

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of The Fatima Faithful newsletter. This is published once a month; shared as an insert in the Bulletin available on our website and FaceBook page. We would love to know what you think and include suggestions you may have for future articles. Emailing newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org is the most effective way to reach out. Vicki Johnson, Editor

Take a closer look at Adoration.

Understood simply, Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. "When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now" (Saint Teresa of Calcutta). The Holy Eucharist is the continuation of Christ's Incarnation on earth, where the same Jesus born two thousand years ago in Bethlehem is as truly present with us now as He was then.

During Eucharistic Adoration, we open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the Eucharist. By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be! Like a magnet, the Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us. In its fullest essence Eucharistic Adoration is God and Man reaching out for each other, at the same time! Saint John Paul II in one of his homilies said, "It is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His breast like the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in His heart.

If, in our time, Christians must be distinguished by the 'art of prayer,' how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual conversation, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament?" Thus, our time spent with our Beloved Savior in Adoration, can become the most profound, meaningful, joyful, peaceful *(continued on back)*

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Every Christian looks forward with great anticipation to the coming of Christmas-our celebration of the Incarnation of Christ. There is so much excitement on that day but the days after can be a real emotional letdown.

Good news, fellow Catholics! The Church actually celebrates Christmas for 12 days. The festivities begin on December 25th, but last all the way until the Feast of the Epiphany, falling this year on January 6th.

The first 8 days after the 25th are known as the Octave, or first 8 days, of Christmas. We continue to live filled with the joy and peace that God places into our lives by sending us his only Son.

The twelve Christmas days reach their climax with the Feast of the Epiphany. On this day we recall the coming of the Magi as recounted in Matthew Chapter 2. This is very important because it is the first time Jesus became known to the Gentiles (the Magi were not Jews); and

when Jesus was first worshipped and adored.

We might consider adopting traditions that other countries practice to show our family just how important this celebration is:

In Mexico and Latin America, Epiphany is the main gift-giving holiday; the Magi, who gave gifts to the Christ Child, are imitated. Children leave their shoes out the night before and find them filled with presents in the morning.

In Ireland, this day is known as "women's Christmas."

Moms and other women are rewarded for all their hard work over the Christmas holidays with gifts, and dinner at a local restaurant.

The English bake special cakes, like the Twelfth Night spice cake and jam tarts.

Start some new Epiphany traditions in your family. Let the twelve days of Christmas ring out in our homes and in our hearts!



The Helping Hand



ON FORMED. Remember to sign up for this free and extensive Catholic resource service, including top rated videos, audio books and Bible studies. Look for: *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist;* *Joan of Arc*, the movie or *Cat Chat* for kids



Meet our new Deacon: Deacon Scott Maentz

He is very happy to be serving at OLOF! Scott is a techno geek and looks forward to the many ways he can use his vast amount of experience to benefit our Parish. Both the Diocese and The Handmaids of the Precious Blood also benefit from his skills. And what you need to understand Deacon Scott is not just that he has a wide range of knowledge in how to use just about any software—IT is his passion! On daily walks, he listens to podcasts about the latest and greatest Apps, etc and how to best utilize them. He's created and maintains over 8 websites and has truly rid his life of *paper*.

His favorite music is classic rock but there is no music that he doesn't appreciate. Pizza is his go-to food, but sushi runs a close second. He doesn't cook a lot but is definitely your grill guy. His non-spiritual reading revolves around articles/podcasts related to...technology news (what else!). But he has many, many books on his Kindle that he is absolutely going to read one day. The two books he recommends that all Catholics read: The Catechism and A Minute in the Church by Gus Lloyd. Gus' book is easy to follow and very helpful in explaining Church teachings to just about anyone.

His wife Christine expanded her children's entertainment business into the Foothills Mall last June: Little Peeps Fun Place. Yes, she was the Elf attending Saturday 8 AM Mass for the Immaculate Conception and back again for 5 PM Vigil Mass! Both she and Deacon Scott are very outgoing and persistently pursue opportunities to help others. They have 13 grandchildren but none of them live nearby. In fact, he has to travel out of the country - Canada and the Philippines- for 2 of the families!

The 2010 enthronement of The Sacred Heart in their home was the catalyst that triggered him being encouraged to look into the Diaconate program. Shortly afterwards, the Diocese put out a call for a new class of Deacons and he said 'sign me up!' Becoming a deacon brought to his life much more than he expected; he cherishes being able to serve the Lord and the Church in a special way. Deacon Scott is truly grateful that walking with Christ in this manner has made him a better person. He and Christine founded the Knoxville Bridge Ministry, which feeds the homeless monthly. He looks forward to expanding his diaconal ministry here at OLOF, especially in the areas of marriage preparation and helping couples with the process of obtaining a Declaration of Nullity if needed.

On his newest website, Big Bald Geek, he bills himself as a technology concierge: matching needs with resources to increase productivity and its execution. In fact, that is his message to us: Use me as a resource. I may not always be able to say "YES", but I appreciate being kept abreast of hopes and dreams for the Parish!

Adoration (continued)

healing experience we could ever encounter! Jesus waits for us in the Blessed Sacrament.

He waits for our little acts of faith, adoration,

love,
thanksgiving,
repentance,
reparation and
charity that we
can offer Him
as we
contemplate
His Divine
Majesty in the
Blessed
Sacrament.



Eucharistic Adoration is an affirmation of our faith. Through this vigil of prayer, we give witness to our belief that God is truly dwelling with His people.

A Note from Fr. McNeeley

The Lord has richly blessed our congregation in so many ways! A blessed Advent brings us a joyous Christmas season and the celebration of the birth of our Savior. As the Christmas hymn proclaims "Jesus Lord at thy birth; Jesus Lord at thy birth."

Just a couple of weeks ago we had a wonderful newcomer's gathering. There were at least 10 or 11 families who braved a snowy Sunday to share in the fellowship and meet various ministry representatives and share their own stories.

Our **Parish Pastoral Council** will meet on the second Tuesday of January with a full complement of members. Those members are:

Suzette Donovan — Chair & Communications
Baron Johnson – co-Chair and Administration
Hector De Arcos – Hispanic Community
Terry Williams – Parish Life
Elizabeth Ellsworth – Youth Ministry

Bruce Dameron – Social Action
Peter Lloyd – Family Life
Collette Souder – Worship and Spiritual Life

We are just getting started, and there will likely be some changes and adjustments of assignments, but this is our starting point. I especially want to thank Clint Woodfin and Barbara Foster for their years of faithful service as they retire from Pastoral Council.

The Church is both a sure foundation and an ever-changing and evolving community of believers. Our faith and our beliefs are sure and constant while we live out those eternal truths in a world where the only constant is change.

Let us all come together this Christmas as we celebrate our Incarnational faith in Christ Jesus for he is our Lord, our Savior and our King, even at his birth. We have so much to be thankful for, collectively and individually. Let us share that love and that joy throughout this season and all the seasons of our lives.