



Adoration of the Magi
Giotto di Bondone (1267-1337)

Please enjoy this excerpt from a sermon of Pope Saint Leo the Great:

The Lord has made his salvation known to the whole world

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ.

A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judaea only, but in the whole world, so that his name may be great in all Israel.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, who has made us worthy, in the words of the Apostle, to share the position of the saints in light, who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. As Isaiah prophesied: *the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwell in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned.* He spoke of them to the Lord: *The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you.*

This is the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see,

(Continued on page 2)

The Epiphany of the Lord 7 January 2024

Sacred Heart, Ronan
Immaculate Conception, Polson
St. Joseph Mission, Charlo

Fr. Kevin Christofferson, Pastor
Fr. Robert Brooks, Pastoral Associate

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This week's office hours:
Wednesday & Friday 10 am-12 pm; Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-5:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

Immaculate Conception at 6:00 pm
Confessions are available at 5:00 pm
Rosary is prayed at 5:30 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 9:00 am
Immaculate Conception at 11:00 am
Rosary is prayed at 10:30 am

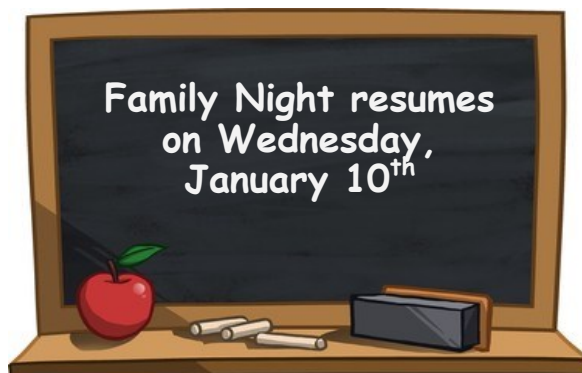
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm
Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again after Wednesday Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

Christmas decorations take down...

Sacred Heart on Sunday, January 7th after 9:00 am Mass
Immaculate Conception on Monday, January 8th at 10:00 am

Help is always enjoyed and appreciated!



when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised.

This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: *All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name. Again, the Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.*

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognise and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



Food Pantry Necessities

Peanut butter and cereal are a constant need; as well as oats, flour and rice. Clients tend to prefer healthy options for food that are not so loaded with sugar. The Food Pantry will also accept money donations as well. Charitable donations may be left in the basket at the entrance of the church.

The Food Pantry also utilizes plastic grocery bags!

Humbly asking for your prayers

Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Michael Conrad, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Bill Nash, Donna Jacobs, Derrie Edge, Madge Vert, Heather Stocki, Betty Bjork, Vicki Weiss, Jason Avison, Floyd Smith, Nash Niemeyer, Richard Call, Bud Cheff, Jr, Donna Radtke, Bill Rueth, Monte Jenkins, Chris Skinner, the Sandler Family, Ryan Johnson.

Please help to keep the list current by contacting the Parish Office. Also, out of respect for a person's privacy, please make sure that all individuals wish to be publicly identified.

Grace be to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for you all; Making a remembrance of you in our prayers without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

The Holy Father's prayer intention for January

For the gift of diversity in the church: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Please pray for our seminarians!

Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthoney Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, Matt Keck.

Six Family Traditions for Epiphany

Published by TeachingCatholicKids.com



Epiphany is an ancient feast celebrating the appearance or manifestation of God to the whole world. Traditionally celebrated on January 6 (still the practice in some places around the world), the liturgical reforms of 1970 moved Epiphany to the second Sunday of January.

Epiphany was once a more prominent celebration; not only was it the preferred day for gift-giving (in imitation of the Magi), but Christians originally celebrated Epiphany as *all* the manifestations of the divinity of Jesus prior to the start of his public ministry: his birth (with the visit of the Magi), the presentation in the Temple, the finding in the Temple, his baptism in the Jordan, and even the miracle at Cana.

Today, Roman Catholics focus on the manifestation of Christ's birth to the entire world, represented by the magi and the star. (Birthday announcements don't get more public than hanging a new star in the sky.)

Here are six ways you can celebrate Epiphany with your kids this year.

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6th

Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord

Repose of the Soul of Dick Christopher, rb Sheila Marquardt

Sunday, January 7th

The Epiphany of the Lord

Intentions of Don Puckett, rb Rita Rehbein/

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, January 9th

Repose of the Soul of Olga Hammond, rb Cindy Robertson

Wednesday, January 10th

Repose of the Soul of Ron Marquardt, rb Sheila Marquardt

Thursday, January 11th

For health (well being & spiritual), rb Cindy Robertson

Friday, January 12th

For reparations, rb anonymous



1. Bless your home and household on Epiphany

It is traditional to bless your home and household on the Feast of the Epiphany, perhaps because of the biblical reference to the three kings entering the home where the Holy Family was staying in order to worship the Christ child there. You can find an [Epiphany blessing of the home](#) in *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* (or at the USCCB website).

A more traditional form of the Epiphany blessing involves using blessed chalk to write the letters C, M, and B, plus the year, above the main entrance to the home (or above the door to each room in the house), like so: 20 + C + M + B + 18. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also represent the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means: "May Christ bless the house." Of course, the + represents the cross.

2. Send the magi on a journey through your house

If you have a manger set, bring out the three kings on Christmas Day—but instead of placing them at the manger right away, put them somewhere else in your house so that they can journey to the manger over the twelve days between Christmas Day and the traditional date for the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6).

