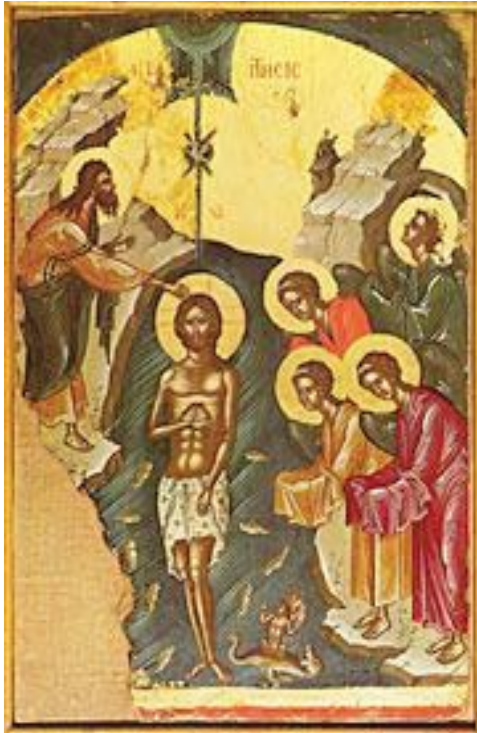




first Sunday JANUARY 2007

COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS



Epiphany & Baptism of our Lord

Saturday, January 6 is the feast of the Epiphany but don't be surprised if we don't celebrate it on Sunday. Because they are so close together this year, it all depends on the choice of the celebrant. In the Eastern Church, the Feast of the Theophany (or Epiphany) of Our Lord Jesus Christ, is celebrated on January 6. After Pascha and Pentecost, this is the greatest Feast of the Orthodox Church, predating even the Nativity of Christ in importance. Here Our Lord is baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, this being the first public manifestation of God the Word Incarnate to the world.

OCCA celebrates the feast of the Epiphany on January 6 also but the focus at this feast is more traditionally the focus of the Western Church, the visit of the Magi or Three Wise Men. The First Sunday after the Epiphany, which for us this year is the next day, we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus which is another celebration of Christ as God the Word Incarnate being revealed to the whole world. Later during this season of Epiphany, we will celebrate the third manifestation of Christ's divinity to the world on the feast of the Transfiguration, which is celebrated February 18th, the last Sunday before Lent begins. The Sundays of Epiphany extend all the way to the Sunday before Lent which is Transfiguration Sunday. This whole season is a celebration of the ways God is manifest in the world - to the Three Kings, to the people on Jordan's banks, and perhaps most spectacularly of all, to the apostles and to us. Where do you see God present in the world? Where is your Epiphany? Are you perhaps an Epiphany?

New Look

Fr. Bob suggested that I "experiment" with a new look for the Sunday bulletin so I am working on it. We'll see what happens. Consider this a new epiphany in it's own rite.

Liturgy Schedules

10:00 SUNDAY, Crosswood Centre,
5355 Co. Rd. 35, Auburn, IN 46706-9717

10:00 AM SUNDAY, Fort Wayne at Red-
wood Chapel, 2425 Redwood Avenue,
Fort Wayne *thanks to Rose and Stan*

9:00 AM SUNDAY Angola at the historic
Wedding Chapel of the First Congre-
gational Church, 314 W. Maumee St. in
Angola

PLEASE NOTE: On the First Sunday of the
Month we follow with a pitch-in brunch
after worship with plenty of time for
fellowship, both North and South as a
result, we do not have liturgy in Angola
or Fort Wayne on the First Sundays of the
month.

Liturgy Schedule Change

The North parish will be starting liturgy at 9:00 instead of 10:00 as of January 14. This earlier time was discussed at length by the parish and all thought it was a better time, especially for the "lake group" as everyone likes to get up and get going, especially in the summer. So don't turn your clocks back or forward but just keep in mind that the liturgy will be starting at 9:00 now instead of 10:00 in Angola. This does NOT effect times for Fort Wayne's Redwood or the Chapel of Mary Magdalene in Auburn.



A Big Thank You From the Folks at Vincent House

We collected quite a few articles for Vincent House families this past month and they wanted us to know that they appreciate all of our efforts. They are still in need of more items so if you are able to bring items with you to give to them it will be very much appreciated. Vincent House serves families that are homeless for one reason or another. They currently have 10 toddlers living in their facilities and these toddlers need diapers (larger sizes) as well as crib sheets and twin sized sheets. The adults that are living there can always use toiletries. As you can imagine, anything to keep warm in the winter is also appreciated (gloves, mittens, scarves, blankets, etc.). Thank you for your generosity.

Carolyn Hurley

Wednesday School Starting in Angola Area

As of Wednesday, Jan 3rd, Monday School will also become Wednesday School. The study group will meet on Wednesdays in the Angola area at Karen Ringler's home at 3420 Orland Rd. starting at 6:30 - 8 pm. Wednesday School will continue the same book that Monday School has been using but Fr. Skip agreed to lead two groups to make it easier for participants in terms of travel during the winter months.

The book under study at this time is The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why it Matters by Luke Timothy Johnson. So far the book has generated a great deal of discussion. Plan on attending one of the groups. The Fort Wayne area group is meeting at Redwood Chapel on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

OUR LITTLE LADY

Many years ago, John, Fr. Skip's friend and a veterinarian, gave Betsy to Fr. Skip because she needed a loving friend and home. Her first owners were mean to her. Fr. Skip told us that it takes a little time and love for her to come around, but she made it. Fr. Skip told us Betsy took 2nd place behind Mandy and would wait her turn to eat or whatever. He said she didn't try pushing Mandy out of the way for anything, even the family's love. Betsy was just glad to be where she was loved and cared for.

