#### The Celebration of the Eucharist:

Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 a.m.; Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 a.m. (Family Mass),12:00 pm (Adult Choir) and 7:30 pm (Contemporary Choir)

#### **Sacrament of Baptism:**

Baptisms are celebrated on the First and Third Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Parents are asked to contact the Parish Office to make the necessary arrangements.

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Confessions are heard in the church on Saturdays from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. and during the week at the Parish House or by appointment with a priest

#### **Sacrament of Marriage:**

Couples planning to get married are asked to contact the Parish Office at least one year prior to their wedding date to begin their marriage preparation.

#### **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:**

Parishioners, especially those who are entering the hospital, who wish to receive the Anointing of the Sick are asked to contact the Parish Office.

#### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Saturday from 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.

#### **Novenas:**

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday after the 8:00 am and 12:10 pm Masses.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Wednesday after the 12:10 p.m. Mass

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2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (4 pm close during August.)

The Parish Office is closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays

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# The Church of the Epiphany 375 Second Avenue and 22nd Street New York, NY 10010

# Rev. Austin Titus Pastor

Rev. Arthur Golino Parochial Vicar

Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Modugno In Residence

Rev. Livinus Obianisi Hospital Chaplain in Residence

Mr. James L. Hayes Principal, The Epiphany School

Mrs. Carmen DeSimone Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Bogna McGarrigle
Director of Music Ministries and Organist

August 9, 2015 Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

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# **Church of the Epiphany**

# WELCOME!

Welcome to all new parishioners and visitors at Epiphany parish.

We are happy that you are here with us in the presence of God.

#### From the Pastor's Heart

Thank you all very much for your very warm welcome. Serving you is God's will for me - so I will spend my life on you. It is my mission and my joy.

And thanks to those who are helping me in a very big way by sending in their photos.

Remember - you can send them through the Post Office, bring them to the rectory, or e-mail a "selfie" (with your name in the subject line) to epiphanytitus@gmail.com.

It's a bigger help than you think.

#### **Loving the Eucharist**

It is the body and blood of Christ – not just a symbol; but the bread and wine do have a lot of significance.

How can it be Christ? God can do anything; He created the universe and everything in it. He became man. He turned water into wine. And He turns bread and wine into His body and blood.

Why would He want to do that? He does not want to be distant from us; rather, He wants to be in communion with us. Like a groom and his bride who want to be always together. And this is the mechanism He chose. This way, He can be with me in Manhattan and with someone else in China – at the same time.

So the Eucharist is God's <u>presence</u> among us. But He also wants to <u>communicate</u> with us. He does this through the scriptures. The scriptures are God's word. It is how He communicates with us – through stories, poetry, songs, history, etc. – many different ways.

So He is present with us and speaks to us: this is what happens at every Mass.

But why would He want us to eat His body?

It is shocking; a good teacher often shocks his/her students in order to get their attention.

- In the eating, 2 bodies become one (communion). In the marriage act, 2 bodies become one; by doing so, they seal their marriage covenant to give themselves completely to each other: emotionally, spiritually, and physically. The marriage act is an act of complete self-giving. Hopefully, that is what takes place in the Eucharist, a mutual act of self-giving, by God, who gives Himself completely to us in love and we, in turn, give the best of ourselves to Him just like what is supposed to happen in marriage.
- The most important event of Jewish history is the Passover. The Egyptians refused to set Israel free. God gave them many chances to do so, but Pharaoh refused. Finally, an angel killed the oldest child in every Egyptian family, but left the Jews alone. God told Moses that the front door of each household was to be marked with the blood of a lamb so the angel of death would pass them by. The lamb was then eaten by each family to provide strength for the desert journey. That was the Passover the most important event in Jewish history.
- Likewise, the most important part of our faith is the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, we are saved. Sounds too good to be true, but it is. That is the way God is. Like the Jews who ate what saved them, we eat what saves us. We no longer have to worry about the Egyptians, but we do worry about being enslaved by sin (sin, as in breaking the commandments).
- In early history, whenever a serious agreement was entered into, the 2 parties would cut a lamb in half and walk through the middle. The idea was that the first one to break the agreement would suffer the same fate as the lamb. God made agreements with us (e.g., the commandments) but we kept breaking them. God did not want us to suffer the fate of the lamb, so He took the punishment upon Himself, which is what He did on the cross.
- God promised that He would make a new covenant with us, not like the 10 commandments that were written on stone tablets, but rather ones written in our hearts. That is what the Eucharist does; God's law of love is written, not in stone, but in our hearts, every time we receive the Eucharist. It is like a couple that renews their wedding vows through the marriage act.
- Is it magic? No anymore than sex is magic. Its effectiveness is totally dependent on the love that goes into it. God gave the ultimate sacrifice to show <u>His</u> love. So, its effectiveness depends on the love we put into it. By putting our best into it, we unlock all the power of God in our lives.

#### **Announced Mass Intentions**

#### Monday, August 10 2015 St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

8:00 am Bob Rakshys

12.10 pm James A. Verlin (living)

#### Tuesday, August 11, 2015 St. Clare, Virgin

8:00 am Ann McPhail & family

12:10 pm George Brooks

#### Wednesday, August 12, 2015

8:00 am Mary T. Walsh 12:10 pm Edward Bredy

#### Thursday, August 13, 2015

8:00 am Theresa & Luigi Gorrasi

12:10 pm Wallace Gilroy

## Friday, August 14, 2015

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

8:00 am James D. Brody 12:10 pm Ray E. Stout

# Saturday, August 15, 2015 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(not a Holyday of Obligation this year) 8:00 am Estelita Diomampo

> May the Souls of the Faithful Departed Through the Mercy of God Rest in Peace. Amen.

