Dear Parishioners of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors:

We start off the New Year celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. This is also the last Sunday of this year’s short Christmas Season. We are not lacking for lots to reflect on. While our Gospel focuses on the magi from the east, we look at the various ways God makes available to us how we can be tuned into God’s message and what the proper response is to getting the message.

First, the magi follow a star to find the brightest star of all, the newborn king of the Jews. Many of us allow nature to replenish our energy. The beauty of nature to replenish our energy.

Most powerfully, the magi shows us how overjoyed we can be as we use any way possible to find the treasure of our lives. Like them, we are called to enter into that sacred space where we can experience the Presence of God in all we do and the stories that we remember because of how they remind us of God’s goodness. We see how the chief priests and scribes had shared with them and continued on their journey of using our imagination to ponder what it is that God has provided for us to know of God’s handiwork. We are so wonderfully situated that we can go to the mountains, or the forests, or the oceans, or many other places to relax, to allow the beauty of nature to replenish our energy.

Second, the magi were able to discover very important information, but they did not act on what they had gleaned. The magi are great examples for us as they took what the chief priests and scribes had shared with them and continued on their journey of getting the light of a star lead them to the light of the world.

Lastly, God uses a dream to communicate life positive change in their future. The Foster Youth along with the Social Workers would like to personally thank you for the extremely generous donation of food, cash and check to the Extended Foster Care/Independent Living Program. Your generosity helps us to use any way possible to find the treasure of our lives. For instance, when we, like Jesus would say to us based on what is recorded in the Gospels, we can certainly imagine what place to experience Jesus; all we have to do is be aware of His Presence is made known through the birth of Jesus. And yet there is another step, namely, seeing as the magi did the revelation of God’s love for all of us.

We might or might not come to know the ways of God through research into the written word as well as the stories that we remember because of how they remind us of God’s goodness. We see how the chief priests and scribes were able to discover very important information, but they did not act on what they had gleaned. The magi are great examples for us as they took what the chief priests and scribes had shared with them and continued on their journey of getting the light of a star lead them to the light of the world.

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January 11-February 8 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Anti Human Trafficking Actions at Divine Savior Parish:
- Take home the handout ‘Reflection and Prayer to End Human Trafficking’ Calendar to use during the prayer period Jan. 11- Feb. 8.
- ‘Sands of Silence’ film screening and Q&A with filmmaker Cheo Alvarez-Stehle Jan. 18th 7:30-9:00 p.m at Sacramento City College, Performing Arts Center, Room 106. FREE Admission; $5 suggested donation at the door.
- SacPOST Training and Action Jan. 27th 10 am – 3 pm. (Training 10 am-12 pm & canvassing 1-3 pm) Purpose is to verify that businesses are posting information on how to get help if trafficked. This assures implementation of two CA laws (SB1193 and AB260) that require this. This action is the official January Anti-Trafficking outreach of the Sacramento and RestorE Coalition for January 2018. (Must register online at http://bit.ly/2BkJ07E by Jan. 15th by 5 pm; age 18 and over)

Tai Chi Chih
Join us every Wednesday morning at 9:15am, following the 8:30am Mass. The sessions are held in the Vestibule. All are welcome. Tai Chi Chih is a moving meditation that relieves stress, increases balance and brings harmony to your life.

Walk for Life
St. John the Baptist Church in Folsom is hosting a bus with 3 neighboring parishes to the Walk for Life Francisco on Saturday, January 27, 2018. The cost is $25 per seat. Please arrive at the church parking lot by 6:30am. The bus will depart at 7am so that we are able to attend the Mass for Life in San Francisco at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Our group will then walk to the rally and walk at the San Francisco Civil Center. Our group will do the “Walk” then go directly to the bus for a 3:30pm departure time. We will be back to Folsom at approximately 5:30pm. Please contact Kathy Baxter, 222 Flower Dr., Folsom 95630 (337-6824) for information on how to reserve your seat! For questions you can also contact Divine Savior Respect Life Ministry coordinator, Sally Perez-Fong, at 849-0533 or santabarbarasally@yahoo.com.

MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND
Our entire ministry would like to wish each and every one of you a very Happy New Year, one filled with much goodness and peace in your lives! If you are interested in this ministry, you may contact Mary at mthmaryk@outlook.com for information.

Vocations Cross
Sunday, January 7th at the 11:00am Mass, Michaela Robertson will take home the Vocations Cross to pray daily for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Religious Life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bc-d; Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday: Is 1 Sm 1:19-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28 or Mk 1:14-20 and Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Is 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Is 3 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Is 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Is 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 1 Sm 3:30-3, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20, Jn 1:35-42

Small Faith Groups – Looking for Homes and Facilitators to begin in Lent
Would you like to have an amazing Lent? Discussing a topic that will deepen your faith while meeting new people in the parish community is a wonderful way to make Lent meaningful. I’m looking for facilitators, who will select a book/video/topic and can get a discussion started. Divine Savior supports you by providing an orientation, finding a meeting place, and having a Sign-Up Sunday, which is Feb. 3-4. Divine Savior recently acquired 300 DVD’s of famous authors and speakers. You are welcome to use our materials or provide your own. Length of commitment is usually 6 sessions followed by a parish pot luck. Contact Sharon Laitinen, 989-7400 or sharon@divinesavior.com.

Christian Brothers High School Placement Exam for Incoming Freshmen – Saturday, January 20, 2018
Eighth graders interested in attending CB in the 2018-19 school year are required to take the placement exam on Saturday, January 20 from 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Online applications are due by January 19, 2018. Please contact the Admissions Office for more information at (916) 733-3690 or visit the CB website at www.cbhs-sacramento.org.

Reflections of the Word
Every Tuesday evening at 6pm, Break Open the Word for the following Sunday. We share and reflect upon the stories and thoughts of the disciples of Christ, and relate them to our own life and times. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, in preparation for the upcoming weekend, for fellowship with one another, and continuing to weave the tapestry of our faith. Please join this informal gathering at 6:00pm in the St. Cecilia room of the church (near the Sacristy). For further information please call Elaine at (559)307-4216 or email her at elaine@divinesavior.com.