

SAINT COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christi simus, non nostri
We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST. COLUMBAN PARISH

506 First St. S. Yelm, WA 98597

360-458-3031

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00AM –2:00PM

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Website: www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

FORMED



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM

Sunday: 10:30AM

Daily Mass: Tues—Fri 9AM *except 1st Fridays

Rosary is said 30min prior to each Mass

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Following First

Friday Devotions or by Appointment

Confession: Saturdays 3:30—4:30PM

First Friday Devotions: 6:30PM

The church may be opened upon request

during office hours for private prayer.

See Calendar on Page 3 for current schedule
and updates

St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and
private prayer chain. Please contact the parish
office to submit a request.

St. Vincent De Paul

*Providing emergency assistance for those in
need.*

Help Line: 360-458-1904

Please leave your name, phone number, and

ST. PETER MISSION

149 Keithahn St. S, Tenino, WA 98589

*For administrative assistance please
contact St. Columban*

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00 AM

Rosary is said 30min prior to Mass

Sacraments

Confession: Sundays 7:30 -7:45AM

Daily Mass (First Fridays): 9:00AM

Anointing of the Sick: by appointment

*We are a Catholic faith community
that seeks to place God first, to know
Him, and to grow in holiness
together. We strive to live the Gospel
through the Eucharist, in our
teaching and way of life.*



After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

January 2, 2022 Epiphany of The Lord

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon: *Behold the Lord, the Mighty One, has come:
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.*

1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Gospel Acclamation: *We saw his start at its rising and have
come to him homage.*

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Communion Antiphon: *We have seen his star in the East, and
have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

MASS ATTENDANCE

In obedience to the most recent guidelines from the Archdiocese, public Mass at our parish is held with the following safety measures in place.

- ◆ Masks are required at this time unless you have a medical exemption
- ◆ Seating is on a first come first served basis, if you wish to remain distanced from others you may do so at your own discretion.
- ◆ Hand Sanitizer is provided



Fr. Thompson's Reflections

Epiphany Chalk

Today is the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, and I would like to devote my column this week to providing instructions for the tradition of “chalking the door.” This traditional annual blessing of our homes, as with so many other Catholic traditions, has come back into vogue in recent years after a long period of bland attempts to replace or forget these treasures of our heritage.

Door chalking helps us at the beginning of our calendar year to remember to trust our homes to the Lord, a sign and symbol of asking God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. It also helps us to “live liturgically,” keeping the events of salvation history in mind; in this case commemorating the visit of the magi to the infant Jesus. In that same vein it is a reminder to us of the duty and blessing of hospitality to our neighbors. It really is a tradition small but deep in significance.

So, for those who aren’t familiar (or those who just would like the procedure written out as a reminder). I began today’s Mass with blessing a large quantity of chalk and marking the doors of our churches. After Mass today (or right now, if you took a bulletin after Mass), you are welcome to take one of the pieces of chalk home to mark the front door or steps of your home (some people like to mark all exterior doors, its up to you). What follows below is one version of the epiphany blessing of a home, but you can find a number of other versions online.

Take the blessed chalk and first write the initials of the three Wise Men, connected with Crosses, over the inside of your front door (on the lintel, if possible). Then write the year, breaking up the numbers and the year so that they fall on both sides of the initials. It should look like this, for example

20+C+M+B+22

with the “20 “being the millennium and century, the “C” standing for the first Wise Man, Caspar, the “M” standing for Melchior, the “B” standing for Balthasar, and the “22” standing for the decade and year. It is also popularly believed that the Kings’ initials stand for “Christus mansionem benedicat” (“Christ bless this house”).

While you do this, or after, say the prayer:

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Happy Epiphany!

Fr Thompson

Financial Stewardship

Weekly Offering

	St. Columban	St. Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,762	\$712
December 19	\$3,250	\$859

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

**CALLED TO
SERVE as CHRIST**

As of: November 15, 2021

3 Year Goal for St. Columban: \$307,368
Total Pledged: \$116,169 38% of Goal

3 Year Goal for St. Peter: \$54,327
Total Pledged: \$26,897 50% of Goal

Baby Bottles for Life are due January 9th



Drop off your bottles in the offering plate or turn them into the parish office this week.

Monday-Thursday
9:00AM—2:00PM

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Brian Thompson Ext.6	<i>Priest Administrator</i> frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Holly Dodd Ext. 2	<i>Bookkeeper</i> holly@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Katie Hennigan Ext. 3	<i>Faith Formation</i> katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Jennifer Langham Ext. 5	<i>Music, Liturgy & Admin Support</i> jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Steven Slater,	<i>St. Columban Maintenance</i> steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Gilberto Espino	<i>St. Peter Maintenance</i> gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Welcome Holly Dodd our new Bookkeeper!

