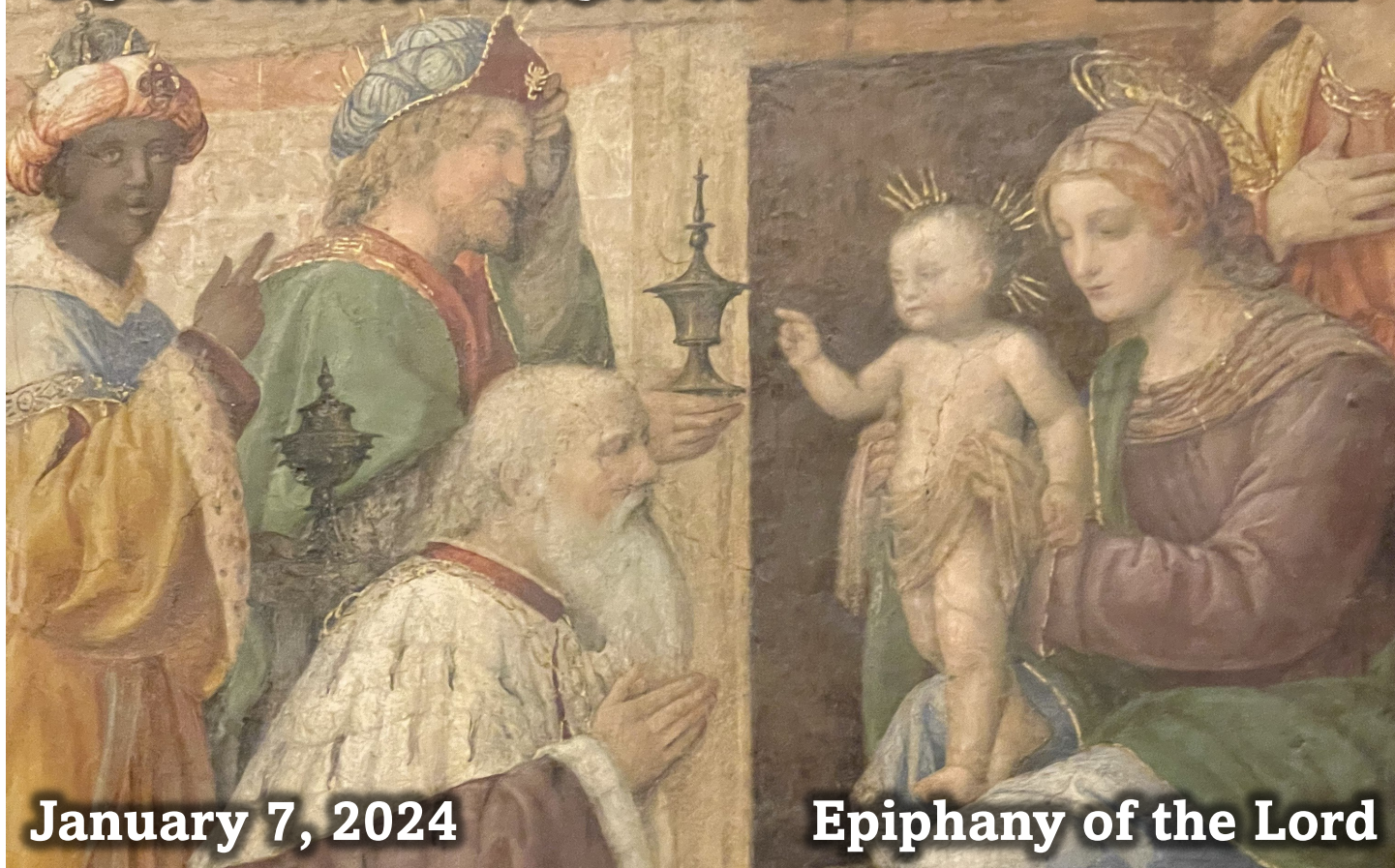


Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle



January 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord

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. 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

Sacramental Emergencies: 208-572-5251 *The church may be open for prayer during office hours upon request.*

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

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 72 "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

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

Gospel Acclamation: *We saw his star at its 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.*

On the Cover *Adoration of the Magi* Bernardino Luini

Welcome to St. Columban

Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY January 8 The Baptism of the Lord

