

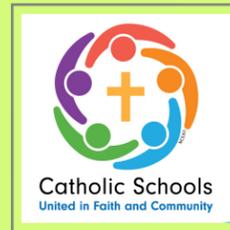
The Epiphany of the Lord

The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaias which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the Magnificat at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.

catholicculture.org



The Second Collection for the weekend of January 26, 2025 will be for **Catholic Schools**. Please let's be reminded.

Mass Intention Envelopes are located for your convenience at the entrance of the church. The cost is **\$5 per mass intention**.

Simply drop the envelope in the collection basket, mailbox or the office located at the parish hall.



The **2025 Offertory Envelopes** will be available soon. Please check regularly at the entrance of the church to pick out your annual envelopes.

We wish to remind all parishioners that the Archbishop will be visiting our parish come Sunday, January 19, 2025 to celebrate a 9:00 a.m Special Mass of Thanksgiving for the Successful completion of the repairs of our parish Church and also to install Rev. Fr. Jude Emunemu as our new pastor. Please note, we will celebrate one mass with a brunch reception to follow at the parish hall. We are appealing for brunch donations for the reception. For more information please contact **Mrs. Roberta Boudlauch @ 504-481-5319**. We are looking forward to the celebration of a special Mass of Thanksgiving for the completion of our church and Fr. Jude's installation.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT
As a Catholic Church Family, we respond to Christ's call, evangelize, and welcome all generations to the Holy Eucharist

St. Anthony Catholic Church

St. Anthony, 2653 Jean Lafitte Blvd., Lafitte, LA 70067

Phone: 504-689-4101 Fax: 504-689-4102

Email: stanthony@arch-no.org Website: stanthonylafitte.org

Pastor: Rev. Jude Emunemu **Deacon:** Edward Cain

Office Staff: Laura Melancon - Bulletin **CCD Director:** Jenea Hatty

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 9:00a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
First Saturday Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tuesdays in St. Anthony Church Chapel following Mass and the rosary @ 8:00 a.m.

RCIA: Parish Hall - Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Confessions:

30 minutes before each of the Sunday Weekend Masses (Sat. 4pm Vigil, Sun. 9am and 11am) or by appointment.

Baptism:

Second Sunday of the month. The Seminar is the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the rectory for forms prior to seminar.

Marriage:

Please contact Fr. Jude six months prior to desired ceremony date.

Funeral:

Please contact Fr. Jude before final arrangements of funeral.

Anointing of the Sick:

Call the rectory in case of emergency.

C.C.D. Classes:

Grades K - 11 Tuesdays at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Parish Hall.

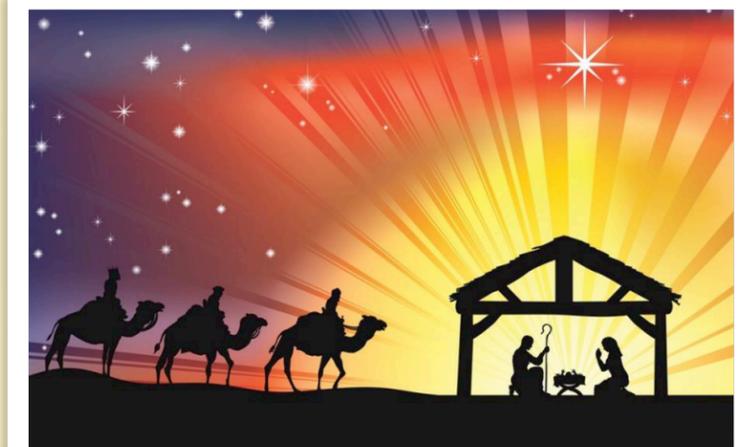
Ministry to the Sick and Shut In:

Parishioners unable to attend mass and receive communion, please call the rectory.

Scripture Outline & Reflection

Isaiah 60:1-6;
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-3;
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6;
Matthew 2:1-12

All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises (1, Ps) for they have been called to hear the good news (2) and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King (3) with the gift of their lives.



The Word of God became man and lived among us.

- Psalm 147

EPIPHANY—MANIFESTATION OF GOD’S ALL-INCLUSIVE LOVE

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, celebrates the manifestation or the revelation of Christ, the light of the world to the nations—that is, the Gentiles, represented in the three wise men who travelled from the East through the guidance of a Star. They saw his star at his rising, and they followed it with the intention of doing him homage. Jesus is the true Sun of Justice that rises from the East—the morning star that never sets. By following the star—that is, the star of promise, the Magi (Gentiles) received invitation to faith—which is an act of God’s generous love or kindness (“Hesed”) to form them into his people. But how did God give this invitation? He gave it through the mouth of the Prophet Isaiah in today’s first reading in these words: “Rise in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines.... Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.” In responding to this invitation, the prophesy of Isaiah was fulfilled: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone” (Isaiah 9:1). And by this act of God’s generous, those who were once considered as outsiders—not having a share in the inheritance of God’s promise (a position which of course, was proper to the Jews by virtue of their being chosen as God’s people), they became part of God’s beautiful family because of his all-inclusive love. St. Paul captures this very well in the second reading when he says: “The Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” In his catechetical instructions, St. Peter admonishes the Gentile Christians: “Once you were “no people” but now you are God’s people; you “had not received mercy” but now you have received mercy” (1 Pet. 2:10).

So, what we actually celebrate on this solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is truly God’s all-inclusive love that places no boundaries or limits. By virtue of our coming to faith in Christ Jesus which, of itself, is God’s own initiative, we not only have a sense of belonging but we truly become sharers in his divine promises as his chosen people. This is made possible through God’s own act of gratuitousness by which he pours his grace (unmerited favor) into our lives. If there is one thing that today’s solemnity teaches us, is that, we all are loved by God and we cannot limit God’s love.

