

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025



66192 St. Mary Drive, Pearl River, Louisiana, 70452
www.sppcprla.com email: info@sppcprla.com

ABOUT OUR PARISH

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday
5:00 p.m.

Sunday
7:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

| | |
|-----|-----------|
| Mon | No Mass |
| Tue | 8:00 a.m. |
| Wed | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thu | 8:00 a.m. |
| Fri | 8:00 a.m. |

HOLY DAY MASSES

Vigil and Holy Day Mass times vary; please see bulletin or website

SPECIAL DEVOTIONS

Tuesday: St. Jude Novena following
8:00 a.m. Mass

Thursday: Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Novena following 8:00 a.m. Mass

Thursday: Patriotic Rosary in Church
6:30 p.m.

First Friday: The Most Blessed Sacrament
and Eucharistic Adoration following 8:00 a.m.
Mass until 5:00 p.m. closing with Benediction

First Saturday: Mass at 8:00 a.m. followed
by the Rosary and Confession

RECONCILIATION

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Sat | 4:00-4:45 p.m. |
| Wed | 6:00-6:15 p.m. |
| Or by request | |

YOUR CLERGY

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, D.D.
Archbishop of New Orleans

Very Rev. Gerald Seiler
Dean, Deanery X

Fr. Kevin DeLerno
Pastor

Deacon Bryan McCauley

YOUR STAFF

Karen Dickerson
Office Secretary
kdickerson@sppcprla.com
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Cedric Konyaole
Web Site
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Jerry Broussard
Facility Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 1:00-3:00
Tuesday-Friday 8:00-3:00

CONTACT US

Main Office
985-863-7935

Fax
985-863-5431

REGISTER

If you are new to the parish, we invite you to register by filling out a form located in the holder at the Church entrances and place it in the collection basket or come by the office.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Usually the third Sunday of the month (except during Lent) following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please call for registration forms at least **three weeks** in advance.

Matrimony

By appointment with the parish priest or deacon at least **six months** in advance. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the priest.

Anointing of the Sick

Upon request for the seriously ill, infirm and those undergoing major surgery. Please contact the Church Office when someone is homebound or hospitalized and in need of the sacrament.

Communion for Ill/Shut-In

Please call the Church Office if you know of anyone who would benefit from this ministry.

Funerals

Families should contact the priest (office) before making arrangements.

Parish Mission Statement

It is the mission of our Church Parish to follow the commands of Jesus to Saints Peter and Paul: "Feed My sheep" and "Carry My name among the nations."



WEEKLY EVENTS

GASPP—Monday 12:00 p.m. Parish Hall

Tuesday Morning Rosary—Tuesday after 8:00 a.m. Mass and St.

Jude Novena in Parish Hall

OCIA Tracks I & II—Tuesday 6:30 p.m. in classrooms

Legion of Mary—Thursday 10:00 a.m. St. Anthony Hall

Patriotic Rosary—Thursday 6:30 p.m. in church

Remembrance Mass—Saturday 8:00 a.m.

PSR—Sunday begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

This week Christmas Day is observed in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in schedule has a lot to do with how calendars have been developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Caesar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called “pontiffs” were able to tweak the calendar by adding extra days in as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the empire in what he named “The Last Year of Confusion.” The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years.

Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1583, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France; they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia’s Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end!

—James Field

PRAY FOR THE SICK



May Caballero, Diana Bradshaw, Mary Salzer Brown, Elizabeth Kittel, Zachary Cresson, Patricia Cuccia, Ed Roszczynialski, Norris Ripp, Bunny Shriver, Mary Ware, Ryan Ware, Lily Jorns, Dalin Davis, Israel & Joyce Landry, Steve Dunn, Joann Brewin, Joseph Decaro, Lois Leonard, Donald Paul & Larry Dickerson, Shirley Matthews, Jim & Eydie Richmond, Ed & Carol Wallace, Sue Miller, Molly Hymel, Lucy Reese, Brenda Dehm, Landon Jeffrey, Glenn Bunting, Lucy D'Antoni, Don & Judy Aleman, Dylan Gornor, Vaughn Gay, Cathy Stanford, Herbert Landry, John McKelvey, Jr., James White

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 6

(1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, January 7

(1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44)

8:00 a.m. Cathy Downey

Wednesday, January 8

(1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, January 9

(1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22)

8:00 a.m. Michael Wingerter, Sr.