Rosary Prayer Group 7 p.m. Church

TUESDAY January 9

Mass 9:00 a.m. +In mem: Larry & Sherry Chadderton RIP Church

St. Peter Circle St. Peter

Winter Clothes Closet 6:00PM-8:00 p.m. Small Hall

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30 PM Hall

WEDNESDAY January 10

Mass 9:00 a.m. Church

Bible Study 10:00 a.m. St. Peter

Winter Clothes Closet 2-4 p.m. Small Hall

THURSDAY January 11

Mass 9:00 a.m. Church

Winter Clothes Closet 6-8 p.m. Small Hall

Choir Practice 6 p.m. Church

Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Small Hall

FRIDAY January 12

Mass 9:00 a.m. Church

Homeschool Enrichment 9:45 a.m. RE Bldg

SATURDAY January 13 St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Confession 3:30PM Church

Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00PM Int.: Pro Populo Church

SUNDAY January 14 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Confession 7:30-7:45AM St. Peter

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM Int.: Pro Populo St. Peter

Sunday Mass 10:30 AM Int.: Pro Populo Church

No Religious Education Classes (Elementary & Confirmation)



We proclaim the Roman Catholic faith to the communities of McKenna, Nisqually, Rainier, Roy, Tenino, and Yelm in southeast Thurston and southwest Pierce counties.

Our community has grown since its origins at the former St. Margaret Mary Church in McKenna, and our current church in Yelm is named for the Irish-born 6th century missionary to Europe St. Columbanus of Bobbio. We have also been present in Tenino since 1891 through St. Peter Mission, named for the apostle and first pope.

Are you registered? Registration ensures that we know you are here, makes us aware of your needs and gifts, but most of all it helps us to welcome you to the parish! Stop by and introduce yourselves! The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday, 9:30am to 2:00pm or call us for an appointment on Fridays. You may also register online at saintcolumbanyelm.org/

Announcements

Epiphany Chalk to bless your house will be available after all Masses this weekend.

Thank you to all who helped with the decorating and clean-up of our Christmas decorations, especially the Altar Society.

Thank you to all who participated in this years Giving Tree which raised \$3,111 in Gift Cards and helped 18 families (39 kids) this Christmas. SVDP is overwhelmed by your generosity and sends their thanks to all who donated.

Please be aware of email scams! Official emails will only originate from our staff emails with our domain saintcolumbanyelm.org or from flocknote.com, or ccbchurch.com. We will never directly solicit for non-official donations or items to purchase by email or text. Donations and fundraisers will always be announced during Mass.

Announcements continue on page 4.

Connect with us

WEBSITE saintcolumbanyelm.org

LIVESTREAM

youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/saintcolumbanyelm

ONLINE GIVING

pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm

PARISH STAFF

(360) 458-3031

Fr. Brian Thompson In Office: Tu-Th/AM

Priest Administrator

frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org x6

Jennifer Langham In Office: M-Thu

PA for Admin, Liturgy, & Music

jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org x1

Matthew Tolar In Office: M-Tu/AM

PA for Admin, Bookkeeping & Records

matthew@saintcolumbanyelm.org x4

Gabriela Makinster In Office: Tu-Th
Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org x2
*habla Español

Chad Lucero
Youth Ministry & Confirmation
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org x3

Steven Slater St. Columban Maintenance

steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance

gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org

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+24

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 “24” 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.

In Christ

F. Thompson

*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*



FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND*

Stan Villadelgado,
Robert Fisher, Tina
Wilson, Marcella
Thornton, Grace Dvorak.

FOR THE DECEASED

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

FOR OUR EXTRAORDINARY INTENTIONS

All those in harm’s way,
especially those
experiencing natural
disasters and terrorism.

