## EPIPHANY February 4, 2024

"Lord, everyone is looking for you."

# Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

## **WELCOME** to Epiphany

## Voundec healer

Until there has been a journey through suffering, we don't have true healing authority. We don't have the ability to lead anybody anyplace new unless we have walked it ourselves to some degree. When we can somehow *be* compassion, not just talk about compassion; when we can be healed and not just talk about healing, then we are, as Henri Nouwen said so well, "wounded healers," but not before.

It's not an accident that in most of Jesus' healings, he physically touches people. He's showing that healing cannot be done through the head, through explanations, theories and theologies, or quick, "logical" conclusions. It must somehow be a communication of life and love energy, held even at the cellular level.

### Meeting Good in the Dark The Spiritual Possibilities of Movies

From the director of The Station Agent and from the producer of Sideways

## Monday February 12 7pm

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Screening and Discussion Parish Hall ALL ARE INVITED!

Connection is everything

Church of the Epiphany

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: Lectio Divina

Our Catholic faith contains a rich treasury of powerful words: beloved prayers, timeless creeds, scripture readings, and liturgical texts. Words of Faith is a growing collection of bulletin inserts structured around these amazing words that teach us who we are, what we believe, and how we are to live.

### We Hear

I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of lectio divina: the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart. If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church—I am convinced of it—a new spiritual springtime. —Pope Benedict XVI

### We Practice

The Second Vatican Council ignited a revival of scripture-based prayer and study in the Church. Catholics, whose bibles had been relegated far too often to decorations on the coffee table, began diving into our scriptures. One of the ways we have done so is through the practice of *lectio divina*, which as the Holy Father points out, is one of the most powerful ways of immersing ourselves in the Word of God. Literally "divine reading," lectio divina is a prayerful way of reading scripture or other spiritual writing that is typically broken into four movements known by their Latin names of *lectio, meditatio, oratio,* and *contemplatio.* 

In the first movement, *lectio* (reading), we slowly and attentively read a selected passage, noting the words and images that draw our attention. Typically we read the passage several times, each time getting slower as the words and phrases begin to sink in. Although any passage may be chosen, it is common to pick a book of the Bible, especially one of the gospels, and slowly work through the entire book over several weeks or even months.

In the second movement, *meditatio* (meditation), we reflect or ruminate on the passage, particularly those words and images that drew our attention during lectio. This meditation occurs not in a monologue of our own thoughts, but in a dialogue between us and the Holy Spirit. We are not trying to figure out the scriptural

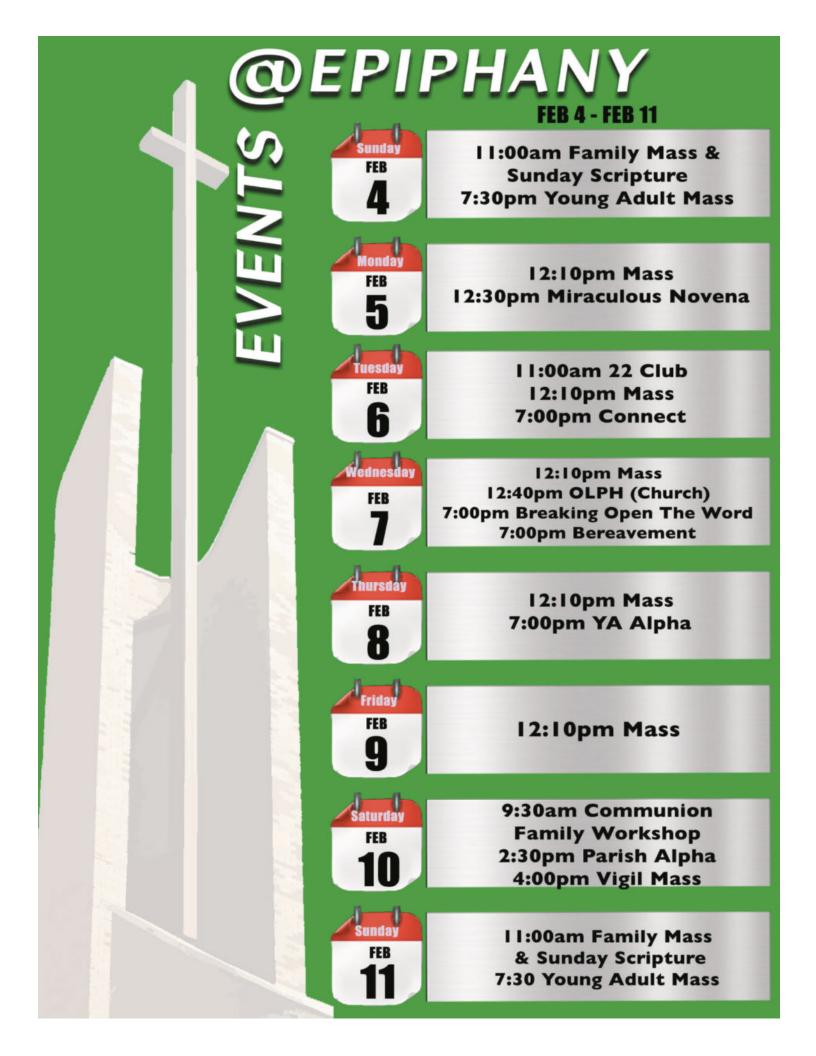
text as if the Word of God were a puzzle to be solved. Instead, we are seeking the illumination of the Holy Spirit so that through our reflections, we come to deeper spiritual insight and intimacy with the Word of God.