When God invites us to faith, it is always an invitation to an encounter—an encounter which is not only a real event that is transformative but one with a real person—Jesus Christ himself who is the fullness of God’s revelation to us. In his first encyclical DEUS CARITAS EST—On Christian love, Pope Benedict XVI stated very emphatically: “Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (Deus Caritas Est para. 1). The three wise men who followed the star, were led to where Jesus—the true light of the world was; and when they found him, they did him homage. Our response of faith always leads to worship. We only can worship because we belong to the Mystical Body of Christ which is the Church. There is no community outside the Body of Christ. The Church is the living community of Christ himself. It is where we have communion with Christ especially through the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist is the place of encounter with the real Jesus—a beautiful encounter that is transformative. Every encounter we have with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist must necessarily bring about transformation; because there is no one who encounters Jesus and his or her life remains the same. After the three wise men encountered Jesus, the light of the world and did him homage and offered him their precious gifts, we were told, they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod (a moment of darkness in their journey); but to depart for their country by another way. The implication of this as it relates to our own unique experiences is that—every time we come to Church to do Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord homage, our encounter with him which is transformative should really challenge us go back home as changed people. In other words, having been embraced by God’s all-inclusive love, we too must bring that Jesus as Eucharistic people into the communities where we live—bringing his light into our darkened world by the witness our lives and building healthy communities of love that are more inclusive—because the love of God forms us into one people. We must therefore put aside all forms of hatred and discrimination. We are not to build a culture of death but a culture of life because we bear the light of Jesus Christ in our hearts.

Reflection by:
Rev. Fr. Jude Ochuko Emunemu

Poinsettia’s in memory of:

- Rena & Elias Basse
- Nelson & Earline Perrin
- Susan Verdin
- Gwen, Joe & Lance Boudlauch
- Lene & Taft Belsome
- Steven Paul Steib
- Robert & Deanie Victoriano
- Robert & Virginia Victoriano
- Joseph & Delores Lombas
- Curtis Rojas, Sr. & Jr.
- Mr & Mrs Andrew F. Pizani
- Mr & Mrs. Gilbert Perrin
- Narris & Tudy Cheramie
- Harvey & Emma Kerner
- Eugene & Theresa Agoff
- Lottie & Seth
- Gary Leblanc, Sr.
- Mr & Mrs Alfred J. Ledet
- Mr Jerry Casso
- Mr & Mrs A. J. Griffin
- Mr Shelby Desselle
- Fr. John Ryan
- Freddie Prestenbach
- George Boudreaux
- Curtis Silver
- Mr & Mrs Andrew Silver
- Joseph Arabie, Jr.
- Brook K. Rogers
- Joyce Bruce
- Knuppel Family
- Ortega Family
- Sassoni Family
- Paul Bailey Family
- Dan Coulon Family
- Nathan Carmadelle
- LeAnna & Alfred Melancon
- Celie & Charles Robin, Jr.
- Leroy & Doris Perrin, Jr.
- Lena & Gail Touchard Family
- Jay Harvey, Sr.
- Polkey Family
- Belsome Family



STEWARDSHIP

We gratefully acknowledge all that God has given to us. In gratitude, we have returned to Him.

Collections for December 28th & 29th

1st Collection	2nd Collection
\$ 1,656.84	\$ 789.24

Online Giving \$ 540.00

Online Giving Rebuilding Fund \$ 33.00

Children’s Collection \$ 155.00

Christmas Collection Total \$ 3,541.71

Children’s Christmas Collection \$ 50.00

Total Weekly Offering \$ 6,715.80

MASS ATTENDANCE

4:00pm	9:00am	11:00am
31	45	68

ST. ANTHONY

Electric Bill (Nov.)
\$ 1,633.52

ST. PIUS X

Electric Bill (Nov.)
\$ 143.84



Sanctuary Lamps are in memory of

LeAnna Melancon



PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Parishioners and Father John Ryan, Caleb Favaloro, Simon Hingle, Belvina Kuhn Bundy, Roy Rogers, Arthur Matherne, Clavin Wade, Jr., Marie Sevin, Shirley Prestenbach, Eddie Sapia, Jr., Bobby Hale, Jr., Madeline Rojas, Theresa Wiseman, Raymond Griffin, Sr., Shelby Deselle, Joseph Rogers, Jr., Allyn Rogers, Evan Whipple, Nick Dinet, Jerry Lynch, Keith “Ike” Madison, Judith Ann Verdin, Dwight Rudolph, Faye Rae Guidry, Dale Boudreaux McWhorter, Edward Cantrelle, Sr. Lloyd Kraemer, Sr. Rosebud Kraemer, Gareth Ross Leblanc, Sr., Earline Perrin, and Martha Pizani.

MASS INTENTIONS

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 4:00 p.m. | Chris Dufrene, Jr.
Tommy Robeaux, Jr.
Teddy Johanson, Jr.
Ulrick Johanson
Earline Cheramie Perrin
Most Abandoned Souls
in Purgatory |
| 9:00 a.m. | Joyce Bruce
Betty Ortego
Florence Knuppel
Theresa Comardelle
Earline Cheramie Perrin
Tommy Ory, Jr.
Ms. Flossie Wildey
Felix & Emma Wiseman
Gladys & Herman Perrin J
Jules & Louella Nunez
Darrel Bourgeois
Leola & Lloyd Bourgeois
Alan Cheramie
Conversion of Family
and Friends
Repose of Souls of
Unborn Babies |
| 11:00 a.m. | All Parishioners |

We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God’s saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.

-Pope Francis, Hope Does Not Disappoint, 7