

Solemnity of the Epiphany



We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.
Hemos visto su estrella en el oriente y hemos venido a adorar al Señor.



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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 PM (St. Peter, Ben Bolt) | 5:00 PM (Spanish)
Sunday: 7:00 AM (Spanish) | 8:00 AM (St. Peter, Ben Bolt) | 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM | 5:00 PM
Weekday: 7:00 AM & 12:05 PM Monday-Friday & 7:00 AM Saturday

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASSES

Vigil 6:00 PM

Day 7:00 AM | 12:05 PM | 6:00 PM

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

Thursdays 6:00-7:00PM | Saturday 1:30-3:30PM | or by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays 6:00pm | First Saturdays after 7am Mass

BAPTISMAL CLASSES

Second Tuesday of the month 7:00pm
Must register at office before attending the class



UPCOMING EVENTS + NEWS



Pope Francis launches Jubilee 2025 with opening of Holy Door

Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica before Mass on Christmas Eve, officially launching the Jubilee Year 2025.

"O Christ, bright star of the morning, incarnation of infinite love, long-awaited salvation, sole hope of the world, illumine our hearts with your radiant splendor," the pope prayed on Dec. 24 during the rite of opening of the Holy Door, which was preceded by readings from the Old and New Testaments, the singing of the O Antiphons, and the proclamation of Christmas.

"In this season of grace and reconciliation grant that we may put our trust in your mercy alone and discover once more the way that leads to the Father," Francis continued. "Open our souls to the working of the Holy Spirit, that he may soften the hardness of our hearts, that enemies may speak to each other again, adversaries may join hands, and peoples seek to meet together."

The rite to open the Holy Door — sealed since the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016 — included the proclamation of a passage from the Gospel of John in which Jesus says: "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Seated in his wheelchair, the 88-year-old Pope Francis leaned forward to knock on the gold Holy Door. As assistants opened the two sides of the door, the choir sang in Latin: "This is the Lord's own gate. Where the upright enter. I enter your house, O Lord."

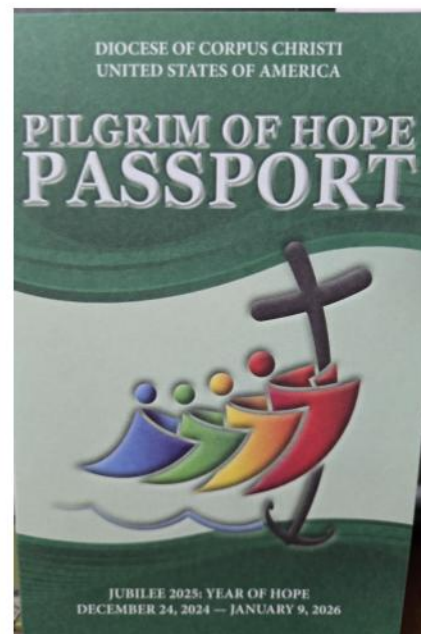
After breaking open the special door, Francis stopped at the threshold to pray briefly in silence as the bells of St. Peter's Basilica pealed out into the cool Rome night.

The pope passed through the Holy Door into the basilica followed by cardinals, bishops, priests, and ministers for

Christmas Mass as well as representatives of other Christian churches and Catholics from five continents wearing traditional clothing from their countries. The choir sang the Jubilee hymn, "Pilgrims of Hope."

While symptoms of a cold kept the pope indoors on the weekend before Christmas, he was well enough on Tuesday to open the Holy Door and preside over Mass During the Night for the Nativity of the Lord. It was also one of Francis' first public appearances sporting hearing aids.

Some of the biggest events of the Jubilee of Hope will be the canonizations of Blessed Carlo Acutis, during the Jubilee of Teenagers on April 27, and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, during the Jubilee of Young People on Aug. 3, and the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents, and the Elderly on the weekend of May 30-June 1.