Friday, January 10

(1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16)

8:00 a.m. Lou Lou Battle†

Saturday, January 11

(1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30)

5:00 p.m. Joseph D'Antoni, Jr.†, Roszczynialski/Stottman Family, Poor Souls in Purgatory, Lee & Yvonne Tracey†, Ken & Adele Salzer†, Danny Ragusa, Sr.†, Lawrence Otillio†, Lee Ann Scogin†, Judy Woods†, Patti & Vaughn Gay, Ana Rosa Iglesias†, Robert Jenevein†, Althea Deckwa†, Bill Deckwa†, Wally & Terry Goodey, Brenda & George Dehm

Sunday, January 12

(Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22)

7:00 a.m. Deacon Bryan & Natalie McCauley

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Glen Parker†, Yvonne Tracey†, Jonathan Laguaite, Doris Laguaite†

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM



Next bulletin will have the YEAR END total. This was published early.



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

A GIFT FOR THE WISE MEN

A rather liberal priest was teasing one of the women of the parish, asking, "How do we know the Wise Men weren't Wise Women?" She answered, "If they were, they'd have brought bottles, diapers, and a bassinet, instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Maybe they were wise enough to know that Mary could have bought a lot of diapers with the gold.

The gifts, of course, are symbols of who Jesus is: a king who is both God and human. And I wonder what our gifts to the Lord say about our faith in him. Remember the song about the little drummer boy, who had no gift to bring but his ability to play the drum? Or the parable of the woman who brought two small coins to donate at the temple (Mark 12:42)? They both remind us that a person who gives all they have, no matter how little it seems, is the most generous.

So what do we bring to the newborn king? I can give my time by coming to church for the Feast of Epiphany and actually paying attention. How often do I sit in the pews, answer the prayers by heart, and suddenly realize that I can't remember what the first reading was, or what the homily was about? Just making the effort to listen to the words of Scripture, to hear what God may be trying to tell me, could be a great gift. Or I could bring someone in our family, or a friend, who doesn't go to church very much.

Now let's not forget the meaning of "epiphany." In ancient times it meant the appearance or manifestation of a divine being. In the early Church the feast included the baptism of Christ (with the voice of the Father and the Spirit as a dove) and the miracle at Cana, as well as the visit of the magi. So what we celebrate is not so much our gifts or those of the wise men, as it is a gift from God, manifested in Jesus. Maybe a way to celebrate the Epiphany is to reflect on how God has been made known to me. Simple things, like a hug from a friend or an answered prayer, or major events like a wedding, the birth of a child, or a funeral, can all be ways to experience the Lord. The wise men received the gift of an epiphany by following a star. May the light of Christ lead you to him also.

Tom Schmidt



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Men's Conference 2025 – "I Trust in You" Join us for the 2025 Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's Conference; March 15, 2025 at St. Dominic Church in New Orleans. The Men's Conference is the largest gathering of Catholic Men in the Archdiocese. There will be dynamic speakers, inspiring music with the Vigil Project, time for adoration, dozens of priests to hear confessions, Mass with Archbishop Aymond, and breakfast and lunch besides! This year's Conference theme, "I Trust in You", focuses on building greater trust with God and one another in order to take our faith to the next level.

Register today and help our parish win bragging rights with the Men's Conference Best Represented Parish award! It's a great way to get your Lent pointed in the right direction together with all of the men of the Archdiocese. Makes the perfect gift for the man in your life who could use a spiritual boost! Learn more and register at Nolacatholicmen.com or call the office to take advantage of our discount.

