

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

# ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Archdiocese of Seattle



## St. Columban Church

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Daily Mass 9:00 AM (Tuesday-Friday, Except First Fridays)

Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 PM

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Baptism & Wedding Preparation

Contact the Parish Office

## St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM | First Friday Mass 9:00 AM

Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 AM

Anointing of the Sick By request

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

Parish Office Hours at St. Columban Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

## January 8 2023

## Epiphany of the Lord

**Entrance Antiphon:** *Arise Jerusalem and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.*

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6

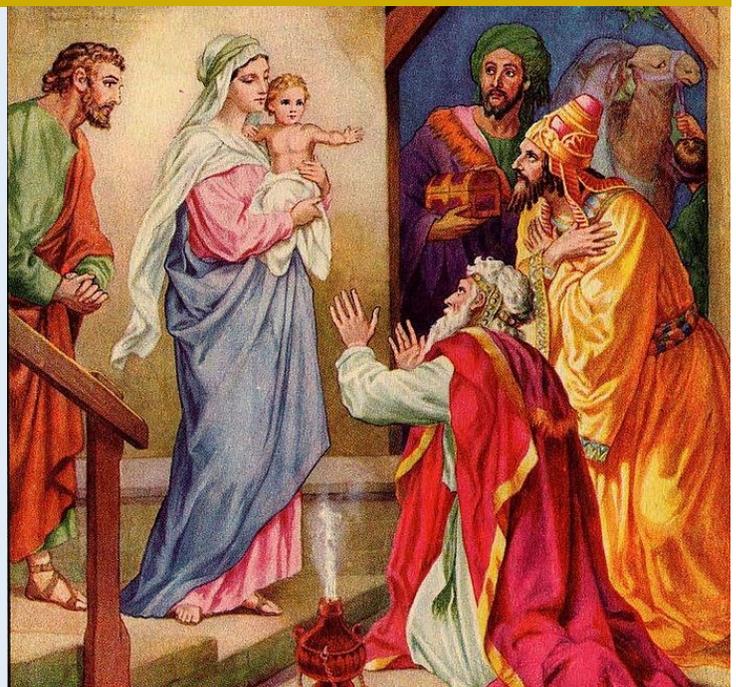
**Responsorial Psalm:** *Lord, every nation on Earth will adore you.*

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** *We saw his star rising and have come to do 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.*



[www.saintcolumbanyelm.org](http://www.saintcolumbanyelm.org)

360-458-3031

[parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

## Parish Staff

360-458-3031

**Fr. Brian Thompson** Priest Administrator  
[frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org) Ext 6

**Jennifer Langham** PA for Admin, Liturgy, and Music  
[jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org) Ext. 1

**Holly Dodd** PA for Admin, Bookkeeping, & Records  
[holly@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:holly@saintcolumbanyelm.org) Ext. 4

**Gabriela Makinster** Elementary & Adult Faith Formation  
[gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org) *habla Español* Ext. 2

**Chad Lucero** Youth Ministry  
[chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org) Ext. 3

**Steve Slater** St. Columban Maintenance  
[steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

**Gilberto Espino** St. Peter Maintenance

### St. Columban Parish Pastoral Council

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier,  
 Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

### St. Peter Advisory Commission

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

### St. Columban Parish Finance Council

Joseph Judge (St Columban)  
 Mari Evans (St Peter)

## Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

**MONDAY January 9** Baptism of the Lord  
 Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

**TUESDAY January 10**  
 Mass 9:00AM *Int: Pam Walker* Church  
 Choir Practice 6:00PM Church  
 RCIA 6:30PM RE Building  
 Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Parish Hall

**WEDNESDAY January 11**  
 Mass 9:00 AM + *In Mem: Sr. Veronica Davenport RIP* Church

**THURSDAY January 12**  
 Mass 9:00 AM + *In Mem: Antonio Fregoso RIP* Church  
 Sunday Scripture Study 6:30 PM Sm. Hall