SAINT COLUMBAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Judith Cusick (Chairperson),
Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier,
Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf
parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

SAINT PETER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson),
Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz,
Bob Bacon, Diane Weston,
stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Faith Formation



CHILDREN'S PRAYERS

For the month of December, we only had two classes. For those two weeks, an average of 7 children in our Faith Formation program prayed 284 prayers every week. Keep up the good work faithful young prayer warriors!

Do your children know their basic prayers? Here is one to memorize!
(if they haven't already)

St Michael Prayer: Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do though oh Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls, Amen.

In Our Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sister and those who have asked for our prayers:

Joseph Waters

Jessica Nash

Maria Luisa Fregoso

Paul Hennigan

Pam Henslee

Don Troyer

Mary Taylor

Monika Siegemund

Mandy Wolfe & Baby Wyatt

Brenda Collins

Nina Regalado

Lindy Parse

+ All those in harm's way.

+ For all those affected by the Coronavirus and for all first responders and caregivers.

Rest In Peace

Grace Sudano

All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name please contact the parish office.

All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes.

Faith Formation: Grades K-12

- K-5 Sundays from 9-10:15AM
- Confirmation Classes on Sundays from 12-1:15PM

Please see the parish website for a complete class schedule



Join us for RCIA Tuesdays at 6:30 in room 103 of the Religious Education building.

RCIA topic for this week is
Our Desire and Capacity for God.

RCIA is open to all adult learners including, but not limited to, those seeking sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). Please contact Katie Hennigan in the Faith Formation office for additional information.
katie@saintcolumbanvelm.org
360-458-3031x3

PARISH MINISTRIES

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer with any of these ministries, please contact the parish office.



Daughters of Mary
St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

January 11 Monthly Meeting
10:00AM Parish Hall

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 17152

January 19 Council Meeting
6:00PM Parish Hall



St. Vincent de Paul

January 20 Monthly Meeting
7:00PM Parish Hall



St. Peter's Circle

January 11 Monthly Meeting
9:30AM St. Peter Mission/Tenino



ALTAR SOCIETY

Cleaning the Church
Every Thursday after Daily Mass



Please contact the parish office for more information, the latest updates, and schedule changes.

January 3 Rosary Prayer Group
7:00PM St. Columban

January 4 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban
6:30PM Spanish Prayer Group
Parish Hall

January 5 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban

January 6 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban

Bible Study
10:00AM St. Peter (Tenino)
6:30PM St. Columban
RE Bldg. Rm. 103

January 7 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Peter (Tenino)

First Friday Devotions
6:30PM St. Columban

January 8 Confession
3:30-4:15PM St. Columban

5:00PM Vigil Mass
St. Columban

January 9 Baptism of the Lord
ST. PETER MISSION TENINO

7:30-7:45AM Confession
8:00AM Mass

ST. COLUMBAN

9:00-10:15AM Religious Ed Classes
10:30AM Mass
11:45-1:00PM Confirmation Year 1

Bonus Bulletin Content!

To save on printing, some extra bulletin content will now be exclusively found in the online edition of our bulletin, which is also emailed weekly to parishioners. Sign up at flocknote.com/saintcolumbanvelm or visit our website saintcolumbanvelm.org

Thanks to our advertisers listed on the back of this bulletin! They make this publication available to the Parish at no cost to us.



Memorial Benches

for our Outdoor Stations of the Cross

Have you been out to visit our new Outdoor Stations of the Cross in the St. Columban Prayer Garden? It's almost ready for the upcoming Lenten season but is still missing one thing, benches. If you would like to donate a bench, please fill out an order form available on our website



or in the narthex of the church and return it to the parish office as soon as possible. These benches can even be memorialized with the purchase of an engraved brick bearing the name of your loved one or whomever you wish to dedicate it to. The brick will be placed beneath the bench.

Volunteers Needed

Altar Society

We are in need of people to launder our Altar Linens one or two months out the year depending on your availability. See Virginia Damron or contact the parish office for more information.

Ushers for Sundays

We are looking to increase the number of available Ushers on Sundays to 4 instead of the current 3. If you regularly attend the Sunday Mass or are flexible with your availability and can serve once or twice each month, please see Jeff Dehan or contact the parish office.

