

Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

6596 Smiley Avenue

STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Michael Rennie
michaelrennier@gmail.com

Music Director

Elizabeth Wildman

Plant Manager

John Ellison
johnellison11@aol.com

Parish Secretary

Trish Nerviani
trishnerviani@aol.com

MASS & SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses: 8:00 am, 10:30 am &
6:30 pm

(A traditional Latin Mass is celebrated on
the 1st Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm.)

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday: 8:00 am

Tuesday Evening Mass: 6:30 pm

Saturday Masses 8:00 am and 4:00 pm

Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays 7:15-8 pm (with reception
for young adults after - hosted by
Spirit and Truth St. Louis)

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday, 7:30-7:50 am

Sundays, 10-10:20 am & 6-6:20 pm

Tuesdays, 6-6:20 pm OR by appointment

Baptisms: Contact the parish office to
Register.

Marriages: Contact the priest at least 9
months prior to the wedding date.

Funerals: To be arranged by contacting
the Parish Office.

Change of Address or Telephone

Number: Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Deadline: 4:00 pm Monday.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" - Mk 1:23-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 31, 2021

Phone: 314-781-1199
www.epiphanystl.org

Thank you all for the Christmas cards. Every year, I receive cards from a large number of you, which I greatly appreciate.

We have a brand-new Breviary Coffee Bean freshly roasted! The coffee bean we've been using for the past year is no longer available, so we have a new single-origin bean grown from a small collective of Rwandan farms. I've been drinking it all week and it's delicious. I'll put some in the back of Church this weekend if you want to take a bag (\$7). You can also stop by the church office anytime during office hours and pick some up.

We're trying to decide if we would like to have a drive-through fish fry this Lent. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office and let us know. The sooner we know if we have enough willing volunteers, the better, because we need to start ordering supplies very soon.

Candlemas is coming up on February 2. Every year I bless all the candles we use in the church. It occurs to me that I also ought to encourage you all to bring your own candles to have them blessed. If you would like that, you can bring your candles to the 6:30pm Mass on Tue Feb 2 and I'll bless whatever you all bring.

The Blessing of Throats through the intercession of Saint Blaise is February 3. I'll also bless throats at weekend Masses. This year, the blessing is a collective blessing over the whole group (without the candles). If you would like to find me anytime at all over the next few weeks for a private blessing, I'm happy to accommodate.

Ash Wednesday is coming up soon. This year it's on February 17. A reminder that it is *not a holy day of obligation, but it is a day of fasting and abstinence.* We will have Masses at 8am and 7pm. The imposition of ashes is different this year.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked for the sprinkling of ashes on our head this year instead of signing them on our foreheads. Sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head is still practiced in many Catholic churches in Europe and is an ancient symbol recalling the biblical method of putting on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penance. As we read in the Book of Nehemiah, "On the twenty-fourth day of this month, the people of Israel gathered while fasting and wearing sackcloth, their heads covered with dust." Please be aware of this change if you plan on attending Mass for Ash Wednesday.

Bring in your palms. We'll put baskets at the doors to collect last year's palms. So bring them in! I'd like to burn them on February 16.

We are now beginning our 38th week of being back at Mass together - Since May 18 2020, we've hosted approximately 411 Masses total. *That's a lot of Masses.* We have had zero incidents of community transmission of coronavirus. There is no such thing as a zero risk environment - there never has been - but our common sense approach to staying healthy is working just fine. Thank you all for continuing to respect each other, particularly by staying home when you are feeling ill.

If you become ill with coronavirus, please do contact the parish office. I'll keep your information private. I would, of course, like to keep you in my prayers, but also we need to know so we can do contact tracing and let parishioners know who might have been exposed. Technically, because everyone is spaced out in the pews, there are no exposures during Mass, but we feel that full transparency is the best approach. So far, everyone who has been ill while at Mass has been very responsible about letting us know (probably 7 or 8 incidents total since May). So far, there has been zero connection between an ill person attending Mass and any other parishioners getting sick.

