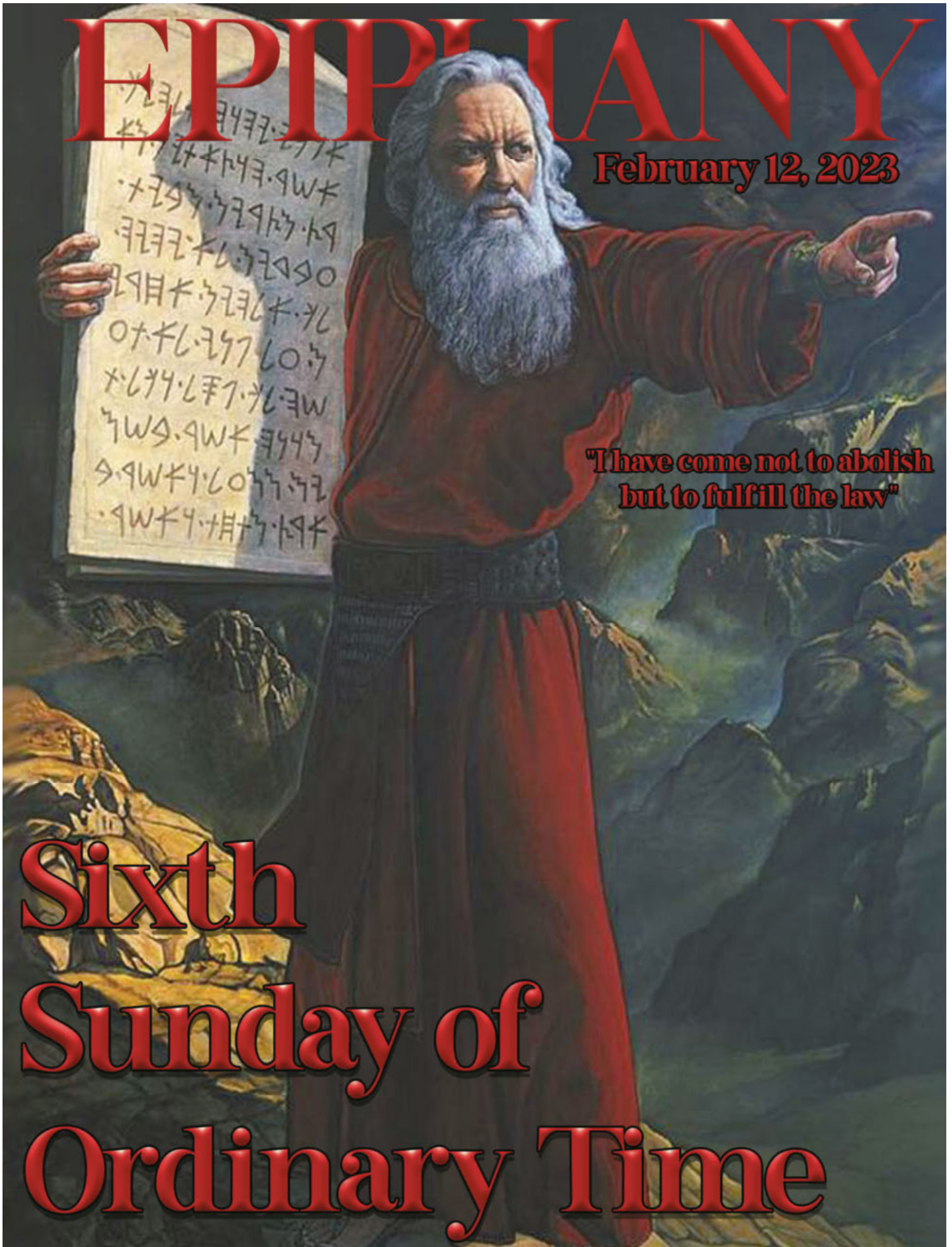


EPIPHANY

February 12, 2023



**"I have come not to abolish
but to fulfill the law"**

**Sixth
Sunday of
Ordinary Time**

WELCOME to Epiphany

You've been at Mass for an hour now and things are beginning to wind down. This Sunday has been pretty good. You've paid attention during the readings. The homily actually touched your heart. The music was spot on. And, although your mind wandered a bit, by the time you got to Communion, you were feeling God's presence in a powerful way.