**FRIDAY January 13** St. Hilary Bishop & Doctor  
 Mass 9:00 AM *Int. Antonio Rojas & Socorro Valencia* Church  
 Homeschool Enrichment 10:15 AM RE Building

**SATURDAY January 14**  
 Confessions 3:30 PM Church  
 Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00 PM *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

**SUNDAY January 15** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
 Confession 7:30-7:45 AM St. Peter  
 Sunday Mass 8:00 AM *Int.: Pro Populo* St. Peter

Sunday Mass 10:30 AM *Int.: Pro Populo* Church  
 Faith Formation (Grades K-5) 9:00-10:15 AM RE Building  
 Youth Bible Study (Grades 6-12) 9:15-10:00 AM Small Hall  
 Confirmation Preparation 11:45-1:00 PM RE Building

### Week of December 24, 2022

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$4,512.10	\$1,030.00
Online Giving	\$1,909.21	\$15.00
Net	<b>\$621.31</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>
<b>Special Funds</b>		
St Vincent DePaul	\$57.75	\$0.00
Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Flowers	\$2.00	\$0.00
Building Fund	\$105.35	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$0.00	\$0.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$0.00	\$0.00

## Area Mass times for Monday, January 9



**BAPTISM  
OF THE  
LORD**

St. Michael Olympia 12:00PM  
 Sacred Heart Lacey 9:00AM  
 St. Joseph Tacoma 8:00AM

# A Word from Father Thompson



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+23**

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!

In Christ,

## Remember in Your Prayers

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

### **The Sick and Homebound**

Jessica Nash, Robert Fisher, Mary Taylor,  
John Gallwas, Dan Kavanaugh, Vivienne Hayden

### **The Deceased**

Paul Hennigan

### **Extraordinary Intentions**

+ All those in harm’s way, for the people of Ukraine

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

*To add a name to this list or request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office. All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes.*

*St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. To join contact the parish office.*

# Elementary Faith Formation

Gaby Makinster 360-458-3031 x2 *habla Español* gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Celebrating Epiphany with Catholic kids (link will be on the fb page)



- Bless your house with Chalk and say the prayer of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar (**See Father's letter on p.3**)
- Read the Epiphany story in Matthew 2: 1-12
- Make paper crowns to wear and decorate them.
- Make beautiful star ornaments from popsicle sticks.
- Bake a King's Cake together and share it.
- Save one present for each person to give on Epiphany or "Little Christmas."
- Go out and look at the stars and imagine what it would have been like following a star.

## Act of Faith

Jesus, I believe in you.  
Jesus, I hope in you.  
Jesus, I love you.  
Amen.

## Morning Offering

God, our Father, I offer you today all that I think and do and say. I offer it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

**Tuition is now Due**

**Faith Formation: Grades K-12**

All K-5 classes meet before Mass from 9AM-10:15AM on Sundays.

**Jan 15th NO Class /MLK**

# RCIA & Adult Faith Formation



The next class is Tuesday January 10th at 6:30pm in the Religious Education Building.

**The topic is:** Introduction to the Sacraments– Baptism

Understand what the Sacraments are, how and why the church has them.

**Understand Your Catholic Faith with  
*The Catechism in a Year* Podcast  
with Fr. Mike Schmitz!**

*What the Catholic Church Teaches*

**1279** The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this very fact the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ.

**1280** Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, the character, which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship. Because of the character Baptism cannot be repeated (cf. Denzinger *Enchiridion symbolorum* 1609 and 1624).

Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1279 & 1280

By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

**Get the FREE Reading Plan!**

Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!

