

# Nativity News

*The Newsletter of the Cathedral Parish of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Volume 3: No 1

January 2008

## Expectations



I have often wondered about the story of Epiphany. We hear of the three magi from the east who come to worship the new born king of the Jews. I don't find it too much to believe that they indeed existed and that they saw the star and understood what it meant. Nor do I find it too hard to believe that they made that long and dangerous journey to Bethlehem to find the child and "do him homage." I can almost understand how they were not deterred by their visit to Jerusalem and King Herod who knew nothing of the newborn king in their midst. Because they somehow knew who they had come to find, and so they journeyed on the City of King David, Bethlehem. This is where I stumble. They find Mary and Joseph who most assuredly looked like poor, simple peasants and yet they see in the infant Jesus the new born King. What happen? Did I miss a step? They were looking for a great king, and yet they prostrated themselves in front of this child who lay in a manger? It gets even stranger. Next they offer gifts whose value would likely far exceed Joseph's lifetime income and net worth. What is going on here?

I think the key to understanding this story is the concept of "expectations." Clearly their expectations of the great King of Israel were met in the Holy Family. The traveling magi expected to find a king and so they were not put off by travel delays or by the humble surroundings in which they found Jesus. Their expectations were apparently broad enough to allow them to see past the apparent poverty of the Holy Family and instead see the Lord of Glory who was, priest, prophet, king, and would even be the lamb of sacrifice offered to save all peoples. In this infant Jesus they recognized the fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah who wrote, "For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both

now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!" (Is 9:6)

There is a powerful lesson that I need to learn again from the magi about the power of expectations. So how do expectations work? *What we expect is what we get, nothing more and nothing less.* From my own experience I have noticed that I often find evidence to support my expectations, no matter what they may be. I have also noticed that my expectations often limit how I will experience life, especially relationships. Years ago when I was in High School I expected to be hurt by my few friends and my love rejected, and it was, again and again. Proving to me that the world was a dangerous place and love was of little or no use. Thankfully, I was rescued from that prison of self-perpetuating misery by people whose expectations of me were radically different and far more beautiful than I could even imagine. Now, when I expect to be surrounded by wonderful friends and co-workers who love me deeply and support me and call the very best out of me in my service to the people as a priest, I am, again and again deeply loved and supported. I am not sure if this is a universal truth, yet there is much evidence to suggest that our expectations have a powerful influence over our life and those around us.

Every once and a while I need to rethink and update my expectations as situations change and new information is available. I am careful to follow-up my expectation for change with one from experience that in general the hand of God is involved in the change and it is all working together for the greater glory of God. This was not always so in my life. I often resisted, resented, and reacted with emotional outbursts to any change that I sensed was threatening my status quo; even when the status quo was miserable. Now, I expect change and see it as inevitable, integral, and even essential to living my life as close to the will of God as I can. Thankfully I have the expectation that things often change when I least expect them or desire them to.

With the expectation that Bishop Michael Warfel will be installed as the Bishop of Great Falls-Billings Montana on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 there are going to be many expectations for many of us that will need to be updated.

Archbishop Roger Schwietz will act as the apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Juneau with Fr. Pat Tavers acting as his local representative. Fr. Pat will publish an article in the Inside Passage detailing just what this means.

In general no innovations or projects that would need the bishop's approval are allowed while we are without a bishop. So for now the Cathedral building project is on hold, and we will not be hiring an architect this spring. The cathedral staff, building committee, finance committee, and chancery staff in conjunction with Archbishop Schwietz are discerning just how best to proceed with the building project until a new Bishop is named for Juneau. In the mean time I am reaffirming the expectation that this is all part of God's plan and timing and it will all work out better than I could have imagined. I am also praying that the next Bishop of Juneau will be named ahead of schedule, and be a truly wonderful shepherd for the communities of SE Alaska.

With the expectation that the best years are yet ahead of us,

*Shalom and Happy New Year,  
Fr. Thomas*



## **CATHEDRAL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

*ANNA MARIAH KELLY*

*CHAIRPERSON*

### **When plans change unexpectedly.....**

Over the past 15 months, 12 Building Committee members and I have put a lot of time and energy into figuring out what to do with our current Cathedral building. We were heading in a positive direction with a great deal of enthusiasm.

### **“Everything in life happens for a reason!”**

Throughout my life as a Catholic I have learned the above phrase is much easier to say than to experience. I have always tried to remember that in our Lord's Prayer it says “**thy will be done**”, the prayer does not say “**Anna-Mariah's will be done**”. Some of the most difficult and challenging times in my life have forced me to embrace change and excel in ways I have never thought possible. I have been given strength I did not know I had to overcome impossible situations. Obstacles in our lives give us a new perspective of different options and possibilities that we may have never seen before.

I have to keep this perspective when I think of the future of our building. The reality is our building is deteriorating with time. The Cathedral is not ADA accessible or does it meet safety requirements. But even though we know this, our building plans have been put on hold until the new Bishop has been installed and gives us direction as to what we should do next.