You let out a small sigh of relief when Father stands up and announces, "Let us pray." As you stand up, you admit your Mass exhaustion to yourself by thinking, "It's finally almost over." Don't worry. We've all been there and had that thought. No judgement here. All that's left is a quick prayer, a blessing, then the closing hymn and it's off to coffee and donuts in the Narthex. And boy could you use some coffee! But at this point--in anticipation of that donut--you risk missing your great commission...

My Great What?

Yes. You saw that right. Your great commission. The Mass doesn't simply end with a dismissal: "Good bye. God bless. Drive safely getting home." The Mass ends with a command; your marching orders from Jesus Christ Himself! The "Great Commission" refers to Jesus' final command to the Apostles at the end of the Gospel of Matthew: "Go... make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave you" (Mt. 28:20). This "Commission" is echoed at the Dismissal in the Mass, although we don't really catch it in translation.

The most common dismissal that you'll hear at Mass is "Go forth, the Mass is ended." It's kind of uninspiring; and yes, it sounds like we're just being booted out the door. But let's remember that English is not the original language of the Mass. Latin is. Let's just look at the very last phrase of the Mass. What we translate as "Go forth, the Mass is ended," is the Latin phrase *Ite, Missa est*. This phrase literally means, "Go, she - as in you, the Church - has been sent."

**your
mission,
should you
choose to
accept it...**

What does this tell us? The priest isn't just announcing the end of the Mass. He's sending us out on our divinely appointed mission in the world. At Mass Jesus has nourished and strengthened us with His own Body and Blood for another week in His service, announcing the Good News to everyone around us simply by how we live our lives. Through the Eucharist we become, effectively, Jesus' hands and feet in the world, announcing the Good News in both word and action, just as He did. At Epiphany, the Mass sometimes ends with these final words: *Let us be the face of Love and the Word of God to everyone we meet.*

It's your mission, indeed, should you wish to accept it... and the glory that it brings!





About God's Word

THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

Sunday, Feb 12, 2023

Create a genuine love story

No one ever said relationships were easy. Commitments, whether in marriage, religious life, or elsewhere, take spiritual insight to discern, patience to maintain, time to mature, and a whole lot of love to keep the engine moving on the tracks. Today's celebration of World Marriage Day is meant to support the development of a culture of life and love within our most fundamental relationships. As Pope Francis declared in *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love): "The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the church." Take the journey to joy and love. Work to make each relationship life-giving.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37 (76). "We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age."

Monday, Feb 13, 2023

Make a petition, not a deal

It can be tempting, especially when we're desperate, to try to bargain with God: "If you do this one thing for me, I'll quit a bad habit forever and never miss Mass again." But that's not how our relationship with God works. For starters, Jesus told us not to bargain, but to simply ask for what we need (Matthew 7:7-11). God already knows what we need better than we do but wants us to ask anyway, persistently even—because a willingness to be vulnerable and share intimacy are central to any healthy relationship. For that reason, petitionary prayer isn't always easy. Open up with your longings and offer God your trust, rather than a deal.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13 (335). "Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation."

Tuesday, Feb 14, 2023

Speak the language of love

More than 1,000 years before Vatican II—with its directive to translate the Latin liturgy into the vernacular—two missionary siblings, Cyril and Methodius, got the blessing of their pope to do the same for the Slavic people. In doing so, they created the Cyrillic alphabet. And as Pope John Paul II noted, they impacted not only the "history of the church, but also the civil and the political history of a great part of the European continent. . . . Cyril and Methodius [are] not only the apostles of the Slavic peoples but also the fathers of their culture." On this Valentine's Day, how can you translate love into your vernacular?

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21 (336). "Do you not yet understand or comprehend? Are your hearts hardened?"

Wednesday, Feb 15, 2023

A pioneer priest who broke a color barrier

On this day in 1880, Augustus Tolton departed the United States on a holy mission: to enter a Catholic seminary as an African American. After several years of trying to become a priest stateside and experiencing rejection due to racism, Tolton's friends and allies successfully arranged for his passage to study at the Urban College in Rome, where he was ordained as the world's first openly African-American Catholic priest in 1886. He would return to his home state of Illinois, eventually settling in Chicago

where he founded the city's first black parish. He died of heat stroke in 1897 at the young age of 43 and has since been on the path to sainthood. In these times of continuing anti-black discrimination, may we look to his witness for hope and sustenance. Venerable Father Tolton, pray for us!