We also have the Pilgrim passports for the diocese available at the parish office. We encourage to pick one up if you are really going to undergo the pilgrimage to the 6 holy sites. Bishop Mulvey invites us,

"I encourage all of you to give welcome to Jesus in your family this year. Pray together, spend more time together with family, listen to one another, help each other carry the crosses of life, reconcile and forgive one another, spend time with those who are elderly, sick, poor or forgotten. These and so many other family undertakings can bring a new enthusiasm for the beauty and joy of being a family. I invite you to visit together the six holy sites in the diocese designated as pilgrimage sites during this year. Each site bears the name of Our Lady of Guadalupe and one Our Mother Thrice Admirable "

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PRAYER LIFE

ST JOSEPH MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 4, 2025

7:00 am †MARIA DORA S. GONZALEZ

5:00 pm †MANUELA R. GUERRERO

Sunday, January 5, 2025 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:00 am ST. JOSEPH PARISHIONERS

9:00 am †ROMEO V. ALANIZ | †OLGA R. VALADEZ | †RUBEN N. GARCIA | †REUBEN B. GARCIA

11:00 am †JUANITA SILVA PEREZ

5:00 pm †DAVID L. GAZA

Monday, January 6, 2024

7:00 am †HERMOJENES G. PEREZ

12:05 pm †MELVA TREJO GONZALEZ

Tuesday, January 7, 2024

7:00 am †EUGENE MARIANO VALDEZ

12:05 pm †FR. VERONIKA ROLMER

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

7:00 am †LILIA ESZPINOZA

12:05 pm †JUANITA C. SALINAS

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:00 am †LUCY OCHOA

12:05 pm †MARIA ADAME

Friday, January 10, 2025

7:00 am †CELIA G. TREVINO

12:05 pm †MARTA LOPEZ

Saturday, January 11, 2025

7:00 am †AREOPOLDO S. SALINAS

5:00 pm †ZENAIDO BARRERA, III

Sunday, January 12, 2025 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:00 am †HECTOR JULIAN MARTINEZ, JR.

9:00 am ST. JOSEPH PARISHIONERS

11:00 am †MELISSA MENDIETTA | †JUANITA SILVA PEREZ |

†JUAN MARTIN RAMIREZ | †MARIA ELENA RAMIREZ

5:00 pm †OLIVIA TREJO

ST PETER MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 4, 2025

4:00 pm ST. PETER PARISHIONERS

Sunday, January 5, 2025 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00 am †NORA G. AMADOR

Saturday, January 11, 2025

4:00 pm †OLGA VALADEZ

Sunday, January 12, 2025 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00 am ST. PETER PARISHIONERS

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to all people, as told in the Gospel of Matthew through the visit of the wise men meditating on the significance of the journey, embracing our shared humanity, and trusting in God's guidance.



Epiphany Blessing of the Home

All gather near the main entrance to the home. Begin with the Sign of the Cross +.

Leader: "Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Using the chalk, write on the outside of your house or inside above the main entrance,

20 +C + M + B +25 As you inscribe this, you may speak the words "May Christ bless this house". End with the following, brief prayer;

All: 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 live here and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

This traditional home blessing is a wonderful way to engage the whole family, your friends and even neighbours in seeking the graces they need for the coming year. The inscription above the door will also become an interesting conversation piece throughout the year. As friends and family members come and go be sure to welcome their questions about this unique set of symbols. May your 2025 be truly blessed!



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The light of Epiphany

Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. For centuries we as Catholics celebrated this Feast on Jan. 6, but the decision was made a number of years ago (at least in the United States) to celebrate the Epiphany on the Sunday which falls between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8.

“Epiphany” means “manifestation.” It is on this day that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is revealed as the light of all nations. Officially Christmas is not over. In fact, the recommendation of the Church is that on this day those who display a crèche, a nativity or manger scene, should replace the shepherd and sheep with the Magi and their likely animals on which they traveled as well as their gifts. However, that is all secondary to the real meaning of this day.

At Christmas the Messiah Jesus was revealed to the shepherds, who were Jewish. But on this day the Lord is revealed to all nations and to the Gentiles (represented by the Magi). We are all familiar with the star the Magi followed, but we need to understand all that is happening and what it means. This all represents the Light of Christ, a Light which today we honor and commemorate. We are called to be the Light of Christ right now to those around us and those with whom we come in

contact. That way we can be the disciples Christ wants us to be.

