January 5, 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

For centuries, Christians throughout the world have had a tradition of "chalking doors" on the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, which celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the nations.

Inspired by the Magi, the family uses chalk to mark the lintel or doorpost with the following symbols:

20+C+M+B+XX (XX = last two digits of current year)

The numbers are for the year. The crosses symbolize Christ's cross. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which means "May Christ bless this house." This offers everyone from the home a reminder that Christ has blessed the home and all those who live in it. It also reminds everyone that the household is dedicated to Christ.

Here's a simple blessing from the Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son 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 Lord. Amen.



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Vigil: Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am, 11:00am & 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am and Daily Masses are Live Streamed on our website stmaryslg .org/live- stream-mass

DAILY MASS

Mon - Sat: 8:30am Rosary - 8:00am Live-Stream & in church

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm (in church)

ADORATION

Mondays - 9:00-10:00am Thursdays - 7:00-8:00pm

PARISH OFFICE

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm 408-354-3726 Email:

parish.office.@stmaryslg.org Web: stmaryslg.org

If it is a non-medical emergency and you need to reach a priest, call the parish office, and follow the prompts.

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL

408.354.3944 30 Lyndon Avenue Los Gatos, CA 95030 Web: smslg.org

20 + C + M + B + 23

x139

x137

x118

REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading:

Isaiah foresees a time when the people of Jerusalem will be overwhelmed with happiness and prosperity. What gift could you receive that would bring you great joy?

Second Reading:

Paul informs the Ephesians that he received a revelation of God's plan to save all people through

Christ Jesus. What do you think makes your friends or relatives open to this idea?

Gospel:

The visit of the magi teaches us about God's desire for the whole world know about his Son, Jesus. *When do you first recall hearing about Jesus?*

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TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6;

Psalm 72;

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6;

Matthew 2:1-12

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to all humankind. Epiphany is traditionally and actually on January 6, but a number of years ago the Bishops in the United States moved it to the Sunday that falls between January 2 and 8.

In the First Reading from Isaiah the prophet speaks of what will happen centuries later after the birth of Christ. There are two strong references to the story of the Magi with which we are so familiar. Isaiah declares, "Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you." We often speak of the Light of Christ, and often He is portrayed in art sort of glowing or with a light on His face. In addition, we have the light of the star which led the Magi to Him so they could worship Him. The images we have of them are influenced by Isaiah, when he says, "Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord."

Therefore, today we celebrate receiving God's light. But there is more to it than that. The First Reading opens with "Rise up in splendor...Your light has come." We are to do more than just receive the light. We are to share it and reflect it. In our terms it is as if the Lord said, "Rise and shine; your light has come." That is what we mean when we say we are called. We are called to be disciples and to be the Light of Christ for those around us.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul speaks of the revelations which this day represents. Paul points out that it had been revealed to us; a revelation is an epiphany. What is revealed? Exactly what Isaiah speaks of in the fact that Christ and His Divinity are revealed to the whole world. And what is the key to this revelation? The fact that "the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

Paul also says in relation to the divinity of the Lord, "the mystery was made known to me by revelation." We need to appreciate that what we translate as "mystery" is from the Greek word, mysterion, used by Paul. For us a mystery may represent something dark or obscure or incomprehensible. However, that is not the meaning of mysterion. It is more accurately translated as a now-open secret, something originally hidden, but now revealed by God.

As Matthew shares in today's Gospel, they were "magi from the east." At no time does Matthew tell us there were three of them nor does he indicate that they are kings. Most likely, according to scholars, they were astronomers or astrologers, thus their knowledge of and fascination with the star which led them. Who they were and how many of them there were is not important. What is important is that they represent all of us, and their actions suggest to us how we need to respond to Jesus Christ and what He is and represents.

Holy Scripture is filled with subtleties we sometimes miss. Matthew tells us that "on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother." Joseph is evidently not present, and there is a reason for that. He was not, as we know, the true father to Jesus. They presented gifts to Jesus, not to His mother or His parents. When we give to Jesus today, we do not do it directly, but to the Lord's people through the parish and other charities.