Readers for Saturday Masses

We are in need of another reader for the Saturday Masses. If you are available to serve once or twice each month and comfortable speaking in front of others, please see Jennifer Langham or contact the parish office.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (Minister of the Host)

We are in need of ministers for the weekend Masses. If you have experience as an Extraordinary Minister or are interested in becoming one and are available to serve once or twice each month, please see Jennifer Langham or contact the parish office.

We are here to Save Lives...



**Knights of
Columbus®**

“Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition”

St. John Paul II



**Resolve to Help us Save
Lives this New Year
by becoming a
Knight of Columbus!**



FREE ONLINE MEMBERSHIP*

**For new online membership applications
submitted the entire month of January.**

***for 1-year of online membership, regular dues are \$30/year thereafter.**

Visit kofc.org/joinus

Enter code

MCGIVNEY2020



Blessing of Chalk on Epiphany



What is Blessed Chalk:

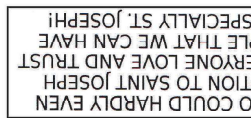
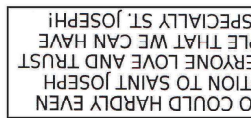
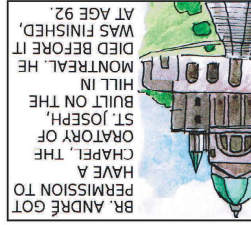
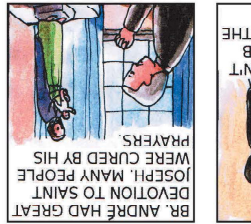
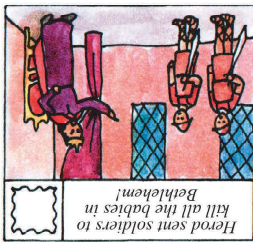
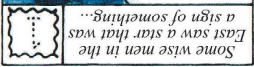
It is traditional for parish priests to bless chalk for each family so that they may mark the names of the three Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) over their doors. In the blessing of homes this serves as a witness of their faith to follow the Star and protection against evil in obeying the warning not to return to Herod. We as Catholics are called to always to follow the light of Christ and to resist the temptations of the enemy. Marking the initials of these three Magi and the current year is a way of dedicating ones household to remain faithful to Christ and serves as a symbol of that promise as you go to a from your house each day.

The chalk is a type of memento ("*Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return.*"), a reminder of the dust of the earth from which man was made. See Genesis 3:19.

Note that any color of chalk is valid for this blessing.

The Wise Men Puzzle

Do you know the story of the wise men who came to worship Baby Jesus? What order do these pictures go in? Write the numbers from 1 to 6 in the boxes.



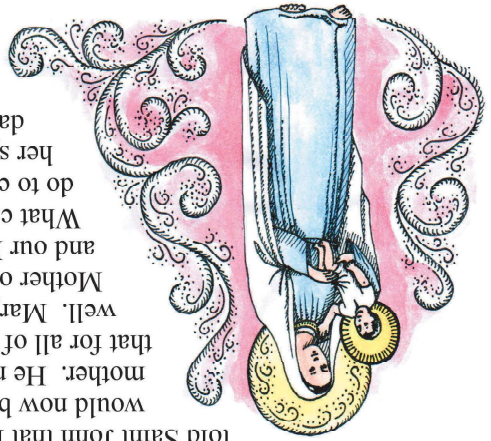
Saint André Bessette

January 7*

*His feast is January 7th in Canada, and January 6th in the U.S.

On the first day of the year we celebrate the feast day of Mary, the Mother of God. If you didn't have a mother and God let you design your own mother, what would she be like? Well, God did get to make His own Mother! Can you even imagine how perfect she was?

When Jesus was dying on the Cross, he told Saint John that Mary would now be his mother. He meant that for all of us as well. Mary is the Mother of God and our Mother! What can you do to celebrate her special day?



The Kids' Bulletin

Mary the Mother of God: January 1st, 2022
&
Feast of the Epiphany: January 2 or 6, 2022



The feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord is a special part of the Christmas season! What are we celebrating on this feast?

Connect the dots to find out!

Answers to the Wise Men Puzzle:
Top: 3, 6, Middle: 5, 1. Bottom: 2, 4.

