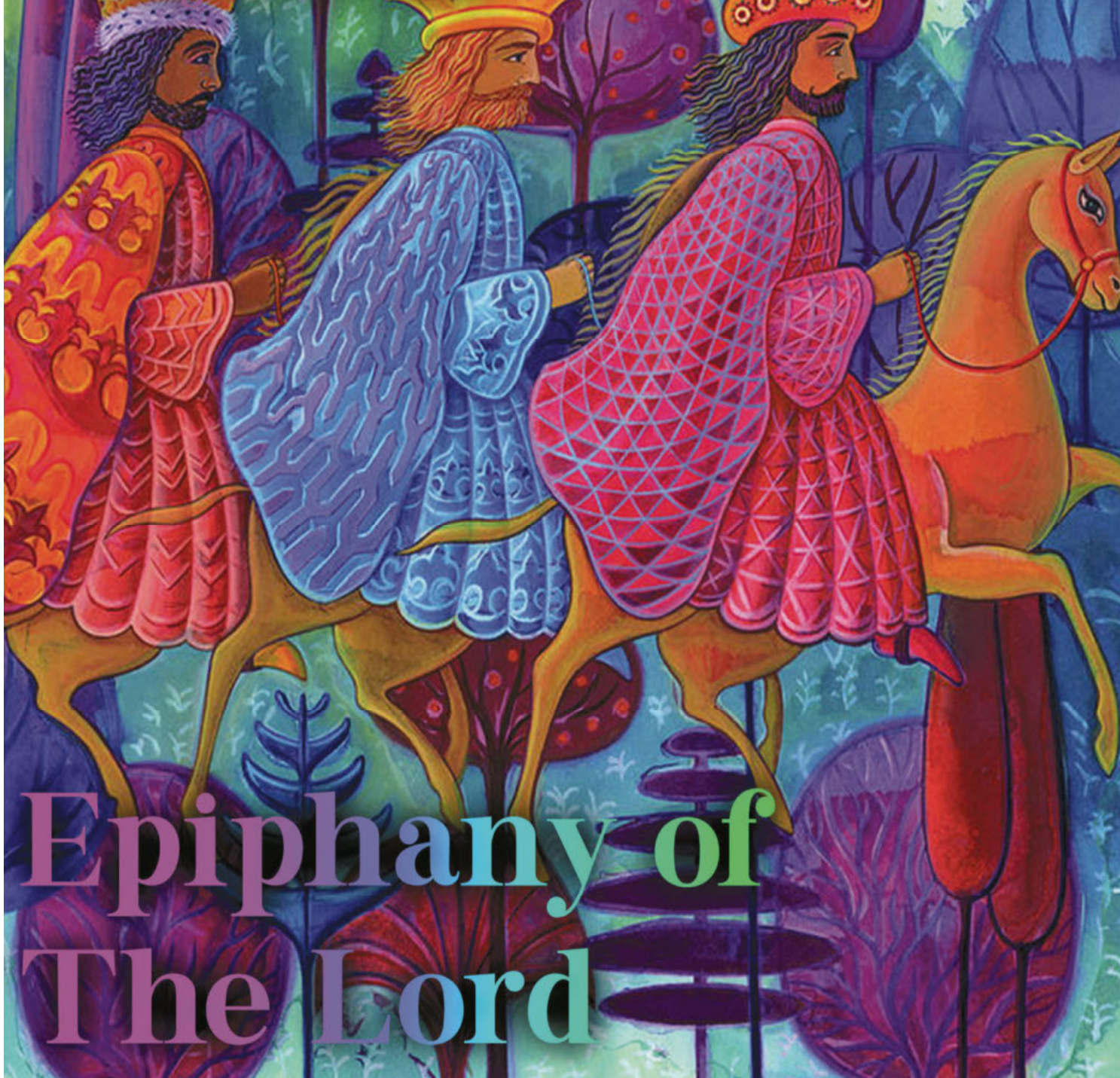


EPIPHANY

January 8, 2023

"Where is the newborn
king of the Jews?"



Epiphany of The Lord

WELCOME to Epiphany



They typically receive fourth billing in Christmas plays. Outfitted with oversized bathrobes and foil crowns, they present shoeboxes to the baby doll in the manger. Nearby are cattle-a-lowing, angels, and shepherds too young for speaking parts.