EPIPHANIES

The journey of our lives to Christ is rarely a straight path. Especially for those who were baptized into the Catholic faith as babies, we often need to find our own way by winding roads and paths until we arrive at and embrace faith as our own. Merriam-Webster defines "epiphany" as "a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something." Almost always, this entails a "Aha!" moment, which changes the course of the story.

I experienced this in my own life in the middle of the Covid pandemic. When the world began to shut down, I finally knew that I was not alone, and that I never had been. You see, I found myself newly pregnant for the fifth time with no living children, after having experienced loss after loss. In my pain and struggle, I had turned from God the previous fall when it seemed door after door had closed for the opportunity to have a child.

But while the world was radically changing, I had an incredible moment which can only be described as an epiphany from the Holy Spirit: I became acutely aware that I was not alone, nor had I ever been alone. Struggling with feeling alone was something that had plagued me throughout my life. And now, suddenly, in the middle of a world that was radically shifting toward being apart, I came to believe that I was not alone, had never been alone, and will never be alone. How radical!

It is also radical that, in the course of human history - of salvation history - God would reveal Himself to all of humanity. After all, God was the God of Israel. And yet, God planned to reveal Himself in the form of a helpless baby to all nations. Juxtapositions abound with God, and somehow they all make sense. Today, as we celebrate the Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord, may we always be open to the seeming contradictions that God places in our lives and be willing to learn from them.

By Mary Thissen



PASTOR'S CORNER

Last week, I gave you Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich's account of seeing the birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds. This week I will give you her vision of the visit of the three kings to baby Jesus.

The account of the three kings is a bit long. I will summarize their journey and entourage that they came with so that I can focus you onto their time with Mary and the Child Jesus. The event of their visit happens shortly after the birth of Jesus. The three kings came riding each on a camel with three extra camels and dromedaries holding the items they needed for their journey. As you can imagine these items were all kinds of finery as well as tents and other necessitates for their journey of thousands of miles. They came with a retinue of followers and a few relatives who were riding some kind of horses for their journey. They came from the Far East and Anne says that they in some way traced their genealogy back to Job. Anne says their names were Mensor, who was the youngest whose skin tone was a pleasing brownish color, Seir whose skin tone was brown and Theokeno who was the oldest and his skin tone was a bright yellow. The names are slightly different than the names that church history has given. It was during the 8th century that the names of the wise men or magi appeared in a chronicle known as the *Excerpta Latina Barbari*. In it the name and the lands of origin were identified. The names given were Balthasar (or Balthassar, Bithisarea, or Balthazar) from Arabia or Ethiopia, Melchior from Persia and Gaspar (or Caspar) from India. The bible does not give their names. It says they gave gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, how do we really know? As the bible relates they stopped to see Herod to get directions sending them to Bethlehem, but were ultimately guided by a star, which can be interpreted as an angel guiding them to their final destination of a cave in Bethlehem. As they neared the cave, the star illuminated the entrance at a distance so that they knew that they were close to the place where the child of promise that they sought was staying.

So here is Anne's account of the three kings visit to Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Each King was accompanied by his four relatives who accompanied them. As they arrived they were greeted by St Joseph and they all followed him with some of their servants to the shed before the entrance to the cave. Here they spread the cloth over a table and stood on it several of the boxes they had hanging at their girdles, to be presented as their gifts in common. Then two youths of Mensor's train went up to the Crib, and withdrew to a distance. And now Mensor and his four companions entered, having previously laid aside their sandals. Two servants bore the table with the gifts through the passage up to the Crib Cave; but at the entrance, Mensor took it from them, carried it in himself, and on bended knee placed it at Mary's feet. The other Kings and their companions remained standing at the entrance.