Finally, these visitors worshiped the Lord ("They prostrated themselves and did him homage."). We, too, need to worship the Lord; we, too, need to acknowledge His holiness and His kingship. Worshiping is more important than the gifts, but we are reminded in this Gospel that both are significant.

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PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office 408.354.3726 Fr. Angelo David, Pastor angelo.david@dsj.org x139 Michael Lomas. Pastoral Associate & Director of Faith Formation mlomas@stmaryslg.org x123 Percival Perlas, Music Director pperlas@stmaryslg.org x122 Vanesa Lleverino, Admin Assistant vlleverino@stmaryslg.org x110 Sharon Aeria, Business Manager saeria@stmaryslg.org x137 **Faith Formation** x123 Confirmation x123 **Baptism** x110 OCIA / OCIC (Initiation) x123 Music Ministry x122 Marriage x139

If it is a non-medical **EMERGENCY** and you need to reach a priest, call the parish office and follow the voice prompts.

St. Mary Parish School 408.354.3944 30 Lyndon Avenue Los Gatos, CA 95030 smslg.org

Monica Hernandez, *Principal* mhernandez@stmaryslg.org

Pastoral Care of the Sick

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Ceci Salgado, Office Manager csalgado@stmaryslg.org

REPORT MISCONDUCT Financial: 888-325-7863 dsj.ethicspoint.com

Children & Vulnerable Adults: 844-372-1691 opcva.ethicspoint.com



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun	1/5	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12	
Mon	1/6	St. André Bessette, Religious 1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Ps 2:7b-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25	
Tues	1/7	St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44	
Wed	1/8	1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52	
Thu	1/9	1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Ps72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a	
Fri	1/10	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16	
Sat	1/11	1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30	
Sun	1/12	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22	

Mass Intentions					
Mon	1/6	8:30 am	John Rocchio †		
Tues	1/7	4:00 pm	Flannery Abrahamson (birthday)		
Wed	1/8	9:00 am	Olivia Gray †		
Thu	1/9	8:30 am	Vincent Loffredo †		
Fri	1/10	8:30 am	Jane McDonald †		
Sat	1/11	8:30 am	Marcial Laplace (special intention)		
		5:00 pm	Cheryl Aranha (birthday)		
Sun	1/12	9:00 am	Robert Hapgood Cowden †		
		11:00 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory †		
		5:00 pm	Harry Hasse †		



December 24, 2024

Pope Francis opened the Holy
Door at St. Peter's Basilica,
inviting the world into an
encounter with God's mercy. With
this, the Jubilee begins, calling all
of us to open our hearts to
renewal, forgiveness, and a deeper
relationship with Christ, his
Church, and our community of
faith.

Text: USCCB Facebook Post CNS Photo/screengrab, Vatican Media



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe you are really here in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you more than anything in the world, and I hunger to receive you.
But since I cannot receive Communion at this time, Feed my soul spiritually. I unite myself to you now, as I do when I actually receive You in Holy Communion. Amen.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The news of the Messiah unsettled Herod. We see his anxiety clearly in today's Gospel. This is what Christ has come to do, after all. He has come to shake things up. Are we ready to be unsettled?

©LP

Pope Francis' Universal Prayer Intention: January

For the right to an education:

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



FAITH IN ACTION

Stewardship of **PRAYER**

Please pray with us for our parishioners, family and friends.

For those who are sick and who have asked for our prayers: Ken Ardent; Marietta Riney; Adam Thielmann; Michelle Antonowicz; Elisabeth Venesualea; Honora Hannan; Frank Nolan; Michelle Schwartz; Carol Yanz

For those who have recently died:

Herb Robbins; Michael Wheeler; Gerlinde Krick; Patrick Mahoney; Harold George Peth

Members of our parish family who are in the military, hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins and all who have no one to pray for them.