The poet William Cullen Bryant captures the significance of the star the Magi followed very well when he wrote, “O Father, may that Holy Star, Grow every year more bright, And send its glorious beams afar, To fill the world with light.”



GUIDE US TO
your perfect light.



GUÍANOS HACIA
tu luz perfecta.

Who are the Three Kings?

The three kings are classic figures in every Nativity set — one king on a camel, one kneeling at the manger and one standing ready to offer his gifts. But who were the Wise Men, and what do we know about them?

We're not exactly sure who they were. The evidence from the Gospels is found in the first 12 verses of St. Matthew's account. All we can glean from that passage is that they are called Magi, or "magicians," that they came from the East to Jerusalem, and that they had seen a star announcing the birth of the King of the Jews. The Gospel doesn't say there were three Wise Men. That idea comes from the three gifts they brought.

To track down who the Wise Men were, we must first look East. The obvious choice is the Parthian Empire. During the time of Jesus, the Parthian Empire was the name of what was formerly the Persian Empire. It was centered on present day Iran and Iraq. In the Parthian Empire there was a caste of astrologer priests based in the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism. Most scholars think the Magi were Zoroastrian priest-astrologers from Persia. However, none of this is recorded in Matthew's Gospel. Neither is there a mention that the Wise Men were kings — nor are there camels in Matthew's account. So, where did the idea come from that the Wise Men were camel-riding kings? The idea of three kings and the presence of camels is linked with two Old Testament prophecies. Psalm 72:10-11 reads:

*"May the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute,
the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
May all kings bow before him,
all nations serve him."*

Isaiah 60 is also read in the liturgy on the feast of the Epiphany, and, like Psalm 72, Isaiah highlights the double meaning of the visit of the Wise Men: that the light of Christ has come into the world and is for all people — not only the Jews. The prophecy reads:

*"Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you
... Nations shall walk by your light,
kings by the radiance of your dawning
Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you —
Your sons from afar
... Then you shall see and be radiant
... For the riches of the sea shall be poured out before
you,
the wealth of nations shall come to you.
Caravans of camels shall cover you,
dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
All from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense
and heralding the praises of the Lord" (vv. 1-6).*

Now we can see where the idea of kings and camels

comes from. Matthew says the kings came from the East, and Persia seems the obvious choice, but the passage from Isaiah predicts that the kings come from Ephah, Midian and Sheba. Where are Ephah, Midian and Sheba?

Midian is the Old Testament name for what was, in Jesus' time, the Kingdom of the Nabateans. It lies directly east and south of Jerusalem — in present-day Jordan — and Ephah was a city of Midian further south in the Arabian peninsula. The ancient Kingdom of Sheba was centered in what is present-day Yemen, also to the east and south. If we are looking to the Scriptures for evidence, the prophecy from Isaiah suggests that the Wise Men came from what is now Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. If so, they probably did come on camels, since Midian especially was known for its abundance of camels.

