

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA DEAF CENTER, 8025 W. ADDISON

JANUARY 3, 2016

The EPIPHANY of the LORD

www.jubileemercy.org

Check the revised website for the State of Illinois Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons: www.illinois.gov/idhhc

Did you get your 2016 CHURCH ENVELOPES? See T.K. Hill.

What is happening at SDC (Swoboda Deaf Center)? Go to:

<http://www.swobodadeafcenter.org/>

SAT, 1/9, 4-9pm. "The Day of Three Wise Kings" IL Deaf Latino Assoc. Anixter Ct., 2032 N. Clybourn, CHGO. RSVP: 1/5. 1-773-273-6477vp, idla.response@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sun, 1/10: Mass, 10:30am. Coffee & rolls. Religious Education classes resume. Mass, 4pm, St. Julie Billiart.

Sun, 1/17: Mass, 10:30am (large church). Coffee & rolls. NO Mass, St. Julie Billiart.

Sun, 1/24: Mass, 10:30am. Coffee & rolls. Mass, 4pm, St. Mary of Vernon.

Thurs, 1/29, 9am-2pm: Senior Citizen Social, St. Francis Borgia.

Sun, 1/31: Mass, 10:30am. Coffee & rolls. BLESS THROATS.

PRAY FOR... Fidel Martinez, Evelyn Rzasa, Marie Volpentesta, Susan Postl, Bob Healy, John & Sylvia Kolinek, Majka Family, Balsitis sisters, George & Laverne Lastrico, Donna Taylor, Anthony Ariano, Nathan Kucera, Mark Kubey, Phyllis Wozniak.

READ YOUR BIBLE; learn about God's "Plan"

1/3: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72, Ephesians 3:2-6, Matthew 2:1-12

1/4: St. Elizabeth Seton (American, 1821) 1 John 3:22-4:6/Matthew 4:12-25

1/5: St. John Neumann (American, 1860). 1 John 4:7-10/Mark 6:34-44

1/6: St. Andre Besette (Canadian, 1937). 1 John 4:11-18/Mark 6:45-52

1/7: St. Raymond (1275). 1 John 4:19-5:4/ Luke 4:14-22

1/8: 1 John 5: 5-13/ Luke 5:12-16

1/9: 1 John 5:14-21/ John 3:22-30

1/10: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 104, Titus 2:11-14;3:4-7, Luke 3:15-16

1 JOHN is NOT the Gospel of John. Instead it is the FIRST LETTER of John. This Letter (Epistle) is found in the Bible AFTER the Letters of St. Paul.

www.ada25chicago.org: lots of great things happening.

IMPORTANT! The State of Illinois is no longer sending notices to renew your sticker. Check your license plate to see when your sticker expires. Go to www.ilsos.gov/greenmail to sign up for reminders and to buy a new sticker.

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

Each week, I put in the names and the date of death for the saints the Catholic Church remembers that day. You can go on-line and look up the stories of these amazing people. Share these stories with your children/grand-children. The saints are the REAL “heroes” of our world! For example, the story of St. Andre Besette (January 6th) is amazing.

As I explained in the Fall, the Archdiocese of Chicago is planning to consolidate (bring together) some parishes and parish schools, starting in 2016. In December, I met with some of the planning staff of the Archdiocese. I explained that there are parishes which have Masses interpreted in sign-language. If the Archdiocese plans to close one of those churches, we need to set-up an interpreter at whatever parish church is nearby and remaining open. I will continue to keep you informed of what is happening.

The week of Christmas, I drove to southern Illinois (a 4 hour drive) to visit a deaf man who is in prison. WOW! There are two deaf men in that prison with 2,000 hearing prisoners. It is very tough for anyone to be in a prison, especially for someone who is deaf. Unfortunately, often the prisons do NOT follow the ADA laws, and so deaf prisoners really suffer a great deal. Pray for these prisoners.

YEAR OF MERCY: www.jubileemercy.org Pope Francis wants us to really try to be merciful this year. During Lent (which begins 2/10, Ash Wednesday), we will special opportunities to pray for God's mercy in our own lives, and mercy for others. This will include a pilgrimage we will take to Holy Name Cathedral for Mass and special prayers.

Last Sunday, Fr. Mike Depcik pointed out that being merciful is not always easy, especially with other family members. In a special way, we need to pray for one another in our families, especially when others have hurt us.

In the 1980's, the Polish people protested against the Polish government. They founded a movement called SOLIDARITY. There was a young Polish priest, FR. JERZY POPIELUSZKO who often celebrated Mass and prayed with the Polish workers. The POLISH SECRET POLICE spied on Fr. Popieluszko. They saw that he had Confession for many of the Solidarity leaders. One night, the Polish Secret Police kidnapped the priest. They told him he had to tell them the sins the Solidarity leaders committed.

When a bishop ordains a person a priest, the priest makes a promise he can never break. That promise is that whatever someone confesses to him, the priest can NEVER tell anyone, not even another priest, not even the Pope!

Fr. Popieluszko refused to tell the police anything. They beat him and tortured him. He refused to tell them anything. Finally they murdered him, and threw his body into the river. When people found his body, he was so badly beaten that even his mother did not recognize him.

The Pope has declared that Fr. Popieluszko is "Blessed", meaning he will soon be a saint. We have a relic of him at St. Francis Borgia. We will be able to kiss the relic or touch it, and ask Fr. Popieluszko to keep us safe in this New Year.