



# Community News

## This Sunday's Counsel

Volume 21, Issue 51

<http://bldtrenton.com>

December 31, 2021

### THEME:

Jesus our Savior is revealed when we honor Him with our time, talent and treasure.

### PROMISE:

*"He shall rescue the poor when he cries out and the afflicted when he has no one to help him."* (Ps 72:12)

### WORD:

Is 60:1-6/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

### ORDERS:

- Rise up in splendor. (Is 60:1)
- Come, do Him homage. (Mt 2:2)
- Be stewards of God's grace. (Eph 3:2)

### DIRECTION:

- Give glory to God by sharing your time, talent and treasure.

## Where To Seek Jesus

### REFLECTION:

Epiphany means manifestation or showing forth, a revelation. On Epiphany Sunday we celebrate the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ the Son of God, his divinity and his humanity, a true God and a true Man

The theme of our community for Epiphany Sunday is: Jesus our Savior is revealed when we honor him with our time, talent and treasure. How is Jesus revealed to us? For one he is not a package wrapped in paper like a Christmas gift that we eagerly unwrap to see what surprise awaits us. Surely he won't just show up at a gathering and say *"Here I am, Jesus your Lord"*. For Jesus to be revealed to us we must seek and know him. Our life is a journey. In this life, we are asked to initiate the journey to find Jesus. He is present in our lives but we have to strive hard to search and discover that very presence.

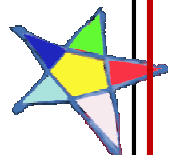


The search for the Truth always means leaving the comfort zone and head towards the unknown. It requires faith, perseverance, and hope. We are likely to experience failure, doubt, and confusion along the way, but these can be overcome if we know where to look for Christ.

Christ is in us, in our lives. He is all over the people around us. We shall find him in the pain and suffering of the sick, in the bitter tears of the poor, in the sweet smile of a child, or in the excitement of a new grandparent. Now we can seal his presence in us by sharing our time to comfort the sick, our talents to counsel the oppressed, our resources to help the poor. When we meet other people, we may not have gifts with us to bring like the Three Magi did in Bethlehem but Christ's revelation is assured when we offer them our priceless treasure, the presence of Christ in us.

## Super-Spreader Of Christmas Joy

As the Christmas Holiday Season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and are reminded to take the time to truly appreciate those who have helped shape ourselves, our families, and our community. We thank our loving God for transforming our lives as we rely on His fidelity toward us. This is the second Christmas we are besieged by the Covid 19 pandemic. During this adverse situation, we try our best not to dampen our joy in anticipation of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever the situation is, Jesus came to be with us, COVID-19 or not. Jesus is the Emmanuel, the God-is-with-us, the Word-made-flesh, the Savior who comes to bring light to us who are now in a kind of land of deep shadow. The deepest darkness disappears with the faintest light. Jesus is the true Light that shines through the dark, a light that the darkness could not overcome. Covid-19 has stopped a lot of activities. But thanks be to God, it didn't stop Masses from resuming, with great dedication, we continued to hold Praise and Worship on a regular basis and most of all it didn't stop Christmas from happening, and it shouldn't stop us from smiling and giving thanks to God for His blessings. Grace is the greatest gift that humanity was given on that blessed day when our Lord was born. Our homes are now little Bethlehems, and it is for us to make room for Jesus to celebrate His birth. There are certainly no restrictions for us to come before the Nativity Crib in our home to contemplate the beauty of our Savior and to ask Him to bless us with peace and joy.



*Super-Spreader - See Page 2*

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### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at [www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

**December 17, 2021**

Tithes : \$175.00  
Love Offer : \$175.00

*Thank you for your generosity!!!*

## God's Blessings

### Birthday

Julienne Balcon	12/24	Epyo Pagente	12/31
Bill Calves	12/26	Ernest Roldan	12/31
Tony Corso	12/26	Emmanuett Nagbe	1/1
Phil DelosAngeles	12/26	Grace Bustamante	1/3
Christopher Eleazar	12/26	Malou Yosucio	1/4
Nest Navarro	12/27	Patrick Mazo	1/5
Sona David	12/29	Eppie Rebong	1/5
Rizal Mijares	12/30	Jay Mijares	1/6
Zooey Gonzalez	12/31	Carmela Palumbo	1/6

### Anniversary

Tony & Mabel Bartocillo	12/27
Bert & Cora Velez	12/27
Bong & Julie Saria	12/28
Ringo & Fe Odon	12/28
Nino & Chicklette Fajardo	12/29
Arnold & Malou Paderon	12/29
Ernesto & Elora Kho	12/30
Joel & Estela Bermudo	1/1
Vic & Lucy Mabunay	1/2
Jay & Tet Edralin	1/4
Rene & Edna Perez	1/4
Manny & Jocelyn Rodriguez	1/5

### Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

## Tenderness



Christmas invites us to turn our gaze to the event that brought God's tenderness into the world - a word that I stress, tenderness, that is so lacking - and thus inspired and continues to inspire joy and hope... Tenderness is born of love, it is like the language of love. When you love a child, you caress him; when you love your fiancé you caress him or her. This comes from love. The gesture of love is the simplest. In the Nativity scene we see the love of a mother who embraces her newborn child, the love of a father who protects and defends his family, we see pastors who are moved by the sight of the newborn, angels who celebrate the coming of the Lord... Everything is permeated by a sense of wonder and love that leads to tenderness. I wish to repeat this: the language of God is closeness, compassion and tenderness. The three things together.

~ Pope Francis

### Super-Spreader - Cont'd from Page 1

May our hearts be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the wise men, and the love they had for the Child Jesus.

May we too be filled with the same love. Christmas is a wonderful time to spread not only good cheers and tidings, but also to spread the true essence of His birth as our Redeemer. Let us be the "super-spreader" of Christmas joy as we focus our hearts on the glory of our Savior.

To everyone, have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

*Art & Agnes Monta  
Cluster Shepherds*

*Lord, every nation on earth  
will adore you.*



### Tending the Flock

## Attract All People To God

The Magi worshipped 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.

The ancient prophecies concerning the holy city of Jerusalem, such as the marvelous one in Isaiah that we have just heard: *"Rise up in splendor! Your light has come.... Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance"* (Is 60: 1-3), have found fulfillment in the Church.

This is what disciples of Christ must do: trained by him to live in the way of the Beatitudes, they must attract all people to God through a witness of love: *"In the same way, your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your deeds and give praise to your heavenly Father"* (Mt 5: 16). By listening to Jesus' words, we members of the Church cannot but become aware of the total inadequacy of our human condition, marked by sin.

The Church is holy, but made up of men and women with their limitations and errors. It is Christ, Christ alone, who in giving us the Holy Spirit is able to transform our misery and constantly renew us. He is the light of the peoples, the *lumen gentium*, who has chosen to illumine the world through his Church (cf. Lumen Gentium, n. 1).

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, January 6, 2006