

## *Clergy, Vestry, and Officers*

Fr. Joel E. Hampton, SSC, Rector	210-542-0751
Fr. V. Joseph Scalisi, SSC, Assistant	682-999-1010
David Mince, Sr. Warden	817-808-4963
Phil Rigdon, Jr. Warden	817-991-7246
Cindy Bartlett, Clerk	817-917-8396
Jane Andrus	972-342-6956
Rod Reaves	817-881-4199
Tim Schwarz	972-757-7399
Gerry Stevens	817-676-6046
David Walker, Treasurer	817-917-2811

## WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sun.:	7:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	8:00 a.m.	Said Mass (No Incense)
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School/Forum ( <i>School Year</i> )
	10:00 a.m.	Sung Mass (Incense)
	After Mass	Coffee Hour
Mon.:	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
	5:00-5:30 p.m.	Confessions
Tue.:	6:00 p.m.	Said Mass
	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	9:00 a.m.	Said Mass & Unction
Wed.:	4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	12:00 p.m.	Said Mass
Thu.:	4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Fri.:	5:00-5:30 p.m.	Confessions
	6:00 p.m.	Said Mass
	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sat:	9:30 a.m.	Said Mass, followed by Confessions
	10:00-10:30 a.m.	Confessions (Prayer Book Holy Days)
	11:00 a.m.	Said Mass (Prayer Book Holy Days)

*Confessions may also be made by appointment.*

## Return Service Requested

e-mail: [haposdes@swbell.net](mailto:haposdes@swbell.net)

web: [www.holyapostlesfortworth.org](http://www.holyapostlesfortworth.org)

817-560-7187

Fort Worth, TX 76126-9500

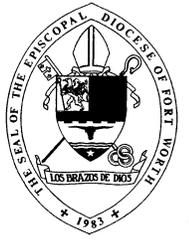
3900 Longvue Avenue

CHURCH  
*of the*  
HOLY APOSTLES





# THE EPISTLE



A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

EPIPHANYTIDE 2020

*The purpose of the Church of the Holy Apostles is to glorify God through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship and love.*

## FROM THE RECTOR

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! As I sit in my office typing this article, my mind and my heart are full. My mind is full of things I've recently done (like all the feasting I've engaged in, while gathered with my wife, kids, grandkids, extended family, and Parish family, all within the context of the joy and beauty of this sacred season of Christmas) and those things I've recently left undone (like this Parish newsletter that is almost a week behind schedule). My heart is full of gratitude to God for all that is mine. I am blessed to be a husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather. I am also blessed to be the father of a spiritual family, as the Fifth Rector of this Parish.

I remember, as a young boy, being puzzled each New Year upon seeing the newspaper depict the year just ended as an old man and the year just begun as a baby. As I have aged, I have come to understand and to appreciate why that depiction is so apt. As surely as life begins, for a baby, as a story yet to be written, full of hope for an as yet unrealized future, each New Year begins as a blank slate, filled with expectation, but also filled with uncertainty, as well. I am struck by the image of the old man standing in for the year just ended, also. In our old age, we don't anticipate much about the future, as our best days (as we often say) and indeed the vast majority of our days, good or bad, are behind us. We can look back with gratitude and/or regret, but we cannot change the decisions made or not made in our past. As it is with our individual lives, so it is with the year just ended. 2019 is in the history books now. It was an eventful year in so many ways, but it is now past, beyond our ability to affect, for good or for ill.

2020 is yet future, or most of it is, anyway. While we cannot begin to know what all may happen to us, for us, in us, or through us in 2020, we do know that God has called us into this New Year. How we respond to that call will determine how the history of 2020 is written, once 2020 is no longer a baby, but an old man, giving way to the birth of a baby New Year in 2021. God grant us grace to trust Him in the future as in the past, for He is ever faithful.

*Fr. Joel*

## FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR

Dear Holy Apostles,

Did you know that, as you receive this newsletter, that we are still in the season of Christmas? I'm sure that you've heard this before, but do you know why this is the case? After all, it seems like one of the favorite things for liturgical Churches to say. The season of Christmas lasts from Christmas Day to the Epiphany on January 6th. That's twelve days...just like the song. (It's also the beginning of Mardi Gras season...sorry, this Louisiana boy had to get that in).

As you might know, the magi, or, as we more commonly hear them as wise men, did not come to meet the newborn baby while in the manger. In fact, they never saw the manger. Instead, they met the Holy Family and paid homage to Jesus...the toddler. The place where they came from, likely some place in the region of Persia was upwards of 1,000 miles away, so it took them some time to get there. That is why King Herod, when seeking to destroy the "King of the Jews," went after boys up to the age of two years old.

Being that they came from so far away, there is a great theological point to be made that this was the first recorded incident of the “light of the world” being manifested to the gentiles, which was intended by God from the beginning and was written of in many places in the Old Testament. And as amazing as all of this is, we must “do something” with it.

These magi travelled a great distance for something they believed to be worth the effort. Although they may not have completely understood who this person was that they sought to honor, the fact is that they sought to give Him honor and saw it through...across such a great distance.

This time of year, in the society’s secular way, we often think about New Year’s resolutions. As a result, we also know about our inability to keep New Year’s resolutions. If I might be so bold as to suggest something...don’t make one. Resolutions of this kind often drastically undershoot the mark and are not lived into anyway. Instead, take a hint from the magi and their determination.