[www.ascensionpress.com/ciy](http://www.ascensionpress.com/ciy)



# Youth Ministry & Confirmation



Sunday Scripture Study meets 9:15-10AM. Confirmation classes meet after Mass 11:45-1:00PM. Same dates as Elementary Faith Formation. All Confirmation students must sign-in for Sunday Mass; sign-in sheet is posted in the Narthex. **YM Saturday** January 21 9am-2pm. POC: Chad Lucero [chad@saintcolumbnayelm.org](mailto:chad@saintcolumbnayelm.org)

## Our Values

- 1 Our primary identity is as beloved sons and beloved daughters of God, no matter what.** You are here because God wanted you here. Willing our existence, God create each of us out of love to love and for love.
- 2 We glorify God by striving to fully live our state in life.** God gave us families and communities where we learn our faith, pray for each other's needs, and build virtue together as members of his Church, the Body of Christ.
- 3 As pilgrims on a journey together we are always on mission.** We attend Holy Mass and receive the sacraments to better endure the trials of life, train us to be of service to one another, and to prepare us for eternal life in Heaven.



## Hey Parents!

Mandatory Parent & Sponsor Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 22, during Confirmation Classes in the RE building (immediately following the Breakfast). For every parent of a first or second year confirmation candidate. Sponsors who live in the area are strongly encouraged to attend.



## Youth Ministry Saturday: Fortify Your Faith

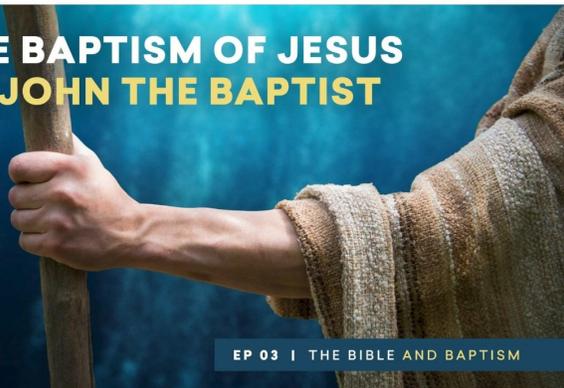
January 21, 9am-2pm, Parish Hall  
A Mini-Retreat for everyone Grades 6-12

- Icebreakers and Prayer
- All about the Winter Coat Closet
- Learn about the Brown Scapular
- Potluck meal, bring a dish or a dessert item to share
- Special movie screening



## FORMED The Catholic Faith. On Demand.

### THE BAPTISM OF JESUS BY JOHN THE BAPTIST



EP 03 | THE BIBLE AND BAPTISM

### The Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist The Bible and Baptism Episode 3

Dr. John Sehorn joins Fr. Isaac Morales, OP, a Dominican friar of the Province of Saint Joseph and Associate Professor of Theology at Providence College. This episode highlights the significance of Jesus' baptism at the hands of his cousin, John the Baptist.

Our parish pays for a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service, allowing you to register for FREE:

1. Visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)
2. Enter our parish zip or name
3. Enter your name and email



# Parish Ministries & Events



Please contact Jennifer at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with our various parish groups: 360-458-3031 x1 [jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org)



## Altar Society

Meets every Thursday after Daily Mass to clean the church.



## Knights of Columbus®

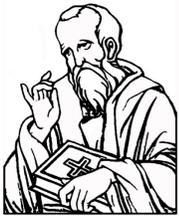
Council 17152

### Next Council Meeting

January 19th  
5:30PM Church  
6PM Hall

### Next Breakfast

January 22nd following Sunday Mass



## St. Peter's Circle

*St. Peter Mission Tenino*

Meets Bi-monthly

### Next Meeting

January 10th  
9:30 AM

# Daughters of Mary

*Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month*

10:00 AM in the Religious Education Building Rm. 103

Also Available via Zoom

**Next Meeting is Tuesday January 10th**

*All Women of the Parish are Invited!*

Email us for more information at [daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org)



# Spaghetti Dinner



## Knights of Columbus®

*Let's enjoy one another's company over a plate of pasta once again.*

**Saturday January 28, 6:00 PM**

Tickets go on sale after Masses in January.

