

St. John the Evangelist

Father Michael Somers, SVD

Pastor

Deacon David Allen

Pastoral Associate

Ann Wiborg

Pastoral Secretary

David Scaia

St. Vincent de Paul

David Ames

Knights of Columbus

Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday Masses:

8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Spanish Mass: 2:00 PM

Weekday Masses:

Monday—Friday 7 AM

Weekday Adoration:

Every Friday following Mass

7:30 AM-8:30 AM

Holy Days:

Vigil Mass: 6:00 PM

Holy Day: 7:00 AM and 12:00 PM

Confession:

30 minutes before Vigil Mass

And anytime by request

all the other Masses

First Friday Adoration

7 AM - 5 PM

Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

First Saturday Devotion:

8:00 AM: Confession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary

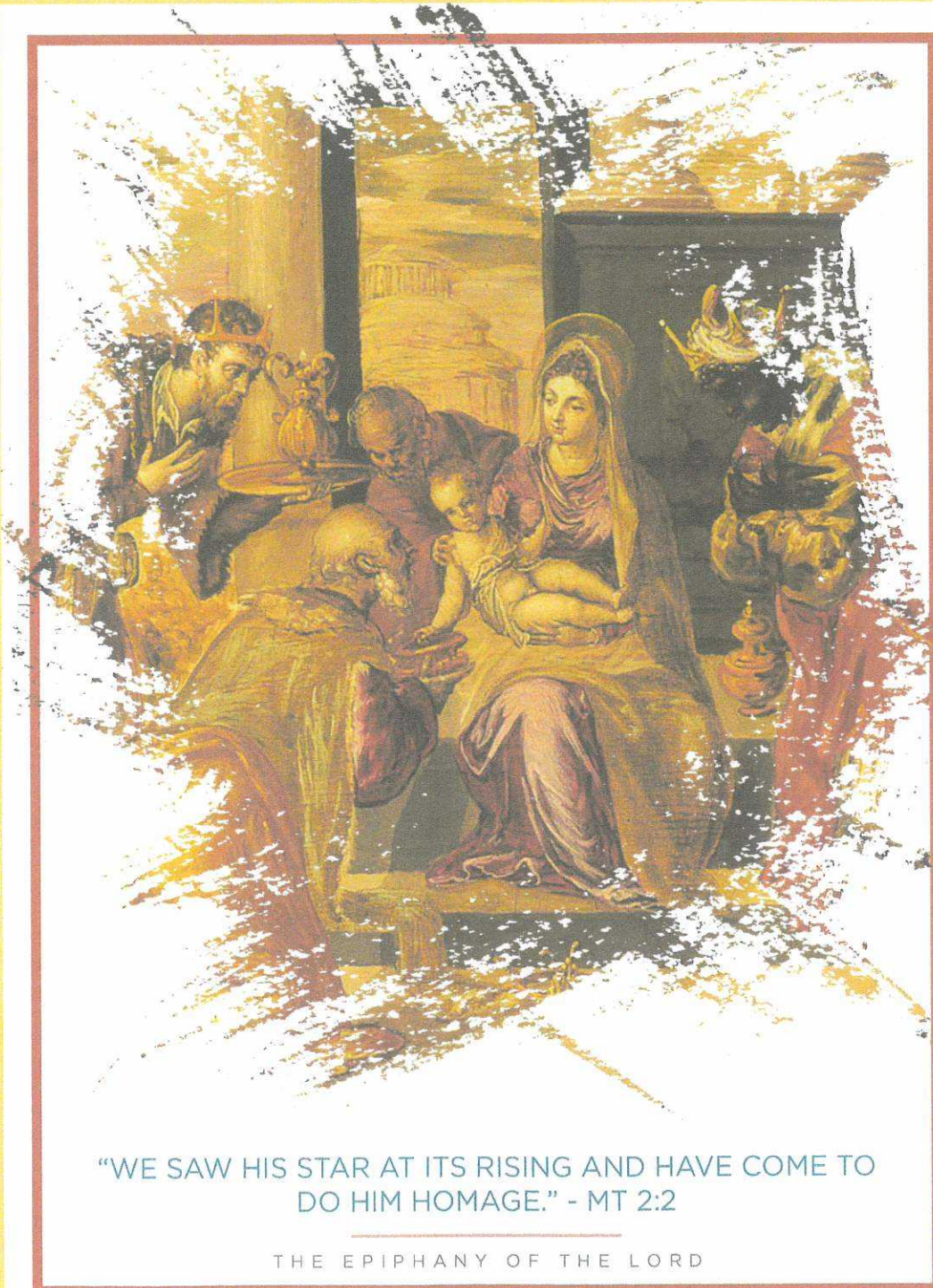
9:00 AM: Healing Mass

2414 Seventeenth Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Telephone: 228-864-2272

Email: stjohnthee@stjohngulfport.org

January 07, 2024



"WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING AND HAVE COME TO DO HIM HOMAGE." - MT 2:2

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS • 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD, ©LPI

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St. John the Evangelist Church, Gulfport, MS

A 4C 05-4106



Whether you're just visiting for a brief time, looking for a new parish home, returning to the practice of your Catholic faith or interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church, we are happy you're here! To learn more about St. John, please visit [*stjohngulfport.org*](http://stjohngulfport.org).

If you are new to the parish, please go to our website and click on the "New Parishioner" tab.

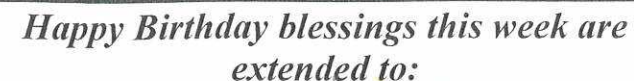


Office hours are Monday thru Friday: 9 am to 3 pm.
Office phone number: 228-864-2272
Father Mike: 850-288-0155

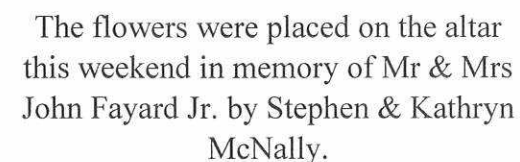
Help is needed to take down the Christmas decorations in the church. If you can help with this please come to the church on Saturday January 13th at 10am.