They are the “wise men.” Immortalized in Matthew’s Gospel and seared into our collective consciousness by the song “We Three Kings,” these figures have been a mainstay in retellings of Jesus’s birth for centuries.

But what do we really know about these men? Narrative padding has tended to stifle their profound importance in Matthew’s Gospel. Yet by looking at things afresh—what they *aren’t* and what they *are*—we can better appreciate their role in heralding the gospel itself.

Tradition pegs their number at three. One is hard-pressed, however, to find that detail in Matthew. Three comes from ascribing the number of *gifts* (gold, frankincense, myrrh) to the number of men bringing them.

Matthew’s *magoi* were likely specialists in dreams and astrological phenomena, as attested by their interpretation of the star. They were “wise men” only in a secular sense, and it’s unlikely they were real kings.

These *magoi* were likely from Persia, Arabia (Syria/Jordan, not Saudi Arabia), or Babylonia. Traditional nativities place the *magoi* with the shepherds at the stable on the night of Jesus’s birth. Upon their arrival, they visit Jesus in a house, where the family apparently re-located after birth.

Ironically, it is thoroughly pagan Gentile “kings”—perhaps from a nation that had held Israel captive, if the Babylon theory is right—who alone read the Scriptures rightly and came to herald the true King.



About God's Word THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

Sunday, Jan 08, 2023

Bless this mess

Do a perimeter walk of your home. What do you see? Each room tells a story, every corner contains a chapter about who lives here and what happens between these walls. *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* recommends we bless our homes annually on Epiphany in imitation of the wise ones who once followed the divine presence to a humble dwelling. What sort of blessing might each area need? What requires a blessing: the kitchen table, living room sofa, or home office desk? A child's room or elder's sickbed? Don't forget the front door—the passageway to every other story that involves us.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). *"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

Monday, Jan 09, 2023

Be a carrier of peace

Pigeons and doves are different species within the same family of birds. The homing pigeon, also called the mail or carrier pigeon, is a variety bred for its ability to find its way home over extremely long distances of up to 1,000 miles or more. Because of this skill, they were used to carry messages throughout history. The dove, of course, is a symbol of peace and hope, and famously carried an olive branch to Noah on the Ark after the great flood. If you want to send a similar message, you don't have to go nearly as far. Just extend peace and hope across the dinner table or over the neighbor's fence.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 (21). *"He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him."*

Tuesday, Jan 10, 2023

Give peace every chance

On this day in 1920, the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. On this same day in 1946—following World War II—the UN General Assembly met for the very first time, gathering on church property at the Methodist Central Hall in London. And on January 10, 1984 the United States and Vatican City re-established full diplomatic relations after 117 years. It's not enough for Christians to worship the Prince of Peace. "We must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and peoples," writes Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). "There is a need to ensure ... tireless recourse to negotiation, mediation, and arbitration." Learn more at Pax Christi USA.

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306). *"The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes."*

Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023

Measure with mercy

On this day in 314—or the day before; the history is unclear—Pope Saint Miltiades died after a life of historic twists and turns that would help define the Early Church. Born to North African parents, Miltiades was the second of the Catholic Church's three African popes, having been elected in 311, shortly after the end of the persecutions of Emperor Diocletian. As pope, Miltiades was most famous for rejecting the Donatists, who argued that apostates who

repent needed to be re-baptized (and re-ordained, if priests). In an age of manifestly imperfect priests, may we model Pope Miltiades' mercy and forgiveness for all the fallen—starting with ourselves!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307). *"They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up."*

Thursday, Jan 12, 2023

Pull back the curtain with contemplative prayer

Fans of *The Wizard of Oz* relish the moment when a curtain is drawn and the Great and Terrible Oz is shown to be an ordinary man. In a way, the tradition of contemplative prayer is an attempt to pull back the curtain but with reverse results. Instead of seeing the wondrous as ordinary, contemplation is meant to move people to see the depth and intricacy and wonder of the ordinary. In other words, contemplative prayer wants us to see God's face everywhere. Consider the times when God's presence became tangible for you. Build a time into today to seek that presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308). *"Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"*

Friday, Jan 13, 2023

The word is out

Saint Hilary, born in Poitiers in southwest France in 315, had a learned education but was not raised Christian. Able to read the biblical languages, however, he was drawn to Christianity by the beauty and power of the prologue of the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18) and spent his life in strong defense of the divinity of Jesus, a controversial subject at the time. Recognition of his tireless efforts eventually earned him the high title of doctor of the church. Perhaps John's prologue has a word to speak to you as well. Why not dip into its powerful language today?

