

Christmas Eve, continued.



The homily was written and presented by Angeline Feyt and Tristen Guzman-Walsh. It is re-printed below:

“During the holidays, we tend to focus more on the superficial things, like what you want for Christmas, if your house has the prettiest lights around, and most importantly, the plethora

of gifts we need to buy for loved ones. Throughout the Christmas hustle, do we even stop to think about why we’re doing the things we’re doing? Perhaps we should be focusing on entirely different things such as cherishing our families and being kind to strangers. Over the years, our winter and Christmas traditions have evolved or perhaps even devolved into something almost entirely different from what earlier Christmases were.

Christmas is about **love**, but what is love? The Merriam-Webster’s dictionary defines love as “a feeling of strong or constant affection for a person” and quite honestly, this definition is incredibly close, but love is more than that. To Jesus, love was being able to care about someone despite their flaws and even through the most difficult parts of their life. According to God’s will, the way that love should **be implemented** during the holidays is to love all, like Christ intended. **No exceptions or exclusions, even your mother-in-law.**

Another crucial theme of Christmas is **joy**. You need to spread it. So does anybody have any ideas? How can we spread joy? (*audience input*)... Yes, yes these are all fantastic ways to spread joy and you should practice each one (except for maybe...). Jesus spread joy by miraculously healing the sick and feeding the hungry; we can’t necessarily do these things to the extent that Christ did, but we CAN devote ourselves to doing them in the same spirit.

So, thus far we have covered two of the important themes of Advent, but the most important theme, which is paramount to the two others, is to remember that the Advent season is the anticipation for the birth of Jesus, who represents what Christmas is truly about. People from near and far all came to witness the birth of Jesus. Today, we travel between countries and states to be with those we love. The wise men brought Jesus gifts to pay homage to the Son of God, and today we bring gifts to all people especially those in need. **Notice any similarities?** Our Christmas traditions are solidly rooted in the events surrounding Christ’s birth, meaning that a truly Christian holiday is one that focuses more attention onto the birth of Christ and the four themes of Advent,

HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE.

Every Christmas we need to truly appreciate all that we have and to try to make things better. **Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace**; we see these words mentioned everywhere and sometimes the meanings are lost because they are so overused, so, once in a while we need to stop and remember the profoundly deep meanings of these concepts and incorporate them into all we do. **ESPECIALLY** during the Advent season.

For some of us this Christmas may be our last, and that's why it is important to spend this and every Christmas cherishing and loving one another by spreading joy with friends, family and those in need. The four themes of Advent each hold particular meaning and importance. This is why **hope** is the bridge that connects us to the future in which we strive to be closer to God with each coming year. **Hope** brings us together in search of a better future. It is the one light that has kept mankind alive for all these centuries. **Hope** is the theme that propels **joy, peace** and **love** into existence, giving us a purpose. During the holidays we need to have **hope**, hope that peace will exist in your household while half your family is visiting. **Peace** is another important theme that plays an important role. During this time, people make an extra effort to be kind, and put aside petty arguments to embrace the meaning of Christmas. The spirit of **peace** is what allows the theme of **hope, love and joy** to prosper during the Christmas holiday."



Our last Christmas at this location and it was wonderful.

Mary and Joseph-Aubrey Dixon & Thomas Burton
 Shepherds-Hunter Remson, Brody Rasmuson and JJ Feyt (Little Drummer Boy)
 Angels -Natalie Bond, Abby & Scarlett Burton, Chloe Garrison, Jack Snyder, Cheyanne Scales.
 James Sharrer was a cow and Dante Wells our camel.
 Evelina Jimenez was lead angel.
 Baby Jesus-Julia Snyder

Feast of the Epiphany



The Feast of the Epiphany was celebrated Sunday, Jan. 4th. The three kings sang as they entered the Nave—Cristiano Jimenez, Bobby Burton and Thomas Burton. All had beautiful voices as each processed into the Nave. Emily Baker played “We 3 Kings” on the violin. It was wonderful having Jeremy as Crucifer back from boarding school. We sure have missed him.

Feast of The Epiphany Chili Dinner

A fun evening, as always, and the chili and fixings were excellent as usual. There were 5 Vestry members present to present to Deacon Sam and Fr. Augustin a thank you gift card for being our clergy.

Susan Baker, Treasurer, presented our newest pledge member, Kelly Morgan, with her Episcopal pin.



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Priest in Charge: Dale Augustin

Vestry 2014

Sr. Warden Betty-Jeanne Cousins
Jr. Warden Elsa Torgerson
Worship Liaison
Treasurer Susan Baker
Clerk Gina Kistle
Education Liaison
Kristen Makhathini
Stewardship Liaison
Carolyn Sabo
Evangelism Liaison
Sandra Miller
Outreach Liaison
Cindy Berg
Care & Calling Liaison

We're on the Web
Nvepiphany.org

Next Newsletter
Deadline—Feb. 15

Send pictures and
articles to

a.oney@yahoo.com

Thank You to the Book Club

Shirley Geraci's daughter, Noelle, brought to her attention this need, which was fulfilled by members of the Epiphany Book Club, Carol Wagers, Carol Thoreson, Helene Spaulding, Clare Close and Shirley Geraci.

To the Ladies of The Epiphany Book Club,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your spontaneous and generous outpouring during the holiday season to a needy family at my site. My mother Shirley was so moved by the lack of basic necessities and resources for a single mother named Erica, that she sprang into unsolicited action and was able to reach out to you for your assistance. Erica is the single mother of 3 children, one of whom has a disability, who utilizes the public housing program as it was intended, to try to better herself and the lives of her children. Erica had nothing in her apartment and Christmas this year appeared bleak until you all came together and became virtual angels for her and her family.

Erica and her children were surprised and so grateful for the couch you were able to get donated. Now they have a place to sit, instead of the floor. Each of you chose a child's special Christmas wish and made it reality. The looks on their faces and their subsequent gratitude illustrated that there is still good in the world, and that people can help perfect strangers without anything expected in return.

It is the small things like this that make the biggest impact. Your giving inspired others in the agency to make donations to provide them with another basic necessity, a table and chairs to have their meals at.

On behalf of myself, Erica and her children, thank you so much. Your outpouring of furniture, gifts, and gift cards have left an indelible mark that will last beyond Christmas. The feeling of joy you created most certainly replaced any despair, if only temporarily, and proves the Christmas spirit, and more importantly the human spirit, is alive and well at Epiphany.

Sincere thanks,
Noelle Geraci
Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority

Baptisms and Transfers—In

Newly Baptized

Kaylee Schaich

Mariella Picciano

Transfers—In

Lisa Haley

Alison Jimenez