Stewardship of TALENT



JANUARY 11 & 12

5:00pm: Saturday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 9:00am: Sunday: Adult Choir & Piano/Organ 11:00am: Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 5:00pm Sunday: 5pm Sunday Ensemble

ST. MARY BIBLE STUDY - Did you know we have a bible study group that meets every other Thursday 9:30am - 11am? We are currently studying Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson's program on the bible. Feel free to drop in whenever you have time. Please check the parish calendar for the schedule.

ST. MARY SENIORS - If you are free the 3rd Monday of the month, please join us in Hofmann Center at 12 noon for a meeting of social activity and service to our parish. Bring a sack lunch.

St. Vincent de Paul has a very active conference at St Mary! We meet every 2nd Sunday of the month after the 9am Mass in Hofmann Center.



Visit us at stmaryslg.org/st-vincent-de-paul

Anyone interested in our work helping the unhoused and working poor in our community please contact conference president Sue Ahmadian at sue.ahmadian@gmail.com



Stewardship of TREASURE

Managing God's Gift To Us

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF TREASURE! Our Goal for January is \$85,000.00

Your weekly offerings enable us to meet our monthly obligations and continue to support the many parish programs at St. Mary. Thank you for your faithful support.

To make an online gift: **stmaryslg.org/online-giving**

Please consider setting up a recurring or one-time gift Online. Instructions can be found at stmaryslg.org/getting-started-with-online-giving

OFFERINGS AND ONLINE GIVING

Due to the early submission of this bulletin to our publishers, the report for December 22 is not available for this issue.



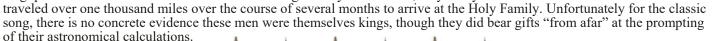


OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

THE THREE WISE MEN: MAGI, THREE KINGS, THREE WISE MEN...WHO WERE THEY?

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men magoi. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean "magician," but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says "the east." History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely





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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: The journey of the magi would have been treacherous and uncomfortable. Imagine the peace in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them. It can be the same for us.

The Answer

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer. It should be the same for us.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Are you a non-Catholic who is attracted to the Catholic way of life and interested in becoming Catholic? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) helps prepare adults to receive the Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church. We meet in a supportive, small group setting to learn about Scripture, the Mass, Sacraments, Church,



History, Catholic Prayer and Devotional Practices, and Catholic Teachings on Theology, Moral Issues, and Social Justice.

If you would like more information about this process, please contact Michael Lomas - **mlomas@stmaryslg.org** or call 408-354-3726 x 123

OUR MISSION

We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ that gathers together to celebrate the mysteries of God's love. We support and strengthen one another in our commitment to the Catholic faith. We serve those in need and share with all the Good News of God's unconditional love.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope," and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.



The 2025 Jubilee officially opened on December 24, 2024, at 7 pm with a Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square. The rite of the Opening of the Holy Door will follow.

SUNDAY, JAN 12 JUBILEE YEAR 2025 DIOCESAN SOLEMN VESPERS - 5pm FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMS OF HOPE AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. JOSEPH.

CATHOLIC CHARITY IMMIGRATION SERVICES.

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County offers workshops and legal consultation. The Know Your Rights workshops are available in several languages. A few parishes are using these legal consultation teams. Your parish can utilize these services by contacting Aditi Aggarwal-Gupta, the Program Manager at (408)325-5254 or aggarwal-gupta@ccscc.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help distribute food to families in need. Shifts are only 3.5 hours, and you can make a real difference! Sign up today: ccscc.org/become-a-volunteer. More information, contact Lynda DeManti - ldemanti@ccscc.org or call 408-839-3163

THE VALLEY CATHOLIC FALL 2024 ISSUE

Read about the Pastoral Plan for Worship and about the CCHD's 2023 Cardinal Bernardin Award Winner Ivonn Rivera's work bringing pop-up masses and listening session to neighborhoods. https://thevalleycatholic.org/

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MASS - FEBRUARY 15, 2025 @ 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Couples celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries (1st – 5th, 25th, 40th, 50th, and greater) this year are invited to attend the celebration Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph in downtown San Jose. Register at dsj.org/evangelization/family-life/events-and-community/wedding-anniversary/



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