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

To request assistance please leave a voicemail  
(360) 458-1904

Monthly Meeting  
January 19th, 7:00 PM  
Parish Hall

# EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



# Views from the Christmas Children's Mass & Midnight Mass



## Outside Events



### Betrothed Retreat

January 28, 4pm – January 30, 1pm

\$385 per couple, or  
shared room: \$192.50 per person

Register:  
[tinyurl.com/2p9f4rfc](http://tinyurl.com/2p9f4rfc)



### The JP II Experience

Open House | Wednesday, January 11th | 6:30pm

Have you considered the value of a Catholic, college prep school? Visit our open house to experience the welcoming faith-filled community that everyone is talking about. Meet our exceptional teachers and coaches, talk with our students and parents, tour our state-of-the-art science lab.



Catholic



College Prep



Community

Scan the QR code to register for the JP II Experience Open House!



Due to our generous local parishes and other benefactors, financial assistance is available. For a personal tour call today! 360-438-7600

### High School Placement Test

Saturday, January 14th | 9am

Does your 8th grader need to take the HSPT? Register your student for our January 14th test by visiting our website: [www.popejp2hs.org](http://www.popejp2hs.org)! The HSPT can be shared with any school that accepts the test regardless of where it was proctored.

# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

## Week of January 08, 2023



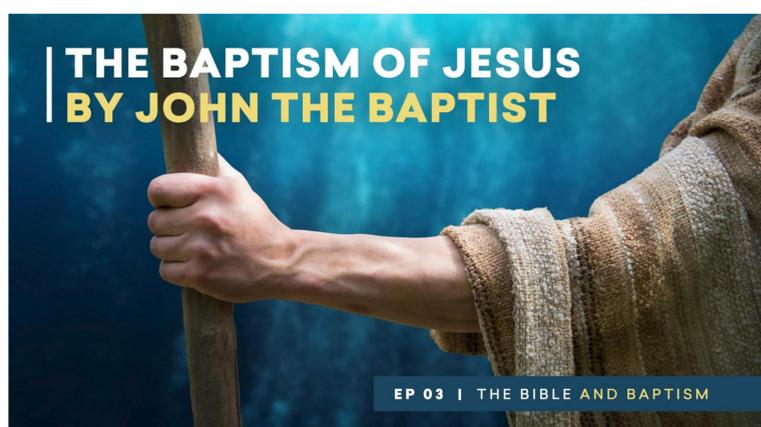
### A Bible Study on the Luminous Mysteries: The Baptism of Jesus (Part 1)

Why was Jesus baptized by John the Baptist and what does this mean for the Sacrament of Baptism? Sit down with Taylor Kemp and Dr. Michael Barber as they unpack the first Luminous Mystery of the Rosary.



### Reborn - Episode 1: A New Creation

This week, as we contemplate Jesus' Baptism, dive into the mystery of the Sacrament of Baptism! Through our Reborn series, you will come to understand the deeper meaning behind your Baptism!



### The Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist The Bible and Baptism Episode 3

Dr. John Sehorn joins Fr. Isaac Morales, OP, a Dominican friar of the Province of Saint Joseph and Associate Professor of Theology at Providence College. This episode highlights the significance of Jesus' baptism at the hands of his cousin, John the Baptist.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

**A Search for Truth**  
January 8, 2023  
Epiphany of the Lord



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

# At Home with Faith

**The Magi show us how a close and careful study of the beauty of creation will lead us to our Creator.** Take a moment to share your own love for the beauty and order of God's creation.



## 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](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

The Magi from Matthew's Gospel provide us an illustration of an important principle taught by St. Augustine: observing the order and beauty of creation leads us to an encounter with God.

*"Question the beauty of the earth, question the beauty of the sea, question the beauty of the air . . . question all these realities. All respond: 'see we are beautiful.' . . . Who made these beauties subject to change if not the Beautiful One who is not subject to change."*

Our faith encourages us to explore the truths of science and philosophy, knowing that a patient, thorough exploration of these truths will lead us closer to God, just as a thorough exploration of astronomy led the magi to Jesus.

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense and praising the Lord.

**Psalms 72**

Every nation on earth will adore you.

**Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

The Gentiles are co-heirs and co-partners in the promise of Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 2:1-12**

The Magi come to pay homage to Jesus.