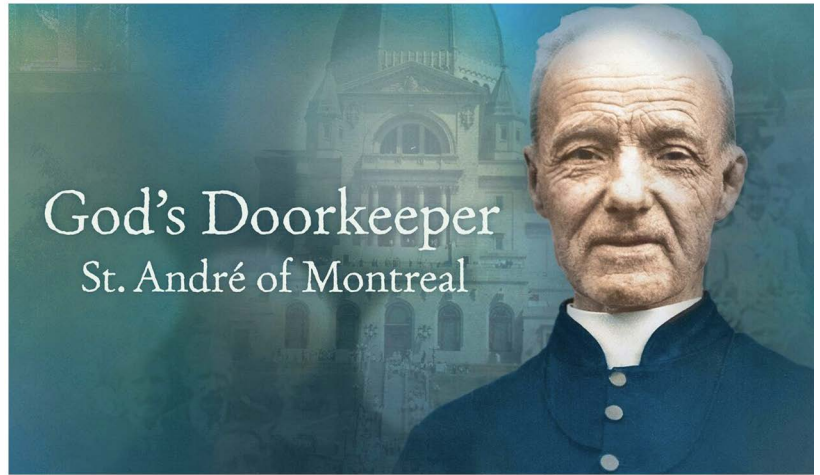
www.thekidsbulletin.com

January 2, 2022

WATCH

GOD'S DOORKEEPER: ST. ANDRÉ OF MONTREAL

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



FORMED NOW! HOW TO PRAY

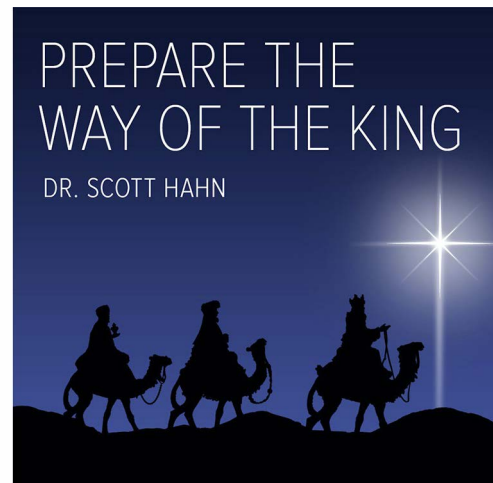
Whether you are a veteran in the spiritual life or are just beginning, start this year off right by recommitting yourself to prayer! Join Drs. Tim Gray and Elizabeth Klein as they discuss ways to kickstart your prayer life this year!

LEARN

LISTEN

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

As we celebrate the Epiphany, Dr. Scott Hahn explains how we should understand the three Magi and their gifts to the Lord!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

The Magi from our Gospel studied the skies carefully. Though we may know more about astronomy now, they were the best kind of scientist because they were happy to follow the truth wherever it led them.



Photo: Adobe Stock

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

The Magi from our Gospel studied the skies carefully. Our study of astronomy has built so much upon their work that we might not recognize them as scientists. But they were the best kind of scientist because they were happy to follow the truth wherever it led them.

St. Thomas Aquinas taught that all truth is God's truth. That's why people of faith like Fr. Georges Lemaitre who discovered the Big Bang are such good scientists. Like the Magi or wise men, they trust that following the truth will lead us to God. If your children are interested in science, introduce them to resources like the Magis Center that reveal the compatibility of faith and science.

Isaiah 60:1-6

All shall come to Jerusalem proclaiming the praises of God.

Psalms 72

Every nation on earth will adore the Lord!

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

The Gentiles are copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-12

The star led them to the true king.

At Home with Faith

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season!

December 25-January 9

Learn more at archseattle.org/christmas

Share with your child the good news about faith and science:

- **Show your child the Wikipedia entry on Science and the Catholic Church:** Ordinarily, we would want to be cautious about using Wikipedia to teach our children. The site can be edited by anyone, it changes frequently and isn't always even handed in it's presentation of the faith. Having said that, currently, the entry on Science and the Catholic Church does a good job of showing how our faith has embraced and fostered scientific development.
- **Share the Magis Center with your child:** The website magiscenter.com provides lots of great, free information for your child to explore and find out more about how our faith and science complement one another.



The Magi used their knowledge to lead them to God.

Then, they paid him homage.

For more on the Year of the Family, visit <https://archseattle.org/yof>

“The Second Vatican Council spoke of the need for ‘a positive and prudent sex education’ to be imparted to children and adolescents ‘as they grow older’, with ‘due weight being given to the advances in the psychological, pedagogical and didactic sciences’. We may well ask ourselves if our educational institutions have taken up this challenge. It is not easy to approach the issue of sex education in an age when sexuality tends to be trivialized and impoverished. It can only be seen within the broader framework of an education for love, for mutual self-giving. In such a way, the language of sexuality would not be sadly impoverished but illuminated and enriched.”

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) #280

Our faith respects the disciplines of science and the important contribution scientific knowledge can make to improving our lives. At the same time, those who study and practice the sciences should follow the example of the wise men in the Gospel. The Magi used their knowledge to lead them to God. Then, they paid him homage. We should always ensure that we use the powers of science to foster a deeper respect for God and our fellow human beings.

