

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the  
Challenges of Loving Service***

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**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
**January 8, 2017**

**The Parable**

John Donne was a famous writer in 17<sup>th</sup>-  
century England.

One of his stories concerns a man who is  
searching for God. I'd like to share an  
adapted version of the story with you.

One day the hero of the story gets the idea  
that God lives on top of a tall mountain at the  
far end of the world. So he sets out to find the  
mountain and to climb it.

After a difficult and dangerous journey  
through great forests and dense jungles, the  
man arrives at the mountain. As he stands  
there looking at it, he sees that it is much  
steeper and taller than he had ever dreamed.  
But because he wants to find God more than  
anything else, this does not discourage the  
man.

Before beginning his climb, he studies the  
mountain carefully from all four sides. He  
concludes that the best route up the mountain  
is by the east side.

The next morning at the crack of dawn, the  
man begins his climb up the east side of the  
mountain.

It so happens that about the time that the man  
begins to climb the mountain, God, who  
indeed does live on top of it, begins to think  
to himself, "I love my people so much.

What can I do to show them my great love?"  
So God studies all four sides of the mountain  
and concludes that the best route down it is  
by the west side.

The next morning at the crack of dawn, God  
begins his descent.

Thus it happens that as the man is climbing  
up the east side of the mountain, God is  
climbing down the west side.

As luck would have it, the two pass on  
opposite sides of the mountain.

When the man reaches the top of the  
mountain, he finds it empty. He is crestfallen.  
He thinks, "God doesn't live here after all."

He even begins to think to himself, "Maybe  
God doesn't exist at all. If he doesn't live on  
top of the mountain, where does he live?"

The man falls on his face and begins to weep.  
After a good cry, he sits up and asks himself:  
"Why should I go back down the mountain?"

Why should I make the long, dangerous  
journey back to my village?

There's nothing there but poor, ignorant  
people. It would be far better to stay on top of  
the mountain, alone, than to go back there."

And that's where the story ends. John Donne  
ends his story without telling us what the man  
decided to do.

Donne intended his story to be a parable for  
the people of his time. Many of them were  
searching for God. They searched for him on  
mountaintops; they searched for him in  
deserts; they searched for him at the ends of  
the earth. But they never found God. And  
when they didn't find God, they became  
discouraged. Like the man in Donne's story,  
many concluded that God didn't even exist.

To these men and women Donne was saying  
that God does not dwell on mountaintops, or  
in the midst of deserts, or at the ends of the  
earth. God dwells among his people. He lives  
in the towns and cities of the world.

This is the great message of Christmas: God  
came down from heaven and took up  
residence among his people. That is where we  
will find him. That is where we must look for  
him.

Let's close with a poem that sums up the  
message of Christmas in practical terms:

**"When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone, when the  
kings and princes are home, when the  
shepherds are back with the flocks, the  
work of Christmas begins: to feed the  
hungry, to release the prisoners, to rebuild  
the nations, to bring peace among  
brothers, to make music with the heart."**

(Author unknown)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By appointment

**Sacrament of Baptism and marriage**

Call the office for an appointment.

**For Pregnancy Support**

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by  
appointment

**Prayer Group in the Parish**

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women  
And all Men

**MASS INTENTIONS January 7 – 13, 2017**

**Saturday 5:00 pm. Sobrak-Seaton Family**

**Sunday 10:00 am. + Martina Durham**

Tuesday 9:00 am. De Panther Family

Thursday 8:00 am. Parker Family

Friday 8:00 am. Parishioners

**Monday, January 9, 2017 - The Baptism  
of the Lord –  
Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father. He  
is the light of the nations and Lord of all  
creation. To him be all glory and praise.  
After the Feast of the Baptism of the  
Lord, Ordinary Time begins.**

**Men's Club Meeting**

**This Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
gather and Dinner at 7 pm.**

**Community Center**

**We have very good food and support for  
one another!**

**Women's Club/Prayer Group**

**We meet the 4th Wednesday of each  
month, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 pm. Our  
focus is social and spiritual at the same  
time. Please contact Ruth McCormick**

**[ruthmcc@flash.net](mailto:ruthmcc@flash.net)**

**We pray the ROSARY together every  
Saturday at 4:30 PM. Please come to pray  
for the families and our Country!**

**Retrouvaille**

A Lifeline for Marriage

**Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult  
times in their marriage. It is designed to provide  
the tools to help get your marriage back on track.

It will give you the opportunity to rediscover  
each other and examine your lives together in a  
new and positive way. This program has helped  
10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital  
difficulty at all levels including disillusionment  
and deep misery. For confidential information  
about or to register for the program beginning  
with a weekend on **January 27 – 29, 2017** call  
831-479-1260 or email:

**[Monterey@RetroCa.com](mailto:Monterey@RetroCa.com)** or visit the web site at

**[www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)**