Young at Heart

We invite our senior parishioners to join us for our monthly luncheon starting January 18th at 12pm. A main dish will be provided and you are welcome to bring a side dish or desert. There will be bingo and fellowship in Presentation Hall. Call the office for more information. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us also!!



Rhonda Mires, Jan 6
Thomas Scaia, Jan 7
Henrietta Caranna, Charlene Mattina Jan 9
Richard Cefalu, Shari Symmes, Jan 10
Sarah Hebert, George Burkhardt, Jan 11
Janet Papania, Frederick Six, Jan 12
God grant them many blessings in the coming year!



Congratulations to Our Parishioners

Keven & Sherri Killegrew, 42 yrs on Jan 11
*May God bless them with many more
happy years together!*

† *We pray for all the sick, especially:* †

Peggy Ryland	Harriett Bowles	Billy Ruble
Suzanne King	Dean Bowles	Anita McKnight
John Cuevas	Carl Necaise	Hudson
Joann Hoda	Alma Dedeaux	Alyssa Henderson
Naomi Patton	Julia Langford	
Melanie Reneé	Joe McCormick	Parishioners of
Amy Wheeler	Sandra Schiffner	St. John the
Joyce McIntosh	Chris Papania	Evangelist
Matt Hill	Tom Graves	

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday	9:00 AM	✠Kris Allen
	4:00 PM	✠Carolyn & Mackie Fayard
Sunday	8:00 AM	✠Angela Dellava & Luigi Grandis
		✠Vincent & Helen Dauro
		✠Charlie Underwood
		✠Alex North
	10:30 AM	People of the Parish
	5:00 PM	(Special intention Anita McKnight Hudson for Healing)
Monday:	7:00 AM	✠Kris Allen
Tuesday:	7:00 AM	✠Sr. Consilio
Wednesday:	7:00 AM	✠Michelle Strahan
Thursday:	7:00 AM	✠Kaleel Salloum, Jr
Friday:	7:00 AM	✠Pablo & Aida Cabasa

Precious Blood of Christ and the Holy Mass

We are so happy to be able to offer the Precious Blood of Christ during holy mass at St. John! However, there are a couple of things to know before receiving the Precious Blood of Christ.

During Communion, two (2) Extraordinary Ministers (**EMs**) will position themselves *back to back in the center isle* to offer the Precious Blood of Christ.