A reminder that, concerning face-covering, I have a medical exemption that is allowable in the health department guidelines. If anyone needs to see the official exemption letter from my doctor, come see me in my office.

Here's the current Marian Hymn after Mass

Alma Redemptóris Mater, quæ pérvia cæli
 Porta manes, et stella maris, succúrre cadénti,
 Súrgere qui curat pópulo: tu quæ genuísti,
 Natura miránte, tuum sanctum Genitórem
 Virgo prius ac postérius, Gabriélis ab ore
 Sumens illud Ave, peccatórum miserére.

Fr. Michael



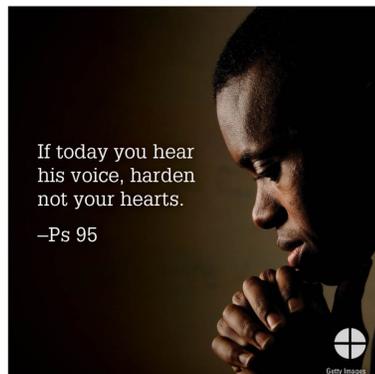
The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2021

“ We too are called to welcome Jesus who comes to meet us. To encounter him: the God of life is to be encountered every day of our lives; not now and then, but every day. To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all, it is a daily choice.” - Pope Francis, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 2019

The Presentation of Jesus in the temple show him to be the firstborn Son who belongs to the Lord. With Simeon and Ann, all Israel awaits its encounter with the Savior - the name given to this event in the Byzantine tradition. Jesus is recog-

nized as the long-expected Messiah, the “light of the nations” and the “glory of Israel,” but also “a sign that is spoken against.” The sword of sorrow predicted for Mary announces Christ’s perfect and unique oblation on the cross that will impart the salvation of God has” prepared in the presence of all peoples” (CCC< no. 592).



If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

-Ps 95



Catholic Current

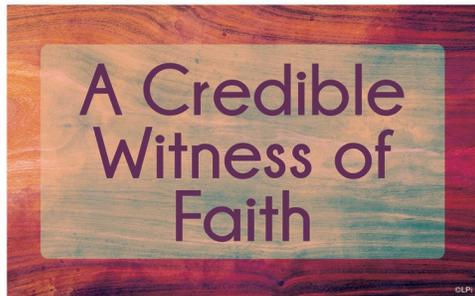
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WORSHIP & MEDITATION

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God’s special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, “When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world’s difficulties.” We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life’s challenges. That sounds doable, doesn’t it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

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ATTENTION ALL EOL WOMEN IN FAITH

We are finally going to start our 2nd Tues of the Month sharing sessions again beginning, Tues. Feb 9, 2021. We will meet in the Rectory at 7:15 PM (after 6:30 PM Mass) till 8:45 PM Our First Topic after all these months of being on hold due to Covid will be: **Hope/Discernment- "Hold fast to the Hope that lies before us." Heb 6:18** We will once again rely on the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) as resources for our Wisdom, Insight and Understanding. Please join us in our discussion. We are limited to a group of 10 so please call to reserve your spot today. If you need additional information, please call Mary Jo Martin at 314-324-7224.

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED



In your kindness, please pray for the repose of the soul of Gerry Kitchell, our parishioner. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday, January 31**
 8:00 am Mary Schneeberger (*Blessings*)
 10:30 am Parishioners
 6:30 pm Dianne Mayfield
- Monday, February 1**
 8:00 am Sr. Carol Kopff (*Special Intentions*)
- Tuesday, February 2**
The Presentation of the Lord
 8:00 am Paul Leuthen
 6:30 pm Rev. John Hughes
- Wednesday, February 3**
 8:00 am Joan Kenny (*Good Health*)
- Thursday, February 4**
 8:00 am Sharon Huck (*Good Health*)
- Friday, February 5**
 8:00 am Elizabeth Marcbank
- Saturday, February 6**
 8:00 am Rev. Eugene F. Bendel
 4:00 pm Michael O'Fallon
- Sunday, February 7**
 8:00 am Jeff Jeter
 10:30 am Parishioners
 6:30 pm Rev. William J. Kester