In the third movement, *oratio* (prayer), we take the fruits of our meditation and turn them into a prayer. We pray especially that the insights we received and the connection we developed with the Word of God during meditatio will be transformative for us in our daily lives.

In the fourth and final movement, *contemplatio* (contemplation), we use everything we have done so far as a launching pad on which we leave behind individual words printed on a page to rest in God with a profound inner silence. Contemplatio comes at God's initiative as a gift to us. To prepare for contemplatio, we simply offer to God the efforts of our lectio, meditatio, and oratio and place ourselves in God's loving embrace. As God comes to us in the silence, we do not simply read

the scriptures or other sacred writings, we become immersed in the readings and so become more intimately united with God.

At the Church of the Epiphany, we pray to God in many ways.



## Church of the Epiphany

Rev Austin Titus, Pastor Rev James Mayzik SJ, Parochial Vicar Kate McHugh, Principal Tadhg Malone, Director of Faith Formation & Mission John D.Coen, Director of Music Jonathan Ramirez, Communications Producer Jose Ramos & Thomas Lewis, Parish Trustees PARISH HOUSE (RECTORY) MAILING ADDRESS: 239 East 21st St, New York, NY 10010 Telephone: 212 475-1966 Email: office@epiphanychurch.nyc

#### WEBSITE: epiphanychurch.nyc

#### 2nd Collection: February 10 -11 Be a Sign of Mercy! Donate to Peter's Pence Collection

Through the Peter's Pence collection, every member of the faithful supports Pope Francis as the Pastor of the universal Church. Our offerings support humanitarian initiatives and aid the ongoing work of the Holy See. To learn more about the collection, visit https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html

#### 2024 Cardinal's Appeal

The 2024 Cardinal's Appeal has begun! "Blessed are all who take refuge in Him!" In our Archdiocese, 2.8 million Catholics & countless others take refuge in the Lord through his Church & her ministries. The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal guides people in need to an encounter with Jesus. As always, we appreciate our generous parishioners.

If your 2023 Tax Deductions exceed \$13,850 (single), \$27,700 (married), or \$20,800 for heads of household. and they include church donations, you must obtain a report from Epiphany before filing your 2023 tax return. To take any of these deductions, please call the parish office to request a statement of donations. MASSES Monday-Friday 12:10pm Saturday Vigil: 4pm Sunday 11am & 7:30pm

#### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS Saturday, February 3 4:00pm intentions of Raguel C. Lucena Sunday, February 4 11:00am Blanca Narvaez 7:30pm Mary Walsh Monday, February 5 Memorial of Saint Agatha 12:10pm Msgr Patrick Brown Tuesday, February 6 Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions 12:10pm Robert Curley Wednesday, February 7 12:10pm Paz Florentino Thursday, February 8 12:10pm Vedasto Valencia Friday, February 9 12:10pm Richard Coralde Saturday, February 10 Memorial of Saint Scholastica 4:00pm deceased members of the Fredericks family Sunday, February 11 11:00am John Astorina 7:30pm Ann Ahern Monday, February 12 12:10pm George E. Dillon **Tuesday, February 13** 12:10pm intentions of Chris Escueta

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



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