



Then they opened their treasures and offered him

GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

Matthew 2:11

January 8, 2023 • The Epiphany of the Lord

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In our day-to-day lives, we can experience epiphanies: new perceptions, unexpected insights, sudden changes in direction. In the liturgical year, Epiphany celebrates the appearance of a star in the heavens, a remarkable star followed by the Magi to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are not so different, our daily epiphanies and the Epiphany celebrated today. The arrival of the Magi certainly changed Mary and Joseph's perceptions of the world, the same way a helpless, tiny baby likely altered the Magi's insights as to what a star in the heavens would reveal. The story of the Magi—and the story of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—is filled with unexpected changes in direction, as God's plan continues to vary when it encounters people who cooperate with it, and others who attempt to thwart it. A deep and long reflection on this day we call Epiphany will uncover numerous epiphanies.

STAR OF LOVE

Like all of the Christmas season, Epiphany celebrates God's eternal and infinite love. In a special way, this day shows how God's love is truly all-inclusive. The magi were not Jews, not part of the Chosen People who expected that the Messiah was coming to save only them. Early on in his Gospel, Matthew tells us that God's love will not be limited by our human presumptions or boundaries. We still struggle with the fact that God is constantly epiphan-izing us to grow beyond the limits of our experience or expectations, to move beyond the boundaries of the world around us. Let us pray that we might be given epiphanies to help us find grace where we didn't believe it existed, to aid us in understanding that God's love is most often shown by who is included, not who is excluded. May we open our eyes and hearts to know that the Christ-light shines everywhere.

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Today's Readings: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
Deacon John Erdag

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the

Holy Spirit **Catholic Church**

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Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."*

*Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

The Epiphany of the Lord

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Verna Sloan. Mike Stephens. Suzanne DiCarlo. Kathy Bower. John & Nitja McGrane. Pat Schmeier. Ethan Cowles. Cayla Goodson. Ruth & David Barber. Msgr. Ron Diegel. Richard & Dottie Schuetz. Tom Fabitz. Jodie Woods. Doris Hoffman. Yolanda Boyd. Wanda & George Duke. Jean Hamilton. Kathleen Fleming. Jaye Anderson. Greg Mooney. Karee Haney. Charlie Parker. Jacob Stephens. Elise Sugg. Avery Boultinghouse. We list the names of our sick Parishioners, Friends and Relatives for one month.

We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SICK.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Staff Sergeant, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Petty Officer 2 Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 1/07 Angela Shoultz (Marie Hansen)
Sun. 1/08 Pope Benedict XVI+
Tues. 1/10 Greg Bowers+ (Betty Bowers)
Wed. 1/11 Parishioners
Thurs. 1/12 Pope Benedict XVI+
Fri. 1/13 Rosary Group & HS Food Ministry
Sat. 1/14 Parishioners

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the year of 2021
Expenditures \$ 3,666
Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,799
Attendance: 12/31 Sat: 88 1/01 Sun: 59

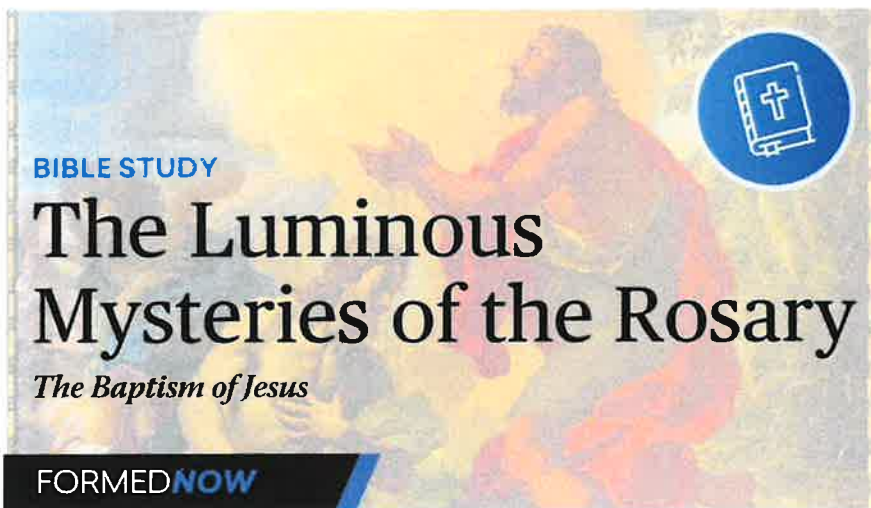
One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.

