

# EPIPHANY

January 29, 2023

"Blessed are the..."

Fourth  
Sunday of  
Ordinary Time

ENLIGHTEN

# WELCOME to Epiphany

## “Nice homily, Father. Next time a little shorter!”

### Reflections on how to give a good homily

Fr James Mallon, Author of *Divine Renovation*

As we approach the task of preaching, we must keep in mind that the Word of God is a banquet and not fast food. “Long” and “short” are relative terms and need to be discerned in light of our own church cultures and practices. I preach on Sundays for fifteen to 20 minutes, and I make no apology for this. The ministry of preaching is key, and we should take it seriously. It’s the biggest bang for our buck in ministry and we need to do it well. I do not believe that the people in our pews who are truly hungry for God’s Word can get enough nourishment or the week ahead of them if they are only being served up five-minute homiletic hors d’oeuvres. A commitment to more robust and intentional preaching will be favorably received by those who are hungry, but there will be pushback from those who have no hunger. In all of our churches, a portion of the congregation would rejoice if we announced that we were committing to five-minute Sunday homilies.

## MIND, HEART and WILL

When we preach, we need to be intentional about speaking to the entire person - mind, heart, conscience and will. Our preaching should be intelligent and informative, but not come across as an academic lecture. Preachers will always have to resist the temptation to show how smart they are or to demonstrate all the big words they learned while studying theology. To speak to the heart means seeking to move people emotionally. We have hungry, restless hearts, and they cry out to be given the rest that only God can give. It is Good News we preach, so the one emotion that should be experienced through our preaching is joy! If we are truly to speak to the whole person, we cannot stop at the mind and the heart, but must seek to cut into the heart as well, so that it leads to action. In this, the preacher also speaks to the will, as fruitful preaching will lead people to make a decision, a choice.

Pope Paul VI said that our contemporaries no longer listen to teachers, but to witnesses. People desire authenticity. The first question our people are asking when we begin a homily is this: Is he real? Is he loving? If there is any hint that we are not being authentic in our preaching, or are hiding something, or are using the homily as a kind of safe intellectual exercise, our words will not penetrate. Our preaching may be informative but it will not be transformative. Theologian Karl Barth once said that preachers should prepare their homilies with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. Priests must be aware of the issue their people bring with them to Mass.

## IS HE REAL? LOVING?

Many would say that we now exist in a post-aural culture. We are audio-visual learners. It’s just the way it is. It is unthinkable that a lecturer would present anywhere these days and not have something on a screen. No executive would make a presentation to her board without the requisite Power Point or Keynote presentation. Young people are constantly stimulated by visuals through their hours in front of a television, computer or smartphone screen. Why then would we not seek to do the same thing when communicating the greatest story and the best news of all?

## SCREENS? IN A CHURCH?



# About God's Word

## THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

**Sunday, Jan 29, 2023**

### **Blessed are the children—meek and otherwise**

Children come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. They possess abilities, talents, and interests, many of which may lie hidden for years to come. Not all young ones, to be sure, are properly described as meek. But it's certain that, one day, the children will inherit the land. Preparing them for this vital task is the job of every grownup in their lives. This week we celebrate Catholic schools, dedicated to assisting families in the education and formation of their children. Book learning is available at any school. Faith and character aren't always on the curriculum. Support our schools!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a (70). *"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land."*

**Monday, Jan 30, 2023**

### **The only way they'll know you are a Christian**

Mohandas Gandhi, who led India's campaign for independence from British rule and whose birthday is today, once said, "If it weren't for Christians, I'd be a Christian." Followers of all religions, including Gandhi's Hinduism, at times do reprehensible things that run completely counter to what those religions teach. As a member of a colonized people, Gandhi certainly saw the worst of what Christians are capable of. But his statement isn't entirely a rebuke—Christ spoke to his heart. Jesus told us that we will be recognized as his disciples by our love for one another. Ask yourself how well you represent your faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20 (323). *"Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you."*

**Tuesday, Jan 31, 2023**

### **A love that works**

At the height of the Industrial Revolution, impoverished Italian boys were drawn to the city of Turin in search of factory work. But, for many reasons, they fell on hard times and were often jailed. Saint John Bosco helped them with lodging, education, vocational training, and just plain patience and loving care. He also protected young workers from unscrupulous employers by crafting signed apprenticeship agreements—the first real employment contracts used in Europe. He revolutionized the work of educators, too, writing: "Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved ... you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them."