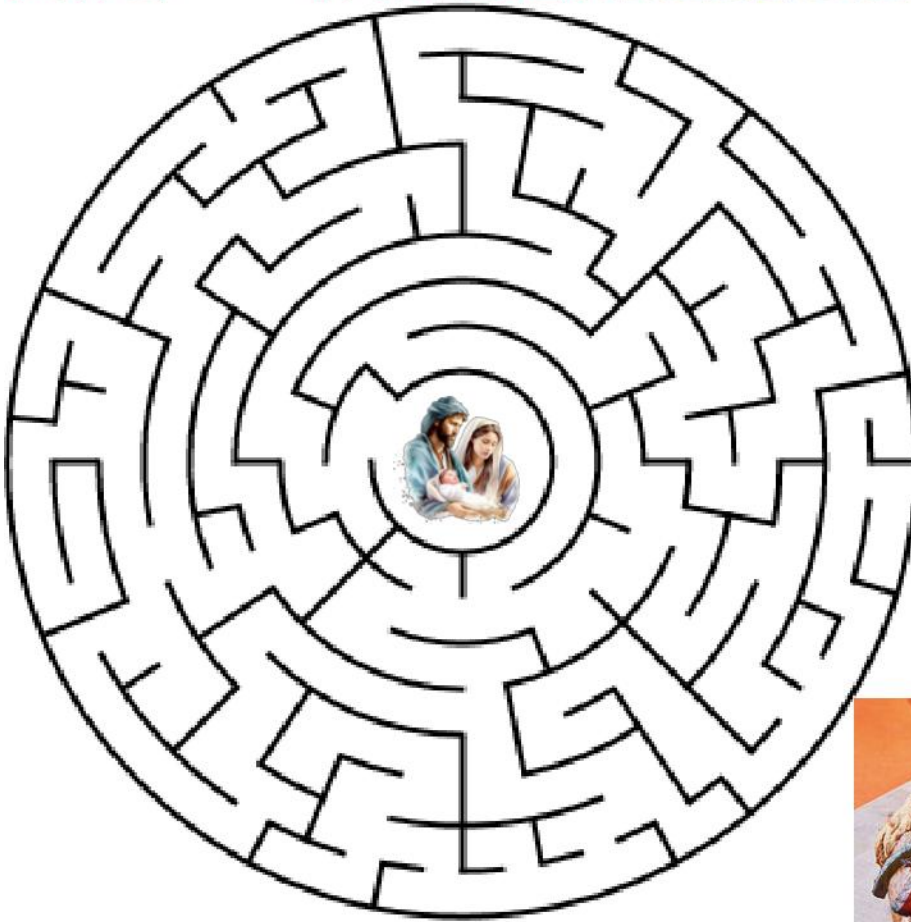
Can we use an Old Testament prophecy to determine where the Wise Men came from? Those who believe in the accuracy of biblical prophecy will not have a problem doing so. However, there are other indicators to suggest the Arabian peninsula rather than Persia. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are overlooked as clues to solve the riddle.

The Gifts of the Magi

Where did the gold come from? As mentioned, Yemen is the present-day location of the ancient civilization of Sheba. The kingdom's fabulous wealth was based on gold mines in Ethiopia. Archaeologists have recently discovered what they believe to be the mines of the queen of Sheba. The kings of Yemen during the time of Jesus were Jewish. They would have had a keen interest in the goings-on in Herod's court and the arrival of a new king of the Jews.

There are more intriguing clues based on three gifts. The Arabian peninsula — especially the area of Midian and Sheba — is the only place in the world where the specific plants grow from which are harvested the resin to make both incense and myrrh. These two rich gifts — used for their aroma and for medicinal purposes — were the cash crops of this part of the world.

The origin of the three gifts would indicate that the Wise Men came from the Arabian peninsula. And the gifts were not simply rich gifts offered to Christ, but were symbolic gifts from the kingdoms of their origin. The gifts had diplomatic significance and suggest that the Magi were indeed either kings or ambassadors from the court of Nabatea and Sheba. Even more intriguing, there was constant traffic along the "incense route," which came north from the southern tip of Arabia up to what is now Jordan and across Judea to Gaza. If the Magi were from southern Arabia and the Kingdom of Nabatea (present-day Jordan), their trade route ran right past Jerusalem and Bethlehem.



Symbolism of the Rosca de Reyes

On the feast of the Epiphany, there is the Mexican tradition of the Rosca de Reyes. The symbolism of the Rosca de Reyes speaks of the Biblical story of Mary and Joseph's flight to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the slaughter of the innocents. The shape of the Rosca symbolizes a crown, in this case, the crown of King Herod from whom they were trying to hide the infant Jesus. The dried fruit placed on top are jewels on the crown. The figurine in the Rosca represents baby Jesus in hiding. The person who finds the baby Jesus is symbolically his godparent and must sponsor the party when he is taken to the temple to be blessed, celebrated as Día de la Candelaria, or Candlemas, on February 2nd.

TOMICS by Tom Gould

Luke 2:22-24
Turtledoves, Part 1



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A PRAYER FOR FALLYN MARIE
*Eternal rest, grant unto her O Lord
 and let perpetual light shine upon
 her. May she rest in peace. Amen*
 I loved you yesterday. I love you still.
 I always have and I always will. -V



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