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22; Mark 22-26 (337). "My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people. Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones."

Thursday, Feb 16, 2023

Take the path of Saint Francis

Christian theology has often encouraged human domination over creation. Saint Francis of Assisi had another view, one that has become more prominent in the church as the climate crisis intensifies. Franciscan Sister Rose Dowling expresses one facet of it: "The Earth with which we are so intimate is our primary teacher about who God is and how God wants to relate with us. . . . I see a God who has set into being a creation that continues to grow, evolve, become more conscious, become more complex. I see that as a human I, like the rest of creation, have the potential to grow and become *more* . . ." How will you become more conscious of all of creation today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33 (338). "Peter said to him in reply, 'You are the Christ.'"

Friday, Feb 17, 2023

To Mary, in times of sorrow

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order were 13th-century Florentine cloth merchants who banded together in prayer, solace, and community during politically tumultuous times. From the beginning, the Servites dedicated themselves to Mary, the Sorrowful Mother. Today their mission is to "gather in fraternal communion to be with those suffering and sorrowful." The Servites developed the three most common devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows, namely the Scapular of the Seven Dolours of Mary, the Novena to Our Sorrowful Mother, and the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows. In the closing prayer of the Rosary chaplet, we say, "Pray for us, O most sorrowful Virgin. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ." That is certainly a prayer to remember as we face each day's trials.

MEMORIAL OF THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 8:34—9:1 (339). "Whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it."

Saturday, Feb 18, 2023

Good to be here

Were you ever so enamored of something that you just wanted it to last forever? That's what Peter was experiencing on the Mount of Transfiguration. But Jesus and his inner circle had to move on. They had to come down the mountain. There was more that needed to be done, people who needed to be served. In his 1967 encyclical, *Populorum Progressio* (On the Development of Peoples), Pope Paul VI wrote, "Genuine progress . . . consists in an economic order designed for the welfare of the human person, where the daily bread that each [one] receives reflects the glow of love and the helping hand of God." Pray that we become enamored by justice and help transfigure the world in Jesus' image!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:1-7; Mark 9:2-13 (340). "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents."

A vibrant Mardi Gras masquerade poster with a purple background. At the top, a large purple masquerade mask with a pink gemstone and gold leaf patterns is surrounded by falling gold confetti. The text 'Mardi' is in a white cursive font, and 'GRAS' is in large, bold, orange-to-yellow gradient block letters. Below the title, the date 'Tuesday 21 February' is underlined in teal. At the bottom, ticket information is listed in yellow text: 'Tickets are \$38', 'Mass at 6:00pm', and 'Doors open at 7:00pm'. The bottom corners feature stylized green and yellow leaves and a teal ribbon.

Mardi
GRAS

Tuesday 21 February

Tickets are \$38
Mass at 6:00pm
Doors open at 7:00pm

@EPIPHANY

FEB. 12 - FEB. 19

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)
2:00pm Pocket Prayer Shawl
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
4pm Vigil Mass



11:00am Family Mass &
Sunday Scripture Program
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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PARISH HOUSE (RECTORY) MAILING ADDRESS:
239 East 21st St, New York, NY 10010
Telephone: 212 475-1966
EMAIL: epiphanychurch239@gmail.com

WEBSITE: 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

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

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 11
4:00pm John Astorina
Sunday, February 12
11:00am Donna Edwards
7:30pm Ann Ahern
Monday, February 13
12:10pm intentions of Chrisanthi White
Tuesday, February 14 *Memorial of St. Cyril*
12:10pm Richard Warner
Wednesday, February 15
12:10pm Gertrude M.S. Walsh
Thursday, February 16
12:10pm Rafael Rios
Friday, February 17
12:10pm Maria Ligot & Flora Kagaoan
Saturday, February 18
4:00pm Robert & John Rafferty
Sunday, February 19
11:00am King Phojanakong
7:30pm Jack & Susan Cashman
Monday, February 20
12:10pm NO MASSES - PRESIDENTS' DAY
Tuesday, February 21
12:10pm Rita & Walter Lampmann

Sanctuary Lamp
Feb 12-18
Lillian & George Conard,
Jack Warmbrand & James Lee

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

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