celebrate the great festivity of the Epiphany. We read in the Gospel of Matthew that three wise men came to worship the baby Jesus and offered gifts. Chapter 2:10-11 says "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. This feast of the Epiphany has a very important meaning for Christianity because the message is that everyone is welcome to get closer to God through his only son who became flesh. The Bible has this message of salvation to every person and we are called to offer our gifts to Jesus and receive his salvation. Let us rejoice during this Christmas season that God is with us and maintain this joy throughout this year.

La Iglesia Episcopal continua con el tiempo de Navidad en este mes de Enero; ya tuvimos la oportunidad de celebrar la Navidad con nuestras familias y amistades; tal vez tuvimos descanso de nuestros trabajos y es tiempo de regresar a nuestras actividades cotidianas nuevamente. Todavía seguimos con el gozo de celebrar que Dios nos envía a su hijo para experimentar su amor. La fiesta de los reyes magos la encontramos en Mateo 2, 10-11 que leemos cuando estos personajes adoraron a Jesucristo nacido para toda la humanidad. Le ofrecieron regalos como signo de adoración. Que este tiempo de Navidad sea la oportunidad de mantener el gozo durante este 2019.

*In Christ,
Alex Reyes*



January at St. Christopher's



Sunday, January 6

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

**11:15 a.m. Epiphany Observance in Rice Hall after the service
Epiphany Potluck Lunch and Rosca ~ Everyone please bring a dish to share!**

Sunday, January 13

**11:15 a.m. VESTRY MEETING
Final meeting of the 2018 Vestry**

Sunday, January 20

**11:15 a.m. ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
and Potluck Lunch**

**Everyone bring your favorite dish to share
at this most important congregational meeting!**

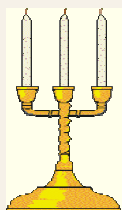
Saturday, January 26

**8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. VESTRY and LEADERSHIP RETREAT
with Rev. Laurie Benavides, Dean of the Southwest Deanery
and Rev. Dr. Jeanne Lutz, Chaplain of the Southwest Deanery**

Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided

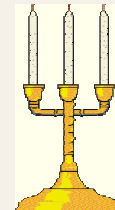
Morning Sessions: Leadership and Spirituality

Afternoon Session: Vestry Planning for 2019



Coming in February

**THE EUCHARIST OF CANDLEMAS
The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
10:00 a.m. Sunday, February 3**



***Candlight Procession ~ Litany for Candemas ~ Blessing of Candles
Bring your new household candles to be blessed***

**CLERGY AND LAY MINISTRY REPORTS
FOR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

11:15 a.m. Sunday, January 20

**Please submit a signed copy of your 2018 written report to Holly for our files
Reports may be given orally at the meeting**

Rector's Report: Fr. JJ Bernal

Senior Warden's Report: Joe Maldonado

2018 Financial Report & 2019 Church Budget: Bruce and Holly Truesdale

Acolyte Report: Joe Maldonado

AG Report: Carlisle Navidomskis

Admin Report: Holly Truesdale

AG Report: Carlisle Navidomskis

EM Report: Augie Vega

Lector Report: Alex Reyes

Confirmation Report: Joe Maldonado

Music Report: Holly Truesdale

Grants: Carlisle Navidomskis

Children's Music Report: Ana Bernal

Outreach Report: Holly & Fr. JJ

WL Report: Bruce Truesdale

**Happy
Birthday**

**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

*Augie Vega 5
Carol Garcia 15*

**2018 Individual Contribution
Statements**

**will be available, in envelopes arranged
alphabetically, in the**

narthex as of Sunday, January 6

**Those not picked up will be
snail-mailed on Monday, January 7**

**Please notify Holly as soon as possible to report
any errors or omissions on your statement**

Thank you!

MEETINGS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
11:15 a.m. VESTRY MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
11:15 a.m.
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
with Potluck Lunch
Meeting will be held immediately after
the service with lunch in Rice Hall
following the meeting**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
VESTRY and LEADERSHIP
RETREAT
with Deacon Laurie Benavides and
Rev. Jeanne Lutz**

**Continental Breakfast
Morning Prayer
Sessions with Retreat Leaders
Lunch at 12 noon**

Vestry meets at 1:00 p.m.



DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

Please keep these members and friends of St. Christopher's in your daily prayers...