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE POPE FOR JANUARY

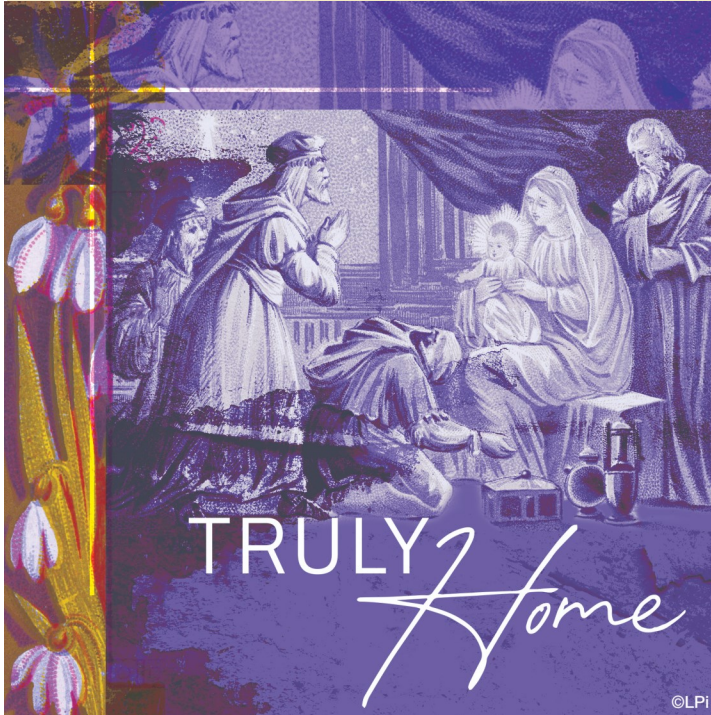
For the Gift of Diversity in
the Church: Let us pray
that the Spirit help us
recognize the gift of
different charisms within
the Christian community,
and to discover the
richness of different ritual
traditions in the heart of
the Catholic Church. *Our
Father..., Hail Mary...,
Glory Be...*

*The church may be open
for prayer during office
hours upon request.*

*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.

Ministries & Events

Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for many years, we encourage you to share your time, talents and treasures in support of the mission of our parish community. Contact Jennifer Langham at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with a group: 360-458-3031x1 / jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Outside Events & Notices

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Retreats: "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning." Don't wait – take time now for your marriage by participating on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Feb 9-11, 2024 at LaQuinta in Tacoma, Mar 8-10, 2024, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, Apr 26-28, 2024 in Everett. Visit www.me.org or contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321

Project Rachel—Hope and Healing After Abortion English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 projectrachel@ccsww.org If you are suffering from the experience of an abortion, you do not need to walk alone. We offer a compassionate and confidential environment for those who suffer the effects of an abortion. Find hope and healing after abortion at Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

Altar Society

A team of talented parishioners beautifully maintain and clean the Church every Thursday after Daily Mass.

Daughters of Mary

daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org
All women of the Parish are invited. Next monthly meeting is **Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Bring your favorite snack to share!

Liturgical Ministries

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Altar Servers, Choir, Greeters/Ushers, Readers
Thanks to all who helped with our Christmas Masses!

Knights of Columbus

kofc@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Council 17152 and Assembly 3742 meets monthly third Wednesdays of every month. Next meeting **Jan. 17, 5:30 p.m.**
Open to all Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism and to the defense of the priesthood.

Next Sunday Breakfast Jan. 21 following the 10:30 Mass.
Knights please come help starting at 8 a.m. All Parishioners are welcome to eat; donations accepted to help offset costs.

Spaghetti Dinner Saturday January 27 following the 5 p.m. Mass. Tickets are on sale after Sunday Masses.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

360-458-1904
Our chapter is composed of parishioners who provide assistance and prayerful healing to those in need in our community. Members meet weekly and monitor the helpline.

St. Peter Circle

360-264-4856
Second Tuesdays every other month, beginning in January at St. Peter Tenino. Next meeting this Tuesday Jan. 9.

Prayer Groups

Rosary group Mondays 7 PM in the Church,
Spanish Group Tuesdays 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall

Winter Clothes Closet

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00-8:00PM and Wednesdays from 2:00PM-4:00PM October thru March. Donations of Coats, Knit Caps, Gloves, Warm socks, Scarves, Raincoats, and Rain boots are always welcome. Please remember that all donations should be of the highest quality, something you would wear. Donation boxes are located in the narthex.

Financial Stewardship Report

Give Online using Pushpay
St. Columban



St. Peter



	Week of Dec. 10		Week of Dec. 17	
Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$4,769.13	\$1,519.00	\$3,133.00	\$793.97
Online Giving	\$2,225.00	\$230.00	\$650.00	\$220.00
Net	\$1,194.13	\$749.00	(\$2,017.00)	\$13.97
Holy Day	\$412.00	\$0.00	\$66.00	\$116.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Sacramentals	\$30.02	\$17.00	\$26.64	\$0.00
(Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)				
Flowers	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$1,257.37	\$0.00
Building Fund	\$270.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$135.00	\$0.00
Second Collection	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$365.00	\$0.00
(Catholic Community Services)				

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 • Parish Finance Council Joseph Judge (St Columban), Mari Evans (St Peter)

Faith Formation

Elementary Religious Education

Links to related articles & blogs will be posted in the emailed bulletin and on our social media channels.



Celebrating the Epiphany with kids.