I saw the cave filled with supernatural light. Opposite the entrance and on the spot where Jesus was born, was Mary leaning on one arm in a posture more reclining than sitting; by her side was Joseph, and on her right, in a raised trough with a cover thrown over it, lay the Infant Jesus. At Mensor's entrance, Mary rose to a sitting posture, drew her veil aside sufficiently to allow the Child to be seen as far as below the little arms. She held Him upright leaning against her breast, His little head supported by her hand. The Infant folded His little hands upon His breast as if in prayer. He was shining with light, was very gracious, and at times extended His little hands, as if grasping something. Mensor fell on his knees before Mary, bowed his head, crossed his hands on his breast, and offered the gifts with some reverent words. Then he took from the bag at his girdle a handful of little metal bars, about a finger in length, thick and heavy. They were pointed at the upper end. He laid them humbly on Mary's lap by the Child, as his gifts to her. Mary accepted them graciously and humbly, and covered them with the end of her mantle. Mensor's companions stood behind him with heads lowly bowed. Mensor gave gold, because he was full of love and confidence, and had always with unshaken devotion and untiring efforts, sought after salvation.

When Mensor and his companions withdrew, Seir with his four relatives entered and knelt. He carried in his hand a golden censer, in shape like a boat, filled with small, greenish grains like resin. He gave incense, for he was the one that clung to God, voluntarily, reverently, and lovingly following His Will. He placed his gift upon the little table, and knelt long in adoration.

After Seir, came Theokeno, the eldest of the Kings. He could not kneel, because he was too old and stout. He stood bowing low, and laid upon the table a little golden ship in which was a fine, green herb. It was fresh and living, stood erect like a delicate green bush, and had small white flowers. Theokeno offered myrrh, for myrrh is typical of mortification and vanquished passions. This good man had to struggle against severe temptations to idolatry and polygamy. He remained very long before the Infant Jesus, so long that I felt anxious for the good people, the King's followers, who at the entrance were so patiently awaiting their turn to see the Child.

The words of the Kings and their followers were extraordinarily simple and childlike; they were as if inebriated with love. They always began: "We have seen His star and that He is King over all kings. We have come to adore Him and to bring Him gifts." With the tenderest tears and most fervent prayers, they commended to the Child Jesus themselves, their goods, and property, all that they valued on earth. They begged Him to take their hearts, their souls, their actions, their thoughts; they entreated Him to enlighten them, to bestow upon them all the virtues, and to the whole earth to grant peace, happiness, and love. They were glowing with love. No words could depict their ardor and humility, nor the tears of joy that bathed their cheeks and flowed down the beard of the eldest. They were perfectly happy; they believed that, at last, they had entered into the star after which their forefathers had so long legitimately sighed, and at which they themselves had so longingly gazed. All the joy of the promise of many hundreds of years now fulfilled, welled up in their hearts.

Joseph and Mary also wept. I never before had seen them so full of joy. The honor paid their Child and Savior and the recognition of Him by the Kings, of that Child for whom their poverty could afford so poor a couch, of that Child the knowledge of whose high dignity lay hidden in the silent humility of their own hearts – all that comforted them immeasurably. They saw brought to Him from so great a distance by God's almighty power, and in spite of the machinations of man, what they themselves could not procure for Him, viz., the adoration of the great ones, and the honor their Child received inundated their heart with exceedingly great joy.

The Mother of God accepted everything most humbly and thankfully. She spoke not, but the movement of her veiled head told all. The Infant Jesus lay on her mantle and covered by her veil, through which His little form shone brightly. It was only at the close of their visit that the Blessed Virgin addressed some kind words to each, throwing her veil back a little as she spoke.

The Kings returned to their tents allowing their servants to visit the Child. As they began to enter, five at a time, accompanied by one of the nobles to whom they belonged. They knelt before Mary, and silently adored the Child. Lastly, came the boys in their little mantles, there may have been thirty persons present, anular in the middle, and shone like gold.

When all of the servants had withdrawn, the Kings again came in together. They had changed their mantles for others of raw silk, white and flowing, and they carried censers of incense. Two servants had previously laid down over the floor of the cave, a carpet of a deep red color, on which Mary sat with the Child while the Kings offered incense. The Kings incensed the Child, Mary, Joseph, and the whole cave. This was for them a ceremony expressive of veneration. After this the Kings withdrew to a white tent that they had erected outside of the Crib Cave.