Over the next couple of months several options will be prepared in writing so that the options can be presented to the new Bishop upon his arrival. These options will contain all the work and assessments that have been done in the past to give the new Bishop a sense of who our parish is as well as the condition of our place of worship.

Although our plans are on hold for now, our desires are still the same: to build a new building for our parish and the diocese. I have to truly believe that everything in life happens for a reason. Thank you for all the information you have shared with the Building Committee and me. All of your suggestions and comments have been very helpful.

God Bless, Anna-Mariah Kelly

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 6, 2008**  
**Mass with the Distribution of Ashes**  
**7:00am, 12:10pm & 7:00pm**

## **Cathedral Young Adult Group**

*What is a young adult group? Catholic parishes across the country have young adult groups for parishioners ages 18 to 40. These groups do service projects, prayer experiences, hiking, “theology on tap,” dinner parties, small faith communities, Bible study . . . The possibilities are endless.*

### **Young Adult Group Schedule for January**

**Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>:** Volleyball at Mount Jumbo Gym 7pm to 8:30pm

**Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>:** Dinner potluck in Parish Hall Classroom #4 6pm, Gospel Reflections with Jim & Martha Stey 7pm, Parish Hall Library



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*KATY RICE, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism:** Baptism classes for parents of infants and young children will be offered in January. Preparation classes are offered three times a year, in September, January & April. We recommend you take the class before your child is born, if possible.

The January class will meet on:

**Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>: 6pm to 7:30pm**

**Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>: 6pm to 7:30pm**

Please contact Katy to register for the classes: 586-1317 or [cathedraldre@acsalaska.net](mailto:cathedraldre@acsalaska.net). If these class times do not work for you, please contact Katy to discuss other options for baptismal preparation.

**First Communion:** First Communion preparation will begin at the end of February. Please contact Katy to sign your child up for these classes. First Communion classes are open to children in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or above who have been baptized.

## GODLY PLAY JANUARY SCHEDULE

### *Pre-school & Kindergarten Schedule*

*January 6<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany*

*January 13<sup>th</sup>: Baptism*

*January 20<sup>th</sup>: Parable of the Good Samaritan*

*January 27<sup>th</sup>: Parable of the Mustard Seed*

### *Middle Grades Schedule*

*January 6<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany*

*January 13<sup>th</sup>: Parable of the Good Shepherd*

*January 20<sup>th</sup>: Parable of the Good Samaritan*

*January 27<sup>th</sup>: Parable of the Sower*

### *Upper Grades Schedule*

*January 6<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany*

*January 13<sup>th</sup>: Baptism*

*January 20<sup>th</sup>: The Parable of the Good Shepherd*

*January 27<sup>th</sup>: The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

## CATHEDRAL YOUTH MINISTRY

### JANUARY SCHEDULE

The Youth group will meet on Wednesdays January 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 8:30pm. For all sessions this month Middle School & High School will meet separately in the Parish Hall classrooms. We will continue to focus on the life of Jesus.

## CHARISMATIC RENEWAL EVENTS

**Our Lady of the Rosary Prayer Meetings** are held on Friday evenings at St. Paul's Parish Church at 7:30pm.

**Twin Hearts Prayer Meetings** are held on Sundays at 1:30pm at the Cathedral.

**Good Shepherd Prayer Meetings** are held on Sundays at 2:15pm at St. Paul's Church.

**Holy Trinity Catholic Prayer Meetings** are held on Sundays at 1:30pm in the Cathedral Parish Hall meeting room.

## CATHEDRAL HOMILIES

### ON THE WEB!

If you would like to hear the homilies preached at the Cathedral again, or share them with a friend, go to the Cathedral website at [www.juneaucathedral.org](http://www.juneaucathedral.org) and click on **Weekly Homily Podcasts**.

## SHRINE OF ST. THERESE

### Shrine Still Seeking Large Tire Wheelchairs

The Shrine is still seeking one or more donated large tired wheelchairs in good condition.

### Shrine Facility Reservations for 2008

To look at the Shrine Facility information, check out the Shrine Web Site: [www.shrineofsainttherese.org](http://www.shrineofsainttherese.org) and then if you wish to inquire further or make

Reservations, email: [fitterer@gci.net](mailto:fitterer@gci.net) or phone (907) 780-6112.

### Short Notice-Reduced Rates

From time to time there is a short notice-reduced rate offering. You can inquire about such or be put on the notice of contact list. Please email if interested indicating what facilities and weather weekdays/weekends desired.



the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them

# CATHEDRAL PARISH DIRECTORY

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**Cathedral of the Nativity Web page**

**[www.juneaucathedral.org](http://www.juneaucathedral.org)**



## Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 am & 5:30 pm

Monday-Friday 12:10 pm

Friday 9:30am **Wildflower Court**

Saturday 9:30 am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 pm

and by appointment.

Celebrating 125 years of the  
Catholic Community of Juneau

Cathedral of the Nativity  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
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One more powerful than I is  
to come after me.

January 13th