There was something so important to them that they felt compelled to do something about it and to see it through to the end. Do you have anything like that in your life? Something of that much importance? Identify what that is and work on it.

Jesus says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). In other words, the most important thing is the Kingdom of God. If we pursue that, all the other things (about which we make resolutions) will tend to fall into place. But how much do you want it? Epiphany is about many things, but this year in my life it is about dedication to the mission. It is about seeing something through.

It would be interesting to know what happened to the magi after they met the one they had travelled so far to see. We do not hear about them after that point. There are legends out there, but I would not hazard a guess. The most important thing for me in this entire account is that if they hadn’t been determined to see it through,

they would not have made it that far, and there would be no reason to wonder what happened afterward.

In Christ,

*Fr. Joseph*

#### **FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN**

I’ll be honest: I was not looking forward to being Senior Warden at first. As most of you are aware, I’m probably the laziest person you have ever met. And it’s not like past Sr. Wardens had sold the position to me. Possibly the highest praise I’d heard was, “it’s not that bad.” So, when I look back at the last year, I’m actually shocked at how much I enjoyed it, and especially how much I got out of it.

The first thing I realized was how many people donate amazing amounts of time and talent to Holy Apostles. There are some in our Church family who come on Sundays, worship, go home, and then may not even think about Holy Apostles until the next Sunday. But, it is clear to me, now, that many more make Holy Apostles a huge part of their daily lives throughout the week. Whether it’s volunteering in the office, preparing the Altar, or working on the landscaping; these folks keep our Church going every day. And, as Sr. Warden, I got to see your selfless work up close, and I can’t thank you all enough. You’ve all inspired me to try to be a bit less lazy and do more around the church.

While Sr. Warden, I also got to spend more time with Fr. Joel. Not only did I get to see the amount of work he does every single day, but I also got a better appreciation for how great he is at it. I honestly had very little idea how much time he spends at Church, at hospitals, in meetings, counseling parishioners, attending diocesan functions, trimming trees, listening to my incessant whining, sweeping up bugs, and that’s all just on his day off. Fr. Joel also started celebrating more Masses this year. As I recall, it started as a Lenten discipline. But he didn’t stop at Easter. Now, hardly a day goes by that Mass is not celebrated at Holy Apostles. Sometimes, there’s only two or three people on a Thursday evening or a Friday

morning. But he keeps doing it. His devotion to making sure we all have a chance to go to Mass is unending. Couldn't make it on Sunday? Well, there's plenty of times to make it up. Surely at least one of them is convenient for you.

As Sr. Warden and a member of the Vestry, I have tried to attend as many of these Masses as possible. And the effect of that commitment on me and my faith has been extraordinary. My faith has grown in me, and I have grown in my faith. And not just because of the extra Masses, but by getting to closely observe the way these amazing volunteers selflessly give of their time. And by watching the way Fr. Joel ministers to all of us every day. His grace and deft handling of tricky situations and diverse personalities is truly a blessing to all of us.

So, if you are ever approached to be on the Vestry, to be Senior Warden, or to serve in some other way at Holy Apostles, please give it some serious consideration before you decline because you are busy. I can't promise that you will have the same wonderful experience I've had, but I do believe it will be beneficial to you and to your faith.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as Sr. Warden this past year and may God bless you and your family in the new year.

Sincerely,  
**David Mince**

**ALTAR GUILD**

Why do we change colors during the year? The Church's liturgical norms prescribe specific vestment colors for various celebrations. The purpose of utilizing different colors for vestments is twofold: first, the colors highlight the particular liturgical season and the faithful's journey through these seasons. Second, the colors punctuate the liturgical season by highlighting a particular event or particular mystery of faith.

In ancient Rome, the Emperor draped himself in regal purple, the priests of Mars wore crimson vestments to honor the bloody god of war and families in mourning shrouded themselves in black.

But when Christian Bishops, Priests, and Deacons stood at the Altar, they always wore white. Like the Emperor's purple and the mourners' black, the Clerics' choice of white was not random. Philosophers wore white. So did senators. By their white robes, the Clergy announced that they were the teachers of the faithful and the rulers of the Church.

After Emperor Constantine published his Edict of Milan in 315, which permitted the Church to emerge from the catacombs, every aspect of liturgical life started to expand. Initially, the variety of liturgical colors ran through the whole spectrum, but by 1200, in the West, the main liturgical colors were white, red, green, black, and violet or purple.

White or gold, a color symbolizing rejoicing and purity of soul, is worn during the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Easter. White vestments are also used for Feasts of Our Lord (except those pertaining to His passion). The Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and the Saints who were not martyrs. White represents joy, innocence, purity, and glory.

Nest month, we'll look at other colors and what they mean.

**Dehn Wilson**

**PARISH LIFE COMMISSION**

Merry Christmas! Thank you to everyone who helped green the Church on the 22nd and provided food and drink for the Christmas Eve services. We appreciate your generosity!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We need to make plans for Shrove Tuesday and our Lenten suppers. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Tracey Mince, Elizabeth Schwarz, & Amy Hall**

<u>Income and Expenses through November 2019</u>		
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<b>Income</b>	\$230,449.00	\$226,413.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$232,341.00	\$248,045.00
<u>Average Attendance at Sunday Masses</u>		
<i>2019</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
94	86	93