Deacon Ken Anderson (Member), **Katie Hudak** (Member), **Denise Anderson** (Member), **Leslie Mowad** (Member), **Luis Garcia** (Member), **Mary Reyes** (Cano), **Ray Vega** (Vega), **Gary Welsh**, **The Schofill family** (Truesdale), **Kevin Salcedo**, **Joe Heidrick** (Shinn), **Christie Lechuga** (Perez), **Fernando Peña**, **Christy Darling**, **Jerry Brown** (Shinn), **Flor Alvarado** (Bernal), **Tamara Banda** (Brooks), **Octaviano Tavares** (Rodriguez), **Donna Hvizdos** (Hudak), **Maria Morgan** (Anderson), **Irma Lopez** (Mowad), **John Hudak** (Hudak), **Keni Langberg** (Brooks), **Mary Jensen** (Brooks), **David White** (Brooks), **Amanda Vallejo** (Brooks), **Skip Bambrook**, **James Mowad** (Mowad), **Jo Ann Orr** (Brooks), **Bill Fields** (Fields), **Heather** (Navidomskis), **Manuel Vida**, **Helen Bell** (Hudak), **Bunky Mitchell**, and **Mrs. Mitchell**, **Alyson** (Navidomskis), **Mariann Chavez** (Shinn), **Cristy Kime** (Middleton), **Natividad Cano** (Cano), **Bob St. Jean** (Truesdale), **Buddy Jack** (Anderson), **Marjie Mitchell** (Member)

Almighty God, we commend to your care and keeping all of the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad: Capt. Matthew Barchie USAF, Sgt. Charles Barden, Charles East, Navy, Matthew Barnes, Jerry Carreon, Adam Garcia, Navy, Magie Gonzalez, Lt. Jody M. Daniels, Navy, Roberto Salgado, Mark Logan, USAF, PFC Jose Gonzalez, Oscar I. Gonzalez, Comd. Darren Rich, Oscar Camuniz, SP Woody Needler, Dr. Richard Nahouraii, Army, PO2 Chester B. (Chip) Thomson IV, SST. Tim Hayes, Raymundo Ubina,

The families and friends of all who are serving at home and abroad

Please contact Holly to add or delete names

OUR MINISTRIES

2019

FIRST COMMUNION/ CONFIRMATION/RECEPTION CLASSES

**Will be combined into one class held on
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
in the Founders' Room**

**Classes will begin on Sunday, January 13
and will be taught by Padre Miguel, Augie
Vega, Carlisle Navidomskis, Joe Maldonado,
Alex Reyes, and Virgie Shinn**

**The classes are also open to anyone wishing
to learn more about all aspects of the
Episcopal Church**

**To register for classes,
please see Fr. JJ Bernal or Holly Truesdale**

LAY MINISTRY OPENINGS

**If you would be willing to serve in any of the Lay
Ministries below, please let us know!
Help is needed and training is available!**

**Lectors (Readers)
Acolytes (youth and adult)
Ushers**

**Please let Fr. JJ Bernal,
Senior Warden Joe Maldonado, or
Holly know if you would like to serve!**



*From Fr. JJ and family for the most generous
Christmas gift given by the Church Family
of St. Christopher's*

*To all who helped with preparation for the Christmas
Eve Holy Eucharist and all who helped with the
Christmas Pageant*

**CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AND
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 Riverside Drive El Paso, Texas 79915

Church Office: 915 859-9329

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Email:

stchristopherselpaso@gmail.com

Website:

www.stchristopherselpaso.org

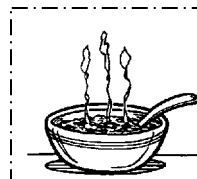
WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Eucharist & Healing 10:30 a.m.



St. Christopher's

Soup Kitchen

Outreach

11:00 a.m.

2nd & 3rd Saturday of each month

**BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE
OF THE RIO GRANDE
The Right Reverend Michael B. Hunn**

**CLERGY AND STAFF
The Reverend Canon José J. Bernal
Rector**

**The Reverend Miguel Ramirez
Associate Priest**

**The Reverend Kenneth Anderson
Deacon (Ret.)**

**Holly Truesdale
Parish Administrator**



**VESTRY
Joe Maldonado - Senior Warden
Carlisle Navidomskis
Alex Reyes
Virgie Shinn**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rector

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday

**Fr. Bernal will be also available
on Saturdays by appointment.**



**Administrator
and Church Office
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
Administrator in Office
at home on**

**Monday and Wednesday
852-3954 or 252-2475**

Church Offices Closed on Friday

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Mission, as vessels indwelt
by the Holy Spirit, is to proclaim
the Gospel and teach the Faith;
to bring Christ's healing power to
those who are wounded and hurting;
to share our blessings with those in
need; to administer the Holy
Sacraments; and to live our lives to
God's glory, sharing the love of
Jesus Christ with all people.*