# At Home with Faith

## Talk

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

From Deacon Eric Paige:

The Magis' study of astronomy and philosophy led them to Jesus. Share with your children your love of a particular art or science. Whether we are an engineer, a graphic designer, a nurse, whatever our profession — we depend upon the order, reliability and beauty of God's creation to practice our art or science. Also, excellence in our hobbies such as fishing, carpentry, sports or gardening depend on observing the patterns of creation.

I remember how I discovered the need to pay attention to the many things that go into growing a garden: seasons, the soil and the plants themselves. The closer attention you pay to those things, the more you discover the beauty and complexity of God's creation.

Take a moment to share something about how a search for truth or going deeper in understanding an art or science increased your appreciation of the beauty and order of God's creation.

Celebrate the Christmas season with us! Visit <https://archseattle.org/Christmas/>



Photo: Adobe Stock

### **An Epiphany Blessing for Your Home (NW Catholic)**

<https://nwcatholic.org/voices/northwest-catholic/an-epiphany-blessing-for-your-home>

Learn about celebrating the feast of the Epiphany at home

### **Seeds of the Word - Your gold, your frankincense and your myrrh (NW Catholic)**

<https://nwcatholic.org/voices/mauricio-i-perez/seeds-of-the-word-your-gold-your-frankincense-and-your-myrrh>

Learn more about the gold frankincense and myrrh that the kings presented to the baby Jesus

### **Three Kings Cake (Rosca de Reyes)**

Article: <https://nwcatholic.org/voices/janet-cleaveland/a-catholic-home-epiphany-is-the-manifestation-of-all-we-love>

Recipe: <https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/three-kings-cake-rosca-de-reyes-recipe>

Learn about Three Kings Cake, a Spanish tradition showing reverence for the Christ child.

### **To learn more about the connection between faith and science, check out the Magis Center website:**

<https://www.magiscenter.com/>

**For more resources, visit us online at:**

<https://www.athomewithfaith.org>



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

# 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. - Mt 2:10-11a

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

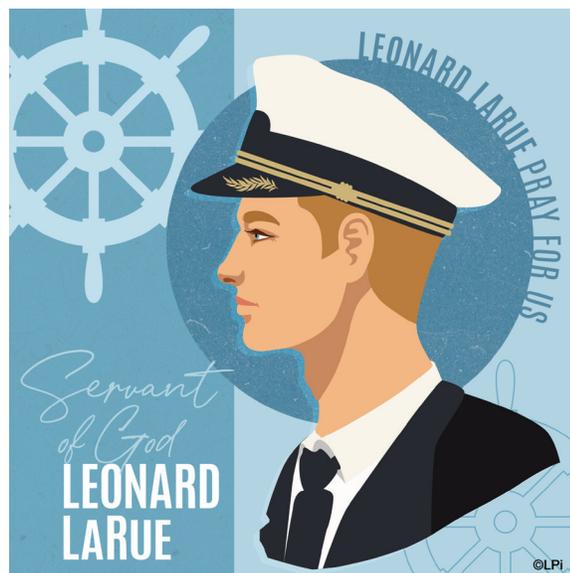
- Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
- Monday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 (11b)/Mt 3:13-17
- Tuesday:** Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9//Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17
- Next Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord
- Monday:** The Baptism of the Lord
- Friday:** St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

The offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh were carried by the magi over many miles of hard travel to be laid at the feet of Jesus. What gifts do we bear through the journey of life to lay at the feet of the King? Do we protect them as we should?



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saving over 14,000 Korean refugees during the Korean war in what is still the largest marine rescue in the history of the world, Servant of God Leonard LaRue's bravery and love of the Lord inspired his cause for sainthood to be opened in 2021.

## PRAYER

God, our Father, Creator of the seas, Protector of refugees, and all those in need, You called Captain Leonard LaRue to recognize Your Son Jesus Christ in the faces of the Korean refugees, and led him as Brother Marinus to a life of prayer and service in the tradition of St. Benedict.