MEMORIAL OF JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER  
TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43 (324). *"Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart."*

**Wednesday, Feb 01, 2023**

### **May the force be with you**

Faith gives us strength. It allows us to perform mighty deeds. But to be clear, as Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho explains, "Faith is not desire. Faith is will. Desires are things that need to be satisfied. Will is a force that changes everything around us." In God's realm,

where our faith resides, we are each whole and complete and nothing is impossible. Address today's challenges through the lens of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6 (325). *"He was not able to perform any mighty deed there . . . He was amazed at their lack of faith."*

**Thursday, Feb 02, 2023**

### **Make a perfect offering of your life**

Today's feast marks an ancient Jewish tradition in which the firstborn child was "consecrated to the Lord" by way of two sacrificial turtledoves or young pigeons offered at the Temple 40 days after birth. The mother, considered ritually unclean after giving birth, was also purified on this same day. But the visit of Mary and Joseph to present the infant Jesus is unique, marked by an outpouring of prophecy. Simon and Anna testify that a light has come into the world and that salvation is at hand. We honor the link to ancient tradition as we celebrate the Presentation today, but we also appreciate how Jesus not only fulfills but surpasses all the traditions of his time and place. Here at last is the perfect offering.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524). *"The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him."*

**Friday, Feb 03, 2023**

### **Be a healing light**

The historical details of Saint Blaise's fourth-century life in what is now modern-day Turkey are lost in the shroud of the centuries, but the tradition of his healing powers endures. The healing of throat diseases is what is most ascribed to him. When Blaise was imprisoned during a persecution of Christians, he apparently healed a choking boy with the aid of candles that lit his dark cell. On another level, the enduring tradition speaks to the ongoing need for healing that we all share. Whether it be a physical ailment or a wounded soul that needs tending, say a prayer today to Saint Blaise, the keeper of the flame.

MEMORIAL OF BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29 (327). *"The Lord is my light and my salvation. Your presence, O LORD, I seek."*

**Saturday, Feb 04, 2023**

### **Lift your voice in freedom's song**

Today is the birthday of Rosa Parks, on the fourth day of Black History Month. Parks wrote: "I felt the Lord would give me the strength to endure whatever I had to face." When she refused to surrender her bus seat in 1955, she said her Christian faith told her "it was time for someone to stand up—or, in my case, sit down." Parks grew up in a devout family. Her own sweet dreams of freedom began with her mother singing old African-American spirituals that drew on biblical stories and psalms filled with cries of lament and hope for salvation. Tap into the strength of song as you play your part in the fight for justice. Choose a spiritual to pray with today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34 (328). *"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have."*

# BIBLE STUDY



Beginning:  
Saturday  
Feb.4th 11am

Location:  
Parish Hall

# @EPIPHANY

JAN.30 - FEB.5

## EVENTS



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



12:10pm Mass  
12:30pm Miraulous Medal  
Novena



11:00am 22 Club  
12:10pm Mass  
7:00pm Connect



12:10pm Mass  
12:40pm OLPH (Church)  
5:30pm Cub Scouts  
7:00pm Breaking Open  
The Word via Zoom



12:10pm Mass  
7:00pm YA Alpha



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



11:00am Bible Study  
3:00pm Rosary  
with Ladies of Charity  
4pm Vigil Mass



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

# Church of the Epiphany

**Rev Austin Titus**, Pastor  
**Rev James Mayzik SJ**, Parochial Vicar  
**Kate McHugh**, Principal  
**Deborah J. Keogh**, Director of Faith Formation  
**John D. Coen**, Director of Music  
**Jonathan Ramirez**, Communications Producer  
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EMAIL: [epiphanychurch239@gmail.com](mailto:epiphanychurch239@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE: [epiphanychurch.nyc](http://epiphanychurch.nyc)**

## 2023 Cardinal's Appeal

The 2023 Cardinal's Appeal has begun! "Blessed are all who take refuge in Him!" (Psalm 2) In our Archdiocese, 2.8 million Catholics and countless of our non-Catholic brothers and sisters take refuge in the Lord through His Church and her ministries. The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal exists to fund the expansive efforts of our Archdiocese to provide every person with an encounter with Jesus and a confidence that He, present in every church in the most Holy Eucharist, is our refuge.

If your **2022 Tax Deductions** exceed \$12,950 (single) or \$25,900 (married), and they include church donations, you must obtain a report from Epiphany **before** filing your 2022 tax return.

To take either of these deductions, please call the parish office to request a statement of donations.

## Be a Sign of Mercy! Donate to Peter's Pence Collection

Your contribution to the Peter's Pence Collection funds, the assist the Pope & the activities of the Roman Curia, and solidarity projects aiding those most in need. The second collection will take place

**February 11 th & 12 th**  
To learn more about the collection, visit  
[www.peterspence.va/es.html](http://www.peterspence.va/es.html)



### MASSES

**Monday-Friday 12:10pm**

**Saturday Vigil: 4pm**

**Sunday 11am & 7:30pm**

### THIS WEEK'S

#### ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, January 28** *Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas*

4:00pm Jaime Barroso

**Sunday, January 29**

11:00am Minerva Magadia

7:30pm Sally Boyer

**Monday, January 30**

12:10pm Daniel Friedlander

**Tuesday, January 31** *Memorial of Saint John Bosco*

12:10pm Ann Shinnick

**Wednesday, February 1**

12:10pm Noelia & Carlton Hargrove

**Thursday, February 2** *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

12:10pm Vedasto Valencia

**Friday, February 3**

12:10pm Anna Mary Fitzgerald

**Saturday, February 4**

4:00pm Mary Walsh

**Sunday, February 5**

11:00am Robert Spadaro

7:30pm Msgr Patrick Brown

**Monday, February 6** *Memorial of Saint Paul*

12:10pm Robert Curley

**Tuesday, February 7**

12:10pm Francisca Lacza

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

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