***We do not offer the option of receiving the sacrament by intinction.** This is the method by which one dips the Eucharist (the Body of Christ) into the Blood of Christ and then consume. (This method presents too great of a chance of spillage of the Precious Blood.)*

(EMs ...please meet with Father Mike outside the priest's sacristy just prior to mass for a special prayer and blessing.

Last Week's Collection:

Identified: (checks) \$1150.00 \$(cash): \$375.00

Loose: (checks) \$2040.00 (cash): \$1076.00

ACH Direct Debit: \$2070.00 Egiving: \$914.45

Spanish Collection: \$579.00

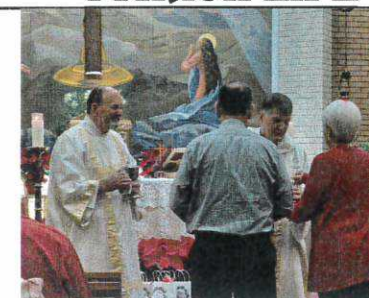
Total: \$9216.45

January 1st: \$997.00

SVDP: \$1495.00

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH LIFE



Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 7

Is 60:1-6

Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13

Eph 3:2-3a,5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Monday, January 8
Baptism of the Lord

Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9

Is 12:2-3,4b-6

Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday, January 9

1 Sm 1:9-20

1 Sm 2:1,4-8d

Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 10

1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20

Ps 40:2,5,7-10

Mk 1:29-39

Thursday, January 11

1 Sm 4:1-11

Ps 44:10-11,14-15,24-25

Mk 1:40-45

Friday, January 12

1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a

Ps 89:16-19

Mk 2:1-12

Saturday, January 13

1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19;10:1

Ps 21:2-7

Mk 2:13-17

The Season of Christmas ends with a celebration that focuses on the adoration of magi from the East who had sought and found Christ the newborn king.

The Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Also called astrologers, their worship of Jesus does not validate astrology, which assigns power over us to stars and planets; rather, it validates that

Jesus was born to bring salvation to all, Gentiles as well as Jews. Their arrival at the manger demonstrates that Jesus was born for the sake of all who recognize that only God should have power over us. Jesus was born to free us from sin and all other forces that control us.

The magi also demonstrate that gift-giving is a normal part of worship. The gifts of the magi become gifts that we all give to Jesus: Gold represents our righteousness, which Christ's kingship over our lives makes possible so that we become more and more saintly each day. Incense represents our prayers going up to

God – prayers that involve giving God the gift of our trust. And myrrh is the gift of suffering for Christ: the sacrifices we make for the sake of his ongoing mission of transforming our world.

The word "epiphany" means a moment of discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Did the magi have an epiphany about Jesus when they came into his presence? Did they realize that they were looking at the Savior of the world? Did they want this little baby to save them from their own sins?



We can safely assume that they never forgot about their trip to Bethlehem. Surely they kept their ears open for news about him as the years went by. Probably they heard about the King of the Jews who was crucified.

We know that they in fact became very saintly Christians; their relics still exist and have been venerated since very early times.

What about you and me? Will we remember Jesus in some new way this year? Will our worship of him transform us? Will the power of sin be defeated by our faith in Christ when we face temptations?

Hopefully, we have been changed this Advent and Christmas Season by a new rebirth of Jesus into our lives and – through our lives – out into the world.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What's the gold you're giving to Jesus? What is your incense? What is your myrrh?
- † Describe an epiphany you have had during this past Advent and the Season of Christmas.
- † How will you take this out to others so that they, too, experience Christ more completely?

Wedding Feast & Epiphany

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.

©LPi

Article 1

THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

CHAPTER 1

"I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH"

I. "I Believe in One God"

Jesus himself affirms that God is "the one Lord" whom you must love "with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." At the same time Jesus gives us to understand that he himself is "the Lord." To confess that Jesus is Lord is distinctive of Christian faith. This is not contrary to belief in the One God. Nor does believing in the Holy Spirit as "Lord and giver of life" introduce any division into the One God:

We firmly believe and confess without reservation that there is only one true God, eternal, infinite (*immensus*) and unchangeable, incomprehensible, almighty, and ineffable, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; three persons indeed, but one essence, substance or nature entirely simple.#202

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH (SECOND EDITION)

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

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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