May his life be an inspiration to us and lead us to greater confidence in Your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the people of the sea, welcoming those who are refugees from war, and deepening all the faithful in their prayer and work of service.

We humbly ask that You glorify Your servant Captain Leonard LaRue/ Brother Marinus, O.S.B. on earth according to the design of Your holy will, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <http://www.aos-usa.org/pdf/Capt.-LaRue-Bro.-Marinus-O.S.B.-Prayer-for-the-Cause.pdf>)

# 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

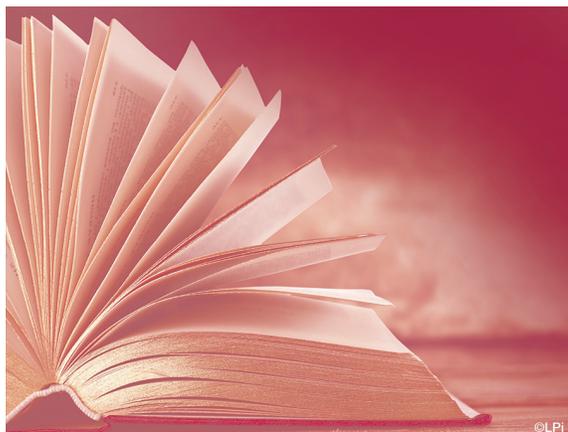
It was not made know to people in  
other generations  
as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and  
prophets by the Spirit:  
that the Gentiles are coheirs,  
members of the same body.  
(Eph 3:5-6)



## GOSPEL

“Where is the newborn king of  
the Jews?  
We saw his start 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

A friend of mine is a young priest who teaches high school physics at a Catholic boys' prep school. Like many today, the boys often think science and religion are enemies. So, he delights in their raised eyebrows when he reminds them his first full-time job as a priest was to be an astrophysicist. He cataloged the size, shape, and matter of distant stars. He tells them, “Science gave me more love for God, not less.”

The Magi were something like scientist-astronomers. Like today's scientists, they employed disciplined methods of discovering dependable patterns in the world. Their rigorous commitment to the truth led them to the joy of discovering Jesus. Their love for knowledge leads them to worship the Source of all knowledge. Luke says of them, “**They were overjoyed at seeing the star.**”

We may see the universe as cold and empty and feel sad. But why should we do that? The Magi, like my priest-friend, show us there is another way to experience the world. We use our intelligence to discover the beautiful patterns in the world — in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology, neuroscience, and so on — and allow this to lead us to greater love for God. So, my fellow Magi: the world needs us to be overjoyed at finding God in science and, finally and fully, in Jesus.

— *Father John Muir*

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### Faith and Fear

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear.

But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed.

But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? *"All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him."* — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action.

So, then, it should move us all.

*We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage.* — Matthew 2:2

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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### WHY DO WE DO THAT?