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>



SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

- Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12
- Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
- Next Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

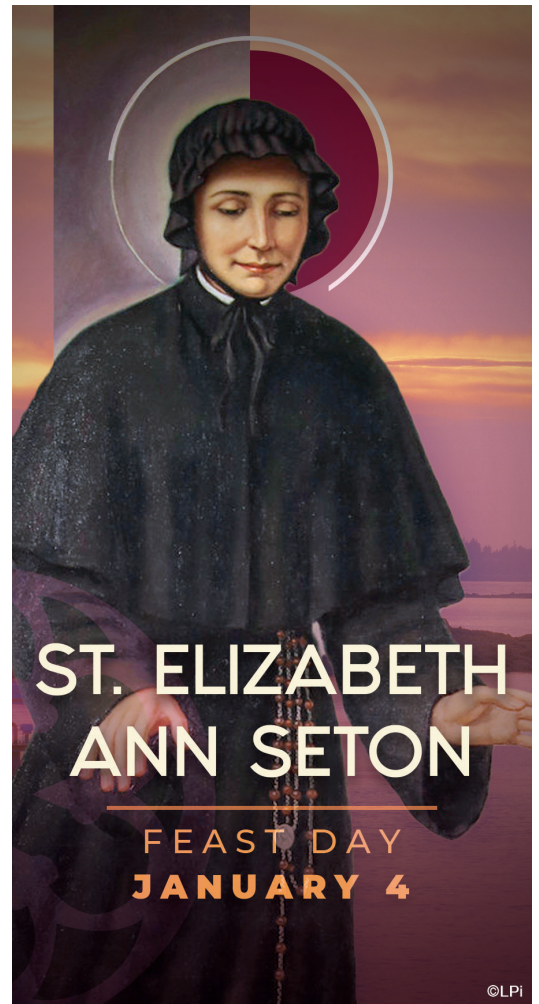
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
- Monday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Tuesday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
- Wednesday:** St. John Neumann, Bishop
- Thursday:** St. André Bessette, Religious
- Friday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
- Next Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Human beings easily get bored. Life's routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God's creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)



PSALM

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)



SECOND READING

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)



GOSPEL

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

Answer:

This is a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

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**“And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”**

- Mt 2:6

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time of great joy for Israel when nations and kings would come to Israel praising the Lord. How do you show gratitude to the Lord for the greatjoys of your life?

Second Reading

It was revealed to Paul that God intended to save all people (Jews and Gentiles) through his Son, Jesus Christ. Paul tried to convey the significance of this revelation to the Ephesians by using the language of “coheirs” and “copartners.” What does this language signal to you?

Gospel Reading

The visit of the magi is one of the most well-known stories from the Gospel infancy narratives. It was an event that manifested God's revelation of His newborn Son to the world. It also foreshadowed the threat that some would experience because of Jesus. How does Jesus challenge the status quo even today?

STAR

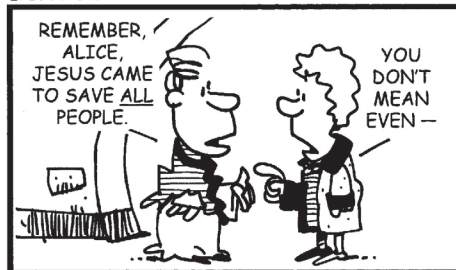
They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.


MATTHEW 2:10

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EPIPHANY





LORD,
EVERY NATION
ON EARTH
ADORES YOU.

PSALM 72

*They were
overjoyed at
seeing the star,
and on entering
the house they
saw the child
with Mary his
mother. They
prostrated
themselves
and did him
homage. Then
they opened
their treasures
and offered him
gifts of gold,
frankincense,
and myrrh.
- Mt 2:10-11*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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KIDS CORNER

READ THE
GOSPEL AND
COMPLETE A
PUZZLE!

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

~~wise men~~

child

born

king

star

worship

Mary

gifts

dream

wsie mne

W i s e m e n

brno

___ ___ ___ ___

knig

___ ___ ___ ___

derma

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

cildh

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

wrsohpi

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Mrya

___ ___ ___ ___

gfsti

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

srta

___ ___ ___ ___

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night the sky looks a little different. When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for making the planets and stars so the wise men could find Jesus.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.



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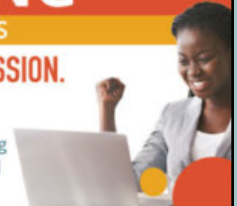
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