#### **Annual Mission Appeal**

Each year the Society for the Propagation of the Faith asks us to host a missionary priest who makes an appeal for the work of his home diocese or religious community. This year we welcome Father Edwin Nwabugwu from the diocese of Nnewi in Nigeria. Father will be with us this weekend, August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, to speak at all the Masses. A special collection will be taken up to support his ministry back home. Please be as generous as you are able.

#### Stewardship

The way we offer our thanks to God by sharing our time, talent, and treasure.

We encourage parishioners to make their Sunday contribution through *ParishPay* which is available on our parish website www.epiphanychurch.nyc

#### Tentative Presider Schedule for August 8 - 9

|             | Sat  | Sun             |
|-------------|------|-----------------|
| Fr. Titus   |      | 10 AM & 7:30 PM |
| Fr. Golino  | 4 PM | 12 PM           |
| Fr Nwabugwu |      | 8 AM            |

#### On the Feast of Mary's Assumption

Luke portrays her as someone who pays a very heavy price for her yes to God: the tension with her husband; a dangerous trip to Bethlehem; the excruciating pain of giving birth, alone, in a cave; the desperate escape to Egypt; the helplessness of watching her innocent son's death.

Mary is not the quiet diffident bystander she seems to be - she is a real woman who know all the joys and struggles of parenthood, poverty and life - at its messiest.

Through her willing acquiescence of a life she had not chosen, and through her acceptance of the sacrifices that would be hers, Mary teaches us a lot; that uncertainty of suffering can either be sources of doubt and downfall - or redemptive gifts that can be offered to God.

Mary could have fed what might have seemed like justifiable anger and hatred for those who betrayed, denied, abandoned, scourged and crucified her only son - but she did not.

She could have continually recalled their failures - or even withdrawn from the disciples altogether - but she did not

Rather, she let the power of God work within her.

And what God has done in Mary, God is willing to do in us. If only we accept our lot in life - offering our sacrifices to God - our prayers, work and suffering - each and every day. Letting go of our anger. Knowing all the while that God is at work within us.

That is a hefty price to pay for that joy of which Mary sings.

But just ask her - she will tell you - it is worth every penny of it.

#### **Spiritual Corner**

"The Nicene Creed now begins - as the translations into other languages always have begun - with "I believe" rather than "We believe." Some people have complained that this makes the faith individualistic, removes the emphasis on the People of God and community that the Second Vatican Council introduced, etc. Some like to try to trump the revisers by noting that the very first version of the creed, the one from the first Council of Nicaea, began with "We believe."

But all that, you know, misses the point. The creed the bishops issued at the first council was an official statement of a <u>corporate</u> commitment - like the American Constitution, which begins with "We the people of the United States." The creed we say at Mass is a declaration of <u>personal</u> commitment, even though it's one that we make with others.

It is like the oath of allegiance immigrants take when they become American citizens. They usually all say it together, but each one says "I hereby declare." He has to say "I" because he goes on to promise to defend his new country even to the point of giving his life. That's the kind of promise a person has to make by himself and for himself.

The creed is the same kind of statement. It's not just a list of theological facts with no connection to your life. It summarizes and focuses the faith for which, as a baptized Christian, you have agreed to give your life, in ways big and small. It is a statement of your citizenship, of your fundamental and permanent commitment. We *need* to say "I believe."

Or think of it this way: Saying the creed is like making a wedding vow. The bride and groom say "I do" because they're both betting their futures on the other. The drama comes when the man says, "I do" to the woman and she says "I do" to him. Their saying, "We do" wouldn't feel as personal nor as binding. In saying the creed at Mass, we're saying, "I do" to God. We're saying, "This is who you are and what you've done for me, and I'm betting my whole future on you."

If we are right about all this, the effect of saying, "I believe" is more personal and direct than saying, "We believe." It's more dramatic and makes the reality of what we're agreeing to much starker. It feels a lot more binding."

#### **Meditation for the week:**

# Stop murmuring among yourselves. (John 6:43)

Jesus certainly created a stir when he told his listeners that he was the bread of life. Many of them began to murmur and grumble against him. Where did this Jesus come from? What made him thank he could say such outlandish things?

Jesus replied by warning them against grumbling. Echoing Jesus' words, St. Paul once told the Philippians: "Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world" (Philippians 2:14-15). Jesus wanted to see his followers become shining lights, and he knew that grumbling would only dim the light that he had already placed in their hearts.

There is an old saying that says: "If you can't say something nice about someone, don't say anything at all." This is wise advice, but it has its limitations. When we are nourished by the Bread of Life, we find ourselves empowered to rise above even this good bit of wisdom. Rather than simply staying quiet in a negative environment, we can become agents of change. We can speak words of kindness, compassion and hope. Or we can offer a different perspective that shows a disposition of trust and confidence that affects the people around us.

Today, we are going to receive the Bread of Life, the same bread that caused so many people to murmur and turn away from the Lord (John 6:66). Let's resolve to be Jesus' light. With the words we speak—and the ones we don't speak—we really can point people to the Lord.

"Jesus, help us to let go of all bitterness and grumbling. Show us how to be kind, tenderhearted and compassionate toward each other. Give us the grace to imitate you."

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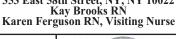
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