There is so much to love about the Christmas season. But today is my ultimate favorite. In our family we celebrate with the Kings bread and when they are all cutting and waiting anxiously to see if they have the baby that is the best part for me! Just a reminder of the excitement we should have in searching for Christ every day of our life! Enough about me.



Here is the list of ways to celebrate.

- Bless your home and household on Epiphany
- Send the magi on a journey through your house
- Hold a procession of the magi
- Eat King's Cake
- Celebrate Twelfth Night (12th day of Christmas) with a family feast. See link in E-bulletin
- Give a small gift of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (I buy soaps, lotions or deodorants. I use gold chocolate coins).

Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)/Adult Faith Formation

Classes meet Tuesdays 6:30-8pm in the Religious Education building. These classes are open to all adult learners and to those seeking the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Next Class is January 9th and the lesson will be an introduction to the Sacraments. Fr. Thompson will be our instructor. Fr. Thompson will help us understand what the sacraments are, how many are there and why the church has them. We will also understand more about the sacrament of Baptism



Youth Ministry & Confirmation (Gr. 6-12)

Join us for fellowship & discipleship! Youth Ministry meet monthly for a mini-retreat and weekly for on Wednesday evenings for faith sharing. Contact Mr. Lucero for schedule. No Confirmation classes resume January 14; next class January 21.

Mrs. Makinster
Elementary & Adult Faith
Formation,
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org
360-458-3031 x2 *habla Español*

At St. Columban, we provide an opportunity for children and youth to learn about their Catholic faith and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and community service.



Mr. Lucero
Youth Ministry & Confirmation



chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org
360-458-3031 x2 x3

Our Youth Ministry 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.

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires Israelitica dignitas (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel").



THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of January 07, 2024

Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Mass Readings: Epiphany of the Lord Lectionary Year B



First Reading: *Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.* (Is 60:1)

Isaiah foresaw a future when the Lord would use Israel as His instrument to shine His glory into the world. What could you do this week to show God's glory to others?

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)

St. Paul met a lot of resistance when he spoke of God's "revelation" that Gentiles are "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to outsiders?

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)

In the story of the magi's visit, we see the prophecies of Isaiah (our first reading) fulfilled with the treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh given to the Holy Family. What gift do you give to the Lord?

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Reflections, select clip art and content are ©LPi, our bulletin publisher.



What Do You Seek? | The Search | Episode 1

What is that deep longing in our hearts all about? We're all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? Watch Episode 1 of The Search to begin to answer this question.



Arianism

Is Jesus truly God? Learn about the fourth-century heresy, Arianism, and the derivative heresy of Apollinarianism.



Who Are the Magi?

In this FORMED Now! special episode, Dr. Michael Barber sits down to reflect on the Magi from the Gospel accounts and what spiritual lessons can be learned from this historical event recorded in Scripture.

Our Church has a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service with multitudes of Catholic videos, audiobooks, and e-books for the whole family. Go to formed.org/signup and enter our parish name to redeem your FREE membership. Once logged-in, access these suggestions at watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed
Search for FORMED in your device's app store to watch on the go or on your TV.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and ignatius press

EPIPHANY



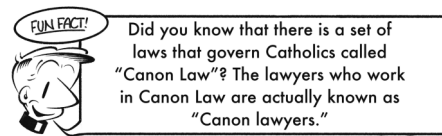
Father Flood © LPi



"What do you call a Catholic priest who became a lawyer?"



"A Father-in-law!"



Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis de Sales

CHAPTER I. What true Devotion is.

YOU aim at a devout life, dear child, because as a Christian you know that such devotion is most acceptable to God's Divine Majesty. But seeing that the small errors people are wont to commit in the beginning of any undertaking are apt to wax greater as they advance, and to become irreparable at last, it is most important that you should thoroughly understand wherein lies the grace of true devotion;—and that because while there undoubtedly is such a true devotion, there are also many spurious and idle semblances thereof; and unless you know which is real, you may mistake, and waste your energy in pursuing an empty, profitless shadow. Arelus was wont to paint all his pictures with the features and expression of the women he loved, and even so we all color devotion according to our own likings and dispositions. One man sets great value on fasting, and believes himself to be leading a very devout life, so long as he fasts rigorously, although the while his heart is full of bitterness;—and while he will not moisten his lips with wine, perhaps not even with water, in his great abstinence, he does not scruple to steep them in his neighbor's blood, through slander and detraction. Another man reckons himself as devout because he repeats many prayers daily, although at the same time he does not refrain from all manner of angry, irritating, conceited or insulting speeches among his family and neighbors. This man freely opens his purse in almsgiving, but closes his heart to all gentle and forgiving feelings towards those who are opposed to him; while that one is ready enough to forgive his enemies, but will never pay his rightful debts save under pressure. Meanwhile all these people are conventionally called religious, but nevertheless they are in no true sense really devout. When Saul's servants sought to take David, Michal induced them to suppose that the lifeless figure lying in his bed, and covered with his garments, was the man they sought; and in like manner many people dress up an exterior with the visible acts expressive of earnest devotion, and the world supposes them to be really devout and spiritual-minded, while all the time they are mere lay figures, mere phantasms of devotion.