On the next day, the Kings again visited the Crib Cave separately. During the whole day, I saw much given away by them especially to the shepherds out in the field where the beasts had been sheltered. That evening, I saw the Kings in the Crib Cave, taking leave. Mensor entered first alone, and the Blessed Virgin gave him the Child to hold in his arms. He shed abundant tears, and his face was beaming with joy. Then followed the others and took leave with many tears. They left the Holy Family with many expensive gifts, which were then given to the needy by Mary after the Kings left. They all wept much when parting from the Child and Mary. I saw the Blessed Virgin standing by them when they took their leave.

After this, Anne tells of the vision that the Kings had from an angel warning them to return by a different route. She tells how they only took necessary items with them and left in haste with their retune headed out in groups as fast as they could leave. In her account, she tells that if they had not left when they did, officials in Bethlehem would have tried to accost them and put them in jail. She also tells how they met with Joseph and conferred with the dream that he was given by an angel that it was necessary for him to take the Child and flee to Egypt. The Kings tried to petition Joseph to go with them, but he knew that God had a different path for the Holy Family.

I hope that this detailed account of the encounter of the three Kings with Jesus, Mary and Joseph will be helpful to you as a meditation on the visit of the Magi / Kings to the Holy Family.

I pray that this is a beautiful meditation that leads you to a closer encounter with the Child Jesus during the Christmas Season.

Lord Jesus, may you touch the hearts of those who meditate on this account of the visit of the Magi / Kings with a deeper and heartfelt love for the Child Jesus during this Christmas season. Pour out your love abundantly on them, so that they will have an ever deepening love for Jesus and the Divine Trinity. May this love guide them to a closer personal relationship with Jesus, one that will guide them to an ever deepening desire for holiness in their lives. May you bless them with an abundance of graces that leads them into a deeper relationship with you. May your abiding peace touch all of our hearts in such a way that all who encounter you in prayer will be filled with joy and all those who have never known you personally will be filled with a deep desire to know you. May God bless all who take time to read and reflect on this pastor's corner. Amen



MINISTRY DIRECTORY

ALTAR SERVERS

Karen Dickerson 985-863-7935

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ALTAR SOCIETY

Susan Mercier 985-690-6617

3rd Thursday each month 9:00 am

ANTONIANS

Howard Hebert 985-863-5319

1st Tuesday each month 7:00 pm

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1st Friday each month 8:00 am

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GRAND ADULTS (GASPP)

Alicia O'Brien 985-863-1938

1st Monday each month 12:00 pm

LECTORS

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LEGION OF MARY

Paula Hilton 985-707-4539

Meet on Thursdays at 10:00 am

MINISTER OF EUCHARIST SUNDAYS

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rogruiz@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Cynthia Ripoll 985-774-9917

Braden Eymard 5:00 pm

Mike & Cynthia Ripoll 8:30 am

Harold & Shelia Loyacano 10:30 am

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Ellie Ross & Dana Bunting 985-960-1613

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Tony Colombo 985-863-7309

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Eydie Richmond

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howardhebert@bellsouth.net

WIDOWS GROUP

Sandra Bailey 985-250-9013

Stella Jenevein 504-884-0106

3rd Thursday each month 12:00 pm

YOUTH GROUP (CYO)

Lauryn Jeffrey 985-259-9604

In order to keep our data base current and accurate, please contact the office if you have moved and have a new address or new phone number.

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The office requires information no later than
Monday, **two (2) weeks** before publication.

For current Parish happenings (funeral information, changes in mass times, etc.),
check the bulletin boards at the entrances to church and www.sppcprla.com.

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Good Sams Ministry is open Monday (12:30-3:30 pm), Tuesday-Friday (9:30 am-3:30 pm). Please call ahead for appointment, 985-641-6421

We do not accept clothing or furniture donations. Bring these to
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