#### Catholic Life Explained:

##### Question:

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

##### Answer:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

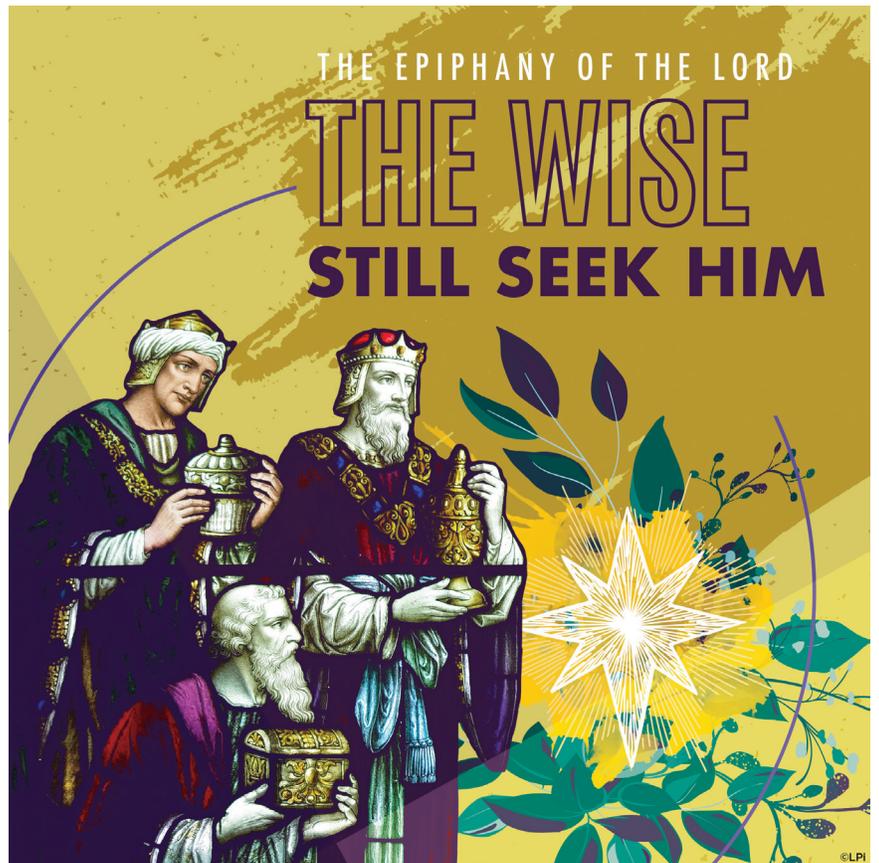
Nearly five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when all the nations of the world would see the glory of the Lord shining upon the people of Israel. How do you think the birth of Jesus reveals to the world the glory of God?

### Second Reading

Paul wrote of the “mystery” that was revealed to him, namely, the Gentiles and the Jews (all believers) were “coheirs” and “copartners,” equal members in the body of Christ. How can we celebrate this wonderful message of inclusivity with others?

### Gospel Reading

Matthew includes the story of the visit of the magi to teach us how the birth of Jesus fulfills the prophecies of Isaiah (first reading) and the prophecies of Micah (Mi 5:1), the prophetic text that Matthew quotes. Who are some people today you think need to hear about Jesus?