You can have the three kings move to a different room or area of your house on each day. Let your kids search for them every morning; when they find them, say to your kids: "The wise men are searching for Jesus in ____ (the dining room, your bedroom, etc.). How can we show the magi that Jesus is present in this place?" Brainstorm examples of Christian behavior in the particular place, then close with a short prayer:

"O holy magi, help us to see Christ in this place, and make it holy in all we say and all we do here. Amen."

3. Hold a procession of the magi

On the Feast of the Epiphany, read the Gospel account of the visit of the three wise men (see [Matthew 2:1-12](#)), then have your children march through the house holding the figures of the three kings and singing "[We Three Kings](#)."

4. Eat King's Cake

A popular Epiphany tradition in many cultures, the King's Cake (or King Cake) is a sweet cake in which a small figure of the baby Jesus is hidden. Searching for the baby Jesus in the cake imitates the Magi's search for the baby Jesus. You can find great recipes for King's Cake, along with some cultural background, over at [Catholic Cuisine](#).

Another option? Galette des Rois, a traditional French cake for Epiphany with a sweet almond filling.

5. Celebrate Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night is a largely forgotten traditional celebration held on the twelfth night of the Christmas season, January 6—the traditional date of Epiphany before the liturgical reforms of Vatican II.

ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel



Fridays at
9:00 am

DIVINE MERCY RADIO 90.7 FM



*DMR is a locally owned,
listener supported non-
profit 501(c)3
PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860*



All homilies are
available on YouTube
and can be found by
searching the full name
Fr. Kevin Christofferson.

Over at Catholic Cuisine, they have a complete and comprehensive plan for a [Twelve Days of Christmas themed dinner feast](#) that features twelve courses, including partridge in a pear tree pie. You can also find an extensive history, as well as some traditional ways of celebrating, at [Fish Eaters](#).

6. Give gifts

Some families make it a tradition to save Christmas gift-giving until Epiphany...and then to give each person just three gifts. This might be a fun tradition to transition to as your kids get older. One advantage: More time to get the perfect gift, which means less stress around Christmas...plus, take advantage of those after-Christmas sales.

Epiphany

Entrance Antiphon:

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

Collect:

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

Readings:

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6
RESPONSORIAL PSALM 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13
SECOND READING Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
ALLELUIA Mt 2:2
GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

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"). (CCC 528)

Parish Offertory Progress Report Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception

\$99,347 of \$185,000 (54%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$20,854 of \$44,500 (47%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:

\$4,595 of \$20,000 (23%)



Thank you for your generosity!



BECAUSE
HE FIRST
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US...

A CAMPAIGN FOR CATHOLIC LIFE



CSSM
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
of Montana

Mental Health Services

NEW Counseling Program Available!

Catholic Social Services of Montana is excited to announce the launch of its new mental health counseling program. We are actively accepting new clients. Below are more details:

- We have licensed counselors available to talk or listen.
- No topic is too big or too small for us to address. If we can't tackle it, we'll work with you to provide a referral.
- You can meet with us from your computer, cell phone, or any other online mobile device. If you live in or want to travel to Helena, you can meet in-person with us.
- We're Catholic. Faith can be a part of our conversation if you'd like, but that is not required. We are here for everyone.
- Your first session is free. If you choose to schedule another session, we accept insurance and private pay and offer reduced private pay rates if you meet qualifying standards.

To get started, you can call (406)442-4130 or visit www.cssmt.org.

Campaign Prayer

O Lord, my God, teach my heart this day
where and how to see You, where and how to find You.

You have made me and remade me,
and You have bestowed on me
all the good things I possess, and still I do not know You.
I have not yet done that for which I was made.

Teach me to seek You,
for I cannot seek You unless You teach me,
or find You unless You show Yourself to me.

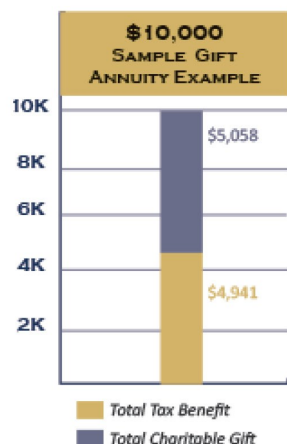
Let me seek You in my desire;
let me desire You in my seeking.
Let me find You by loving You;
let me Love You when I find You.

AMEN

— St. Anselm

Could you benefit from a 40% Montana Tax Credit?

Imagine if you gave a gift to benefit your parish or favorite Catholic ministry and received nearly HALF of it returned to you in tax credits! Annuities allow you to make your donations work for you.



Montana is a unique state, committed to giving back to its nonprofits through the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. This piece of our tax code allows you to give to an endowment through a planned gift (charitable annuity), and be able to claim a tax credit of 40% of the total charitable gift.

The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena offers annuities that support 164 different endowments within our Diocese, including one for every parish as well as many Catholic ministries.

Each household is eligible for up to a \$10,000 Montana tax credit per spouse (\$20,000 total). Donate appreciated stock and your tax savings in capital gains could be even more!

**For more information and your own
personalized annuity illustration,
contact the Foundation at (406)389-7050.**

Due to the planned gift requirement of annuities, we regret that annuities cannot be used for donations to the Because He First Loved Us Campaign for Catholic Life.



FOUNDATION
for the Diocese of Helena