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND & SICK OF OUR PARISH

Anita Gilliam	All Coronavirus Patients	Larry Lopez
Axel Nuspl	Phoenix Nuspl	Sr. Carol Kopff
Joan Huelsmann	Mary Helen Brindell	Frank Blandino

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2021

- SUN 1/31** Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
- MON 2/01** Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20
- TUE 2/02** Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
- WED 2/03** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6
- THR 2/04** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13
- FRI 2/05** Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29
- SAT 2/06** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34
- SUN 2/07** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39



LASM Our parish's senior ministry, Lindenwood Area Senior Ministry (LASM), has recently expanded its case management services. The goal of this service is to help seniors overcome barriers to needed services by linking them with resources to meet their everyday living needs and maximize their independence. The expansion of this program has brought about the hiring of a second staff person for LASM. This weekend we will welcome LASM Director, Katie Weintraub and LASM's new Case Manager, Leigh Manalang. They will speak at the end of Mass to offer a brief update on the ministry and an overview of what kinds of assistance is being offered to our 60+ parishioners via the case management program. To stay up-to-date on LASM happenings like their Facebook page and visit lasministry.org. You are also encouraged to reach out at any time with questions and referrals: Katie (314-647-4591) or Leigh (314-376-4121).

Congrats to Epiphany Men's Club Alpha Square winners for the month of December and January!

- December 2020 -**
 \$100 - Mary Ann Jankowski (X13)
 \$25 - Glenn Kraemer (X12)
 \$25 - Glenn Kraemer (X14)
 \$25 - Mike Peters (W13)
 \$25 - Don Yorker (Y13)

- January 2021 -**
 \$100 - Cassidy Christian (D11)
 \$25 - Evan Christian (D10)
 \$25 - Patty Dunne (D12)
 \$25 - Judy Hof (C12)
 \$25 - John Ellison (E12)

OUR OFFERING FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 23-24

- Sunday Collection**
 General Fund \$2,259.00
 General Fund Loose \$340.00
 General Fund Online \$535.00
Total..... \$3,134.00
- First Offering..... \$40.00
 Maintenance & Repair. ... \$70.00
 M&R Online \$25.00
 St. Louis Review \$175.00
 SVDP Online \$225.00
 Votive \$62.00
 Tuition Assistance \$10.00
 TA Online \$15.00



Why Do We Do That?-CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: I get annoyed with myself when I am distracted while I pray. Is it a sin? How can I be more attentive?

Answer: The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us "no!" This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life-dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to play!

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just "re-collect" ourselves. If some worry or concern just won't leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won't come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.

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KIDS CORNER

READ THE
GOSPEL AND
COMPLETE A
PUZZLE!

Unscramble words from today's Gospel.

quiet
teaching
amazed

spirit
Jesus
Holy One

shook
shout
obey

quiet q u i e t

Jsuse _____

amzeda _____

oybe _____

Hylo nOe _____

shuto _____

sipirt _____

soohk _____

tachenig _____

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Grass stains. Tomato sauce. Brightly colored fruit drinks. When these nasty stains stick to your clothes, it is tough to get them out. Regular soap won't work. You need something stronger. Jesus is really strong, too. In today's Gospel, a nasty evil spirit screamed when it saw Jesus. Jesus was so powerful, he cleaned that evil spirit right out.

PRAYER

God, you are much stronger than evil. Nothing is too hard for you to clean.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Make a new label for your family's stain pre-treatment bottle. Trace around the bottle, write Mark 1:21-28 in big letters, and decorate your label with a picture of Jesus. Tape your new label to the bottle so you and your parents remember how strong Jesus is.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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