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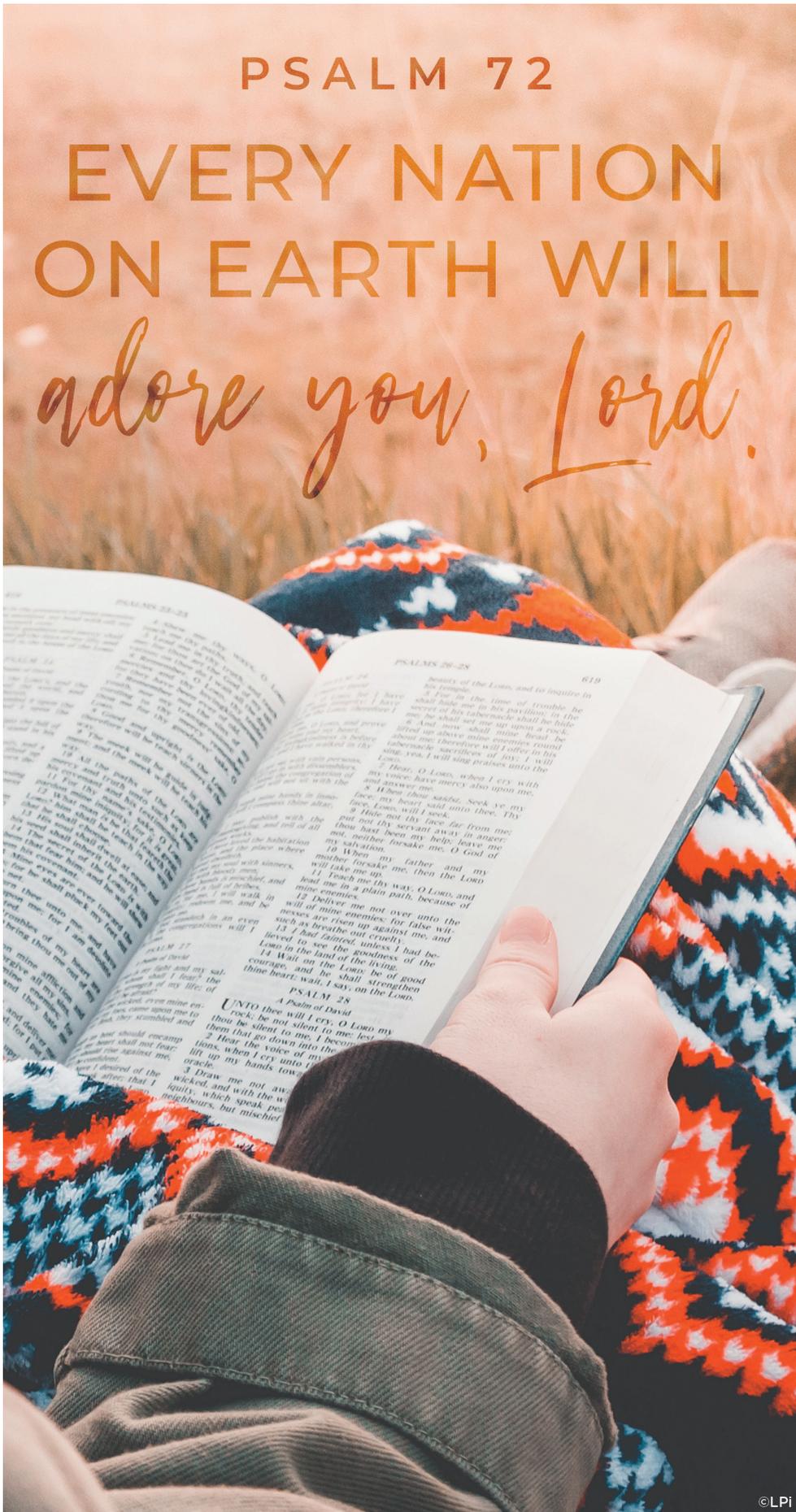
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Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

- Mt 2:1b-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
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PSALM 72

EVERY NATION  
ON EARTH WILL  
*adore you, 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.*

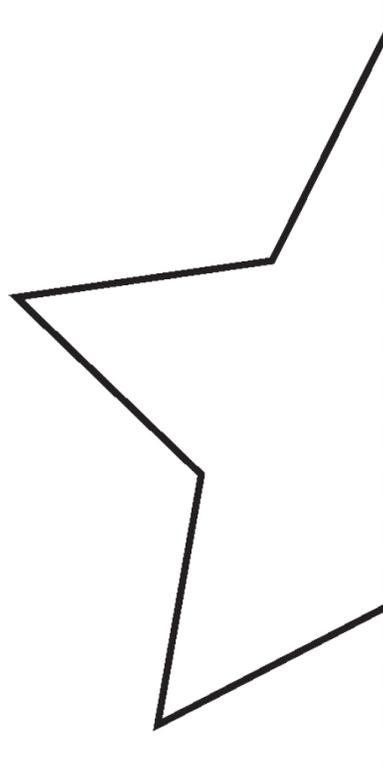
*- Mt 2:10-11*

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# KIDS CORNER

READ THE  
GOSPEL AND  
COMPLETE A  
PUZZLE!

Can you draw the second half of this star?



## SHARING THE GOSPEL

When Jesus was born, angels sang. I'll bet you never thought stars could sing for Jesus, too. But the stars in the sky sang in their own way, just by moving and twinkling in the sky. The Savior was born. Jesus was the King that God's people had been waiting for. Magi who had been watching the sky saw a star much brighter than the rest. They followed that star until they found Jesus, and they worshipped their new king.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for making the stars move and twinkle in a special way, so that the Magi could find Jesus.

## MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Ask your family if you can visit a planetarium, or look through a special telescope, so you can see the stars God made.





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