January Second Collections:

7th & 8th: "Building & Maintenance Fund."
 21st & 22nd: "Church in Latin America."
 28th & 29th: "Diocese of Tyler Catholic Schools."



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FORMEDNOW

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.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



2023 Collection Envelopes are available. Please pick up in the Narthex. They are in alphabetical order. If you cannot find your envelopes notify the church office. If you prefer to have your tithing sent from your bank, please notify Bridget at holy.spirit2@yahoo.com or 903-769-3235

Pope's Intention for January:



For educators. We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fellowship rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday: The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins
Friday: St. Hilary
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; Julian Calendar New Year

Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, you will need to be compliant on your ethics and integrity training with VIRTUS. Please notify our contact person to get signed up contact person Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or justin.mahaffey@icloud.com

Legion of Mary—Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749.** If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

JANUARY 2023 NEWS & EVENTS

Sat., Jan. 7th: 9:00am Mass of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart & Patriotic Rosary. 5:00pm weekly Mass.

Sun., Jan. 8th: **K of C Breakfast following 9:00am Mass.** Adults \$ 5.00. Children through senior year in high school is free.

Tues., Jan. 10th: 9:00am Mass followed by Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm. Parish Council Meeting 5:00pm St. Jude's Hall.

Wed., Jan. 11th—Fri., Jan. 13th: 9:00am Mass.

Thurs., Jan. 12th: K of C Meeting 7:00pm in St. Jude's Hall

Sat., Jan. 14th: 5:00pm weekly Mass.

Sun., Jan. 15th: 9:00am Mass. Coffee/Donuts after Mass in St. Jude's Hall.

Tues., Jan. 17th: 9 :00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm.

Wed., Jan. 18th—Fri., Jan. 20th: 9 :00am Mass.

Fri., Jan. 20th: K of C Fish Fry— St. Jude's Hall. Watch your bulletin for more information.

Sat., Jan. 21st: 5:00pm weekly Mass.

Sun., Jan. 22th: 9:00am Mass. **No** coffee/donuts after Mass.

Tues., Jan. 24th: 9 :00am Mass followed by Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm. Casino Fundraising Meeting 6:00pm in St. Jude's Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting!

Wed., Jan. 25th—Fri., Jan. 27th: 9 :00am Mass.


Sat., Jan. 28th: 5:00pm Mass. 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend begins.

Sun., Jan. 29th: 9:00am Mass. 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend begins. **No** coffee/donuts after Mass.

Tues., Jan. 31st: 9 :00am Mass followed by Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm.

***Each of us is the result of a thought of God.
Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each
of us is necessary. — Benedict XVI***

Pope Benedict XVI
April 16, 1927
December 31, 2022



Diocese of Tyler Memorial Mass
Jan 6 - 6 p.m.
Cathedral of the
Immaculate Conception



The Holy Spirit Food Ministry would like to thank all parishioners for the food and monetary donations. The large plastic bin is located in the hallway by Bridget's office. We can always use can soups and can vegetables.

We're still feeding 15 families on a weekly basis.

Happy New Year to all!

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry. Call or email Bryan Todd at 972-672-4218 or toddtalk@hotmail.com
Thank you, to our Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team!

Epiphany House Blessing

If you wish, you can celebrate Epiphany at home with a blessing using the initials of the magi's traditional names (Casper, Melchior, Balthasar), four crosses, and the new year's numerals.

Materials: a piece of chalk and a small container of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and perhaps some neighbors at the front door.

Leader: In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

We sign this doorway with four crosses and the numerals of the new year. [20 + C + M + B + 23]

Let us pray: May Christ bless this house!

ALL: Amen!

Each room of the house is sprinkled with holy water.