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309) *"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'?"*

Saturday, Jan 14, 2023

Accepted unconditionally

Levi was an outcast of his people. Because of his position at the Roman customs post, not only he but also his family were held in disdain. His alliance with the Romans was considered treasonous and his wealth ill-gotten. Levi had many character flaws, yet Jesus chose him as a disciple, and he accepted. This is good news for the outcasts of our generation, the people our society and sometimes our church counts as unacceptable. It's good news for all of us, to be honest, as we all fall short in one way or another. Thankfully, Jesus sees past our shortcomings. Imitate Jesus before judging others.

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310). *"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

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THURSDAYS

7:00pm

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JAN. 8- JAN. 15

EVENTS



**11:00am Family Mass &
Sunday Scripture Program
7:30 Young Adult Mass**



**12:10pm Mass
12:30pm Miraculous
Medal Novena**



**11:00am 22 Club
12:10pm Mass
2:30pm Prayer Corps
7:00pm Connect**



**12:10pm Mass
12:40pm OLPH (Church)
6:30pm Cub Scouts
7:00pm Breaking Open
The Word via Zoom**



**12:10pm Mass
6:30pm SOS Meeting
7:00pm YA Alpha**



**12:10pm Mass
2:15pm Legion of Mary
6:30pm Sant' Egidio Prayer
Service**



4pm Vigil Mass



**11:00am Family Mass &
Sunday Scripture Program
12:00pm SOS Brunch
7:30 Young Adult Mass**

Church of the Epiphany

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Rev James Mayzik SJ, Parochial Vicar
Kate McHugh, Principal
Deborah J. Keogh, Director of Faith Formation
John D. Coen, Director of Music
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EMAIL: epiphanychurch239@gmail.com

WEBSITE: epiphanychurch.nyc

What Should I Give To God for Christmas?

The Christmas giving season doesn't end on Christmas Day. Our collections during the Christmas season are our most important collections. Please support Christ's bride, the Church, with a generous donation in proportion to your means. We are grateful for your heartfelt generosity.

Father Austin Titus

2nd Collection - January 7 - 8 Catholic University Fund & the Campaign for Catholic Communication

The Catholic University Fund supports scholarships, faculty, academic & athletic programs, and campus ministry to enhance the lives of the students toward a meaningful future.

The Catholic Communication Fund helps the Church spread the Gospel message through media both locally & nationally. It also supports communications projects worldwide & helps connect people at home & abroad with the message of Christ.

MASSES

Monday-Friday 12:10pm
Saturday Vigil: 4pm
Sunday 11am & 7:30pm

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 7
4:00pm Cipriano Diomampo
Sunday, January 8 *The Epiphany of the Lord*
11:00am Margaret Paine
7:30pm Luz Gaetan
Monday, January 9 *The Baptism of The Lord*
12:10pm Sally Boyer
Tuesday, January 10
12:10pm John Burke O'Hara
Wednesday, January 11
12:10pm John Boland
Thursday, January 12
12:10pm Amerigo & Lina Fiorini
Friday, January 13
12:10pm Samuel Martin
Saturday, January 14
4:00pm Jane Curley
Sunday, January 15
11:00am David Holmes
7:30pm Dorothy & Gertrude Walsh
Monday, January 16
12:10pm No Masses - MLK Day
Tuesday, January 17 *Memorial of St. Anthony*
12:10pm Lloyd D. Frazier

Sanctuary Lamp
Altar Bread & Wine
Jan 8 - 14
Luz Gaetan

**May their souls and the souls of all the
faithful departed, rest in peace.**

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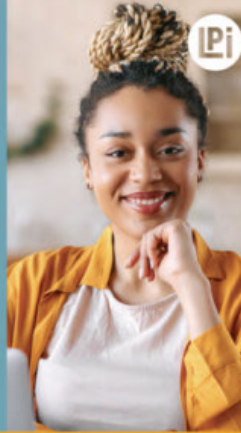
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