When we came to Auburn to work on our apartment to get it finished so we could move, Betsy would come over and stay. A lot of the time she would watch while we worked on the place. Sometimes Fr. Skip would stop and check to see how we were doing and Betsy would be with him. If you recall, late last spring Betsy, who is blind and deaf, wandered off and made headline news in the Auburn newspaper. They thought we had let her out of a car to die on the road and were getting ready to euthanize her. The May 31 2005 article described Betsy this

way: "They (the people at the animal shelter) are calling him "the old man." He is blind, deaf and his body is covered in sores that may be attributed to his old age. He also is one happy dog." Betsy's picture appeared in the newspaper – the same picture that is in this article – and Fr. Skip recognized her collar. Deacon Dave got the story straightened out with a letter to the editor about how Betsy had wandered off and how we had looked for her for a very long time. After her little trip of visiting the countryside, Fr. Skip asked Stella if we would keep her at our apartment so he wouldn't worry about her taking off



again. We all had a wonderful time with Betsy. She had her own little bed and food and water bowl. Myer even got where he would check on her to make sure she was alright.

On December 7th of this past year,

Betsy went home to the Lord. Stell and I are glad we were a part of her life and thankful Fr. Skip asked us to help take care of her. The main part of this story is how Our Lord is so loving and caring to even one of his animals and how he put Fr. Skip and Betsy together so that Betsy would have a loving and caring family. I think the Lord not only did this to change Betsy's life and let her live the rest of her life with a loving family, like Fr. Skip and his mom and dad, but to show us the meaning of love. Even John the Veterinarian, when he was here the last time was impressed with Betsy. John said that this type of dog is lucky to live 12 years. God blessed Betsy with 19 years. Indeed, as the people at the animal shelter said, she was one happy dog. Our Lord is wonderful!

A loving letter to Our Little Lady,
Richard Lounsbury

READINGS FOR LITURGY

Epiphany, January 6, or 7, 2007

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord, Jan 7 or 14

(First Sunday after the Epiphany)

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2007

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36:5-10

I Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2007

Nehemiah 8:1-10

Psalms 19

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2007

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

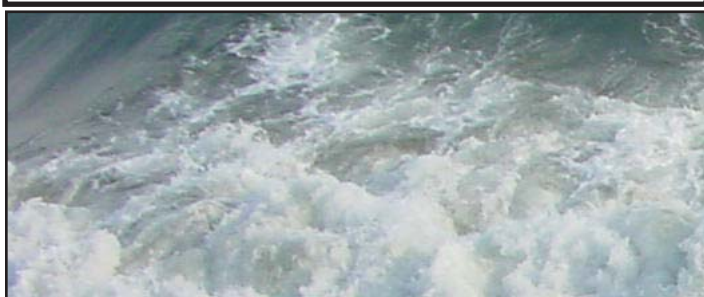
February 4, 2007

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

Psalms 138

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11



Annual Meeting Reflections

The Annual Meeting of the Community of the Cross was held on Sunday, December 3 with Ken Erlenbach presiding. Finances were discussed and we are currently ahead thanks to the extensive generosity of some benefactors. We are in need of continued support from regular members. We reviewed some of the progress made with building and grounds in this past year and it is amazing. We've had a lot of help with projects and are especially grateful to Al Patterson for all his work over the past few months bringing electricity and plumbing upstairs and helping to get that part of the building finished off. We also enjoyed much help from other members of the parish over this year.

We reported on the survey that was conducted in December of the parish members. The consensus was that we would continue to meet in Auburn on the first Sunday of each month along with major feast days like Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and continue to meet in our small parish groups the other Sundays of the month. There was a feeling that the intimacy that is provided by having the small group liturgies is important and a hallmark of our community. The importance of growth for the community was also discussed and it was felt that an effort should be made to invite people to the First Sunday Liturgies as a way of welcoming them to the community and giving them a feel for who we are as a larger group. Making each First Sunday a "Welcome Sunday" was emphasized. Leadership Team meetings were discussed and are open meetings. We will be putting notes from the meeting into the bulletin in the future.

The last leadership meeting was held the week after the Annual Meeting. It was a short meeting as we did not have a quorum. A brochure will be developed and distributed to assist in letting people know more about us. Other announcements at the meeting are found in other places in this bulletin.

John+

LEADERSHIP TEAM

If you need to contact the Leadership Committee, here are their numbers:

Fr. Skip Carsten*, 401-0163 (numeric pager)

Fr. Vince Cuestas, 426-8885

Mother Kris'ta Cuestas, 426-8885

Mr. Ken Erlenbaugh, Core Team North, 833-1313

Mr. Stan Gephart, Core Team South

Ms. Carolyn Hurley, Core Team South, 484-8380

Email: celectics@verizon.net

Fr. John Newbauer, 615-0156

Email: jfn3253@comcast.net

Mother Joan North, 833-3412

Fr./Dcn Tom North, 833-3412

Fr. Cliff Polubinsky 493-4223

Br. Richard Lounsbury & Stella 260-336-2276

Mr. Scott Rutsey, Crosswood Treasurer

Fr. James Spink

Fr. Robert Zahrt, 471-6573

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM WILL BE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 10:00 AM AT THE SKETE IN AUBURN. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, YOU ARE WELCOME.

Presiders for this Month's Liturgies

Angola:

January 14, Bob+

January 21, Joan+

January 28, +Skip

Auburn:

January 7, +Skip

January 14, +Skip

January 21, +Vince

January 28, Bob+

February 4, Cliff+

Fort Wayne

January 14, Cliff+

January 21, +Skip

January 28, Cliff+