Living room: Where two or three are gathered in your name, Lord, you are present. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Kitchen: Give us this day our daily bread. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Dining room: Prepare us for the heavenly banquet. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Bedrooms: Stay with us Lord, when night has come. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Bathroom: Cleanse us from all sin. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

All return to the front door to pray together.

Leader: Let us pray as Jesus taught us: Our Father . . .

The leader sprinkles all present with holy water.

Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen!

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MONDAY,
JANUARY 23
6:00 P.M.

DAY OF PRAYER & REPENTANCE

Mass & Holy Hour
WITH BISHOP STICKLAND



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“Epiphany of the Lord”

By Deacon John

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. It's the Scriptural story of the magi from the East coming to pay homage to the baby Jesus. Scripture scholars disagree on the status of the magi; some believing they were indeed true kings, others say they were pagan priests or astrologers. The impression that they were kings comes from our first reading from Isaiah that says, “kings [coming] by your shining radiance...bearing gold and frankincense.” The impression that they were astrologers is from today's Gospel that says they followed a star. Maybe they were both.

Regardless, the fact is that they were prominent, wealthy men from the east who garnered an audience with the Jewish king, Herod. They imparted upon him astonishing news about the birth of the newborn king of the Jews. The kings from the east knew about the birth of Christ, and now so did Herod. And they had two distinctly different responses.

The Father sent us Jesus, His own Son made man, to be king. Herod knew this and he saw a threat. The magi knew this and they honored Him. And within this story comes a great reflection of us. We too are faced with two potential responses to the coming of this King: Herod's or the Magi's.

Herod had spent his life building a kingdom for his personal glory. Every decision he made was for his own wealth and personal gain and he resorted to all kinds of sinfulness to achieve his desires. With the news of this child, Herod immediately feels threatened. If Christ is not destroyed, it could spell the end of his kingship, and his selfish worldly prominence and wealth.

The Magi, on the other hand, rejoiced to know that God's Savior is here. There's no threat, only joy and hope. Instead of holding back their treasures, they generously offer them to Christ as gestures of honor, respect, and allegiance. They willingly, almost eagerly, give everything they have for Him.

How do we react when Christ enters our lives every day? Are we like Herod, not willing to give of ourselves to Him? Or are we like the magi, rejoicing that we have such a glorious Lord to follow? I know it's easy to say we want to be like the Magi. But it's easier said than done.

The thing is, we always have both possibilities in our hearts - we are potential Herods, and we also are potential Magi. It's our make-up. Every one of us has levels of goodness and of selfishness. The key is in knowing this and understanding the degree with which they affect us. We have to honestly look at the level of our selfishness and priorities. How do we react when our plans for ourselves are disrupted? Do we feel threatened? Do we explode the way Herod did? If we see that reaction coming, do we know how to stop it? Do we remain calm and turn to Christ?

Herod had instructed the magi to return to him once they had found Christ. In a dream, they were warned of his threat to the child. Instead of giving in to Herod, they stayed calm and looked for another solution. They persevered in doing good.

That's how God wants us to act. We need to gradually learn to trust God in all circumstances. He is the King, not us. He is wise and good beyond all our selfishness. Kneel before the Lord and lay that selfishness at his feet, just as the Magi laid their gifts at the feet of the baby Jesus. Always ask him for the strength to fight against the Herod in our hearts; to have the courage and perseverance of the Magi.

And then keep going, keep seeking the star, keep striving to follow Christ, the one true King.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 4 January 2023 Edition

(Submission date: 30 December 2022) Submitted by Randy Munoz

What is the Epiphany of the Lord? <https://www.catholic365.com/article/14417/what-is-the-epiphany-of-the-lord.html> Amelia Monroe Carlson | 01/02/2022

"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")" (CCC 528)

The Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on January 2 in the United States. There are some countries which celebrate the feast as a Holy Day of Obligation and, therefore, celebrate it on January 6. The US does not have it as a Day of Obligation and transferred the day to the first Sunday after January 1. The feast day brings us back to the life of Christ and the promises contained in the child born in a cave. Christians worldwide recognize the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ. The word "epiphany" is derived from the Greek word "epiphainen", which means "to shine upon", "to manifest", or "to make known."

"Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'" (John 8:12)

The Epiphany reminds us that Jesus is shown to be the promised Messiah for which the Jews had been waiting. [Per the Catechism of the Catholic Church], the Epiphany honors and recognizes the magi making the trip from the East to find Jesus and worship him. Additionally, we see Jesus made manifest to others through his baptism as well as the wedding at Cana. It's through the baptism of Jesus we see God confirm to those around Him that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah and Son of God. The wedding at Cana shows us, among other things, Jesus manifest himself by turning water into wine. The miracle shows Jesus has power over earthly things and, therefore, is God incarnate. However, we focus our attention today primarily on the magi. The wise men who make the long journey to come adore and worship Jesus. The wise men were likely from Persia and made the 1,000-1,200-mile trip to Jerusalem by camel to bring gifts to the Lord and adore Him. Contrary to popular belief, the Bible does not tell us there were 3 wise men. In fact, it does not give us the number of magi who made the trip. The number 3 is taken from the number of gifts they brought to the Lord, but we are not told exactly how many there were on the journey. Throughout the centuries and different cultures, there have been a variety of beliefs in how many magi there actually were that night. In the Eastern tradition you will find an adherence to 12 magi. Some of the early fathers, as well as in the West, hold to 3 magi. Early fathers such as St. Leo the Great & St. Maximus of Turin accepted and held to 3 magi. There are 4 magi depicted at the cemetery of St. Domitilla and earlier paintings, even those at the tomb of St. Peter, depicts 2. The names of the magi we have today are Caspar (Gaspar), Melchoir, and Balthasar and are taken from the writings of St. Bede. The number of magi is not as important as the meanings of the gifts they brought and the fact that they made journey at all.

Since the magi would have been traveling in a desert climate on camel, it is presumed they only traveled about 15-20 miles per day due to the limitations of the camel's ability to travel long distances in that climate. As a result, it would have taken an estimated 60 days for the magi to make it to Jesus. ... The coming of the magi also shows that pagans can indeed come to Jesus and those outside the Jewish religion can come to God the Father through Jesus Christ. It reminds us that Jesus did not come just for the Jews, but He came for the entire world. He came to be a light in the darkness of sin. He came to show the world the way to God and eternal life. He came to live so that we might live.

The Epiphany directs our focus to the times Jesus manifested to the world who He was and therefore calls us to follow Him. It reminds us that the light of Christ draws all men to repentance and salvation through Jesus.

REMINISCE

The move to bring Memory Café back into service at Holly Brook Baptist Church (HBBC) is spurred on by a small group of volunteers who understand the impact that human connections can make on those suffering with any type of dementia.

Alzheimer's, considered a type of dementia, is a brain disorder that compromises the body and mind, primarily among older people. Slowly, over time, it erodes memories, language and the ability to reason. Basic living activities, such as cooking, driving, paying bills or going to the bathroom might no longer be possible without some level of assistance. Victims often repeat the same questions over and over or lose items, placing them in strange places. It can also trigger unpredictable behaviors, including unwarranted anger or aggression. Ultimately, Alzheimer's leads to death. There is no cure.

The main purpose of the meeting is socialization, with a focus on caring for one another as the caregiver needs as much support as the one receiving care. There is also hugging, laughing and joking.

Dave Jones, who has served as the group's front desk greeter since the program began, said "When people first come, they seem a bit downcast, but in a very short time, they discover others in the same boat, and they just light up. It's very gratifying."

The hope is to reinstate the program at the church under the guidance of the Alzheimer's Association, offering open meetings for caregivers and care-receivers. "My prayer is that we can get enough volunteers on board to bring back Memory Café with all the program enhancements in place,". Volunteer duties include setting up and taking down, decorating, preparing food, greeting guests, helping visitors to their seats, leading conversations and tending to care-receivers during caregiver support.

Until we can bring additional leaders into the program Reminisce/Memory Café remains on hold with no further meetings scheduled. Pray with us.

If you would like to volunteer, know someone who is in need or want more information, please contact HBBC at 903-769-2091.



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