But, in fact, all true and living devotion presupposes the love of God;—and indeed it is neither more nor less than a very real love of God, though not always of the same kind; for that Love one while shining on the soul we call grace, which makes us acceptable to His Divine Majesty;—when it strengthens us to do well, it is called Charity;—but when it attains its fullest perfection, in which it not only leads us to do well, but to act carefully, diligently, and promptly, then it is called Devotion. The ostrich never flies,—the hen rises with difficulty, and achieves but a brief and rare flight, but the eagle, the dove, and the swallow, are continually on the wing, and soar high;—even so sinners do not rise towards God, for all their movements are earthly and earthbound. Well-meaning people, who have not as yet attained a true devotion, attempt a manner of flight by means of their good actions, but rarely, slowly and heavily; while really devout men rise up to God frequently, and with a swift and soaring wing. In short, devotion is simply a spiritual activity and live-

liness by means of which Divine Love works in us, and causes us to work briskly and lovingly; and just as charity leads us to a general practice of all God's Commandments, so devotion leads us to practice them readily and diligently. And therefore we cannot call him who neglects to observe all God's Commandments either good or devout, because in order to be good, a man must be filled with love, and to be devout, he must further be very ready and apt to perform the deeds of love. And forasmuch as devotion consists in a high degree of real love, it not only makes us ready, active, and diligent in following all God's Commands, but it also excites us to be ready and loving in performing as many good works as possible, even such as are not enjoined upon us, but are only matters of counsel or inspiration. Even as a man just recovering from illness, walks only so far as he is obliged to go, with a slow and weary step, so the converted sinner journeys along as far as God commands him but slowly and wearily, until he attains a true spirit of devotion, and then, like a sound man, he not only gets along, but he runs and leaps in the way of God's Commands, and hastens gladly along the paths of heavenly counsels and inspirations. The difference between love and devotion is just that which exists between fire and flame;—love being a spiritual fire which becomes devotion when it is fanned into a flame;—and what devotion adds to the fire of love is that flame which makes it eager, energetic and diligent, not merely in obeying God's Commandments, but in fulfilling His Divine Counsels and inspirations.

WHERE IS THE NEWBORN KING?

MT 2:2



SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

OVERJOYED AT SEEING THE STAR

MATTHEW 2:10

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

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)

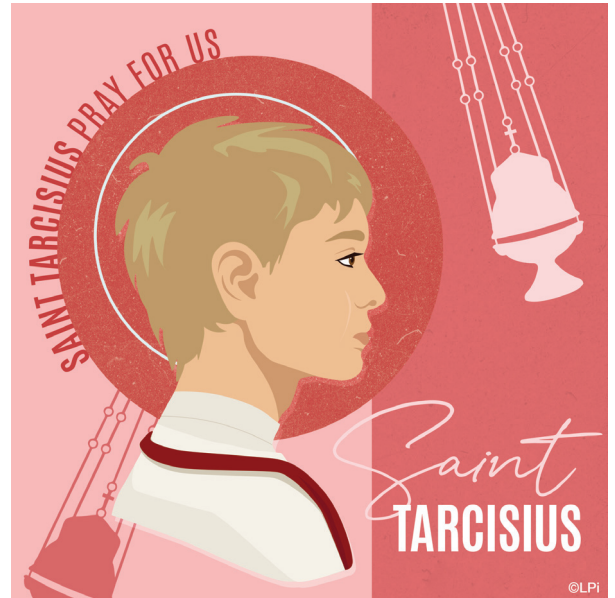
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Though the magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey God has planned for us this year.

Observances for the week of January 7, 2024

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



Saint of the week

St. Tarcisus was a 12-year-old boy who lived in 3rd-century Rome. Although much of what is known of him is from a poem written by Pope Damasus (366-384), he is considered an important martyr who protected the Eucharist from desecration with his life.

Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord,
With thanksgiving we entrust
our year to You: whatever it
holds, whoever we encounter,
wherever we traverse. What
You supply is gift. May our
comings and goings be aligned
with Your will. Amen.

Readings for the week of January 7, 2024

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 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1
Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10
(8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, “This place is boring. I want to go somewhere.” So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, “Where am I truly at home?”

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, **“They were overjoyed at seeing the star.”** This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you’re a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, “Follow me! I will take you home!” Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

— Father John Muir



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory."
— Isaiah 60:2

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, 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 2:1-2

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Isaiah foresaw a future when the Lord would use Israel as His instrument to shine His glory into the world. What could you do this week to show God's glory to others?

Second Reading

Paul met a lot of resistance when he spoke of God's "revelation" that Gentiles are "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to outsiders?

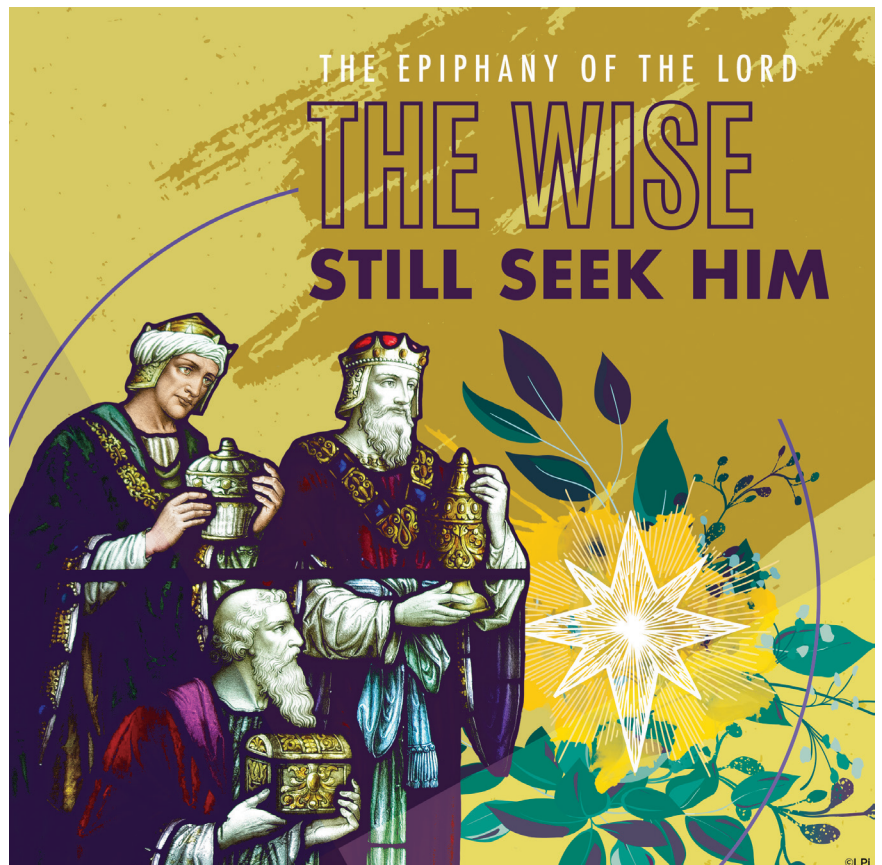
Gospel Reading

In the story of the magi's visit, we see the prophecies of Isaiah (our first reading) fulfilled with the treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh given to the Holy Family. What gift do you give to the Lord?



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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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Prayer

God, thank you for all the people who helped me find Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.

Sharing the Gospel

Jigsaw puzzles are fun. Solve a puzzle with your whole family, and it comes together even faster. God helped the wise men solve a puzzle. They wanted to find the newborn king. Together the wise men read God's promises, did their homework, and followed the star. When all of their answers fit, they found baby Jesus.

Now color the picture!



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

WISE MEN

STAR

HEROD

MESSIAH

WORSHIP

EXCITED

GIFTS

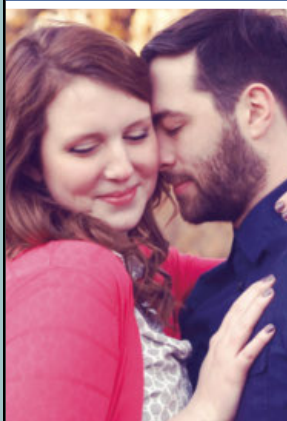
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DREAM

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