

EPIPHANY



FEBRUARY 26, 2023

YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE
LORD, YOUR GOD, TO THE
TEST

FIRST
SUNDAY
OF LENT

WELCOME to Epiphany

RECOMMENDED READING FOR LENT

C.S. Lewis, known for his many fruitful allegories about Christianity and the spiritual life, originally titled the book *Who goes home?* when it was published in an Anglican newspaper in 1944. The final title is a reference to William Blake's poem *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. In the preface, Lewis explains: "Blake wrote of the Marriage of Heaven and Hell....in some sense or other the attempt to make that marriage is perennial. The attempt is based on the belief that reality never presents us with an absolutely unavoidable 'either-or;' that...some way of embracing both alternatives can always be found..." (Lewis, vii).

Lewis places himself and the moral of *The Great Divorce* in opposition to this lie that we don't need to choose between Heaven and Hell but have what we like from both.

To illustrate this, Lewis creates a fictional version of the afterlife. Through the eyes of the unnamed narrator, Lewis shows the reader characters and patterns of life we might recognize (either in others or ourselves). The story begins in the "grey town," a joyless city whose inhabitants live out their day-to-day lives just as they did on earth. This "grey town" is a representation of Hell. In a Catholic understanding, this place also represents a type of Purgatory, for there is a way out. The narrator finds a bus that flies through the sky to take the "ghosts" from the grey city to the foothills of Heaven. There, the ghosts have the chance to meet with spirits from Heaven and choose to stay in that new country.

The narrator wanders around this beautiful place and witnesses the meetings of several ghosts. One interaction is between a ghost who struggles with lust and the angel of God sent to meet him. The ghost wants to enter Heaven, but the lizard on his shoulder (representing his sin) whispers lies in his ear. The angel asks repeatedly, "May I kill it?" This question is an elegant example of how God is willing to work in our lives, but he will never force his goodness upon us. The soul must choose to offer everything to God. Finally this ghost agrees, and the angel crushes the lizard. In a dramatic transformation, the ghost becomes a solid spirit and the lizard becomes a white stallion. On this stallion, the soul is able to ride off towards the hills, deeper into Heaven and closer to God.

This theological fantasy is packed with even more images and symbols, and yet it is Lewis' shortest book. At only 118 pages, this little book is a quick read. To have it as a starting point of reflection, reading two to three chapters a week would be a good pace. The characters and symbolism are so layered in their implications that taking a chapter and rereading it would also be a fruitful practice. Ask yourself where you see likenesses of your own story. Use Lewis' story as a mirror for yourself this Lent, and see where God is calling you to come deeper into his country.





About God's Word THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

Sunday, Feb 26, 2023

God's messengers

Have you thought much about your guardian angel since you prayed at bedtime when you were a kid? If not, maybe it's time to catch up with the one that's been assigned to help you. The word *angelos* means "messenger" in Greek, and since angels "always behold the face" of God in heaven (Matthew 18:10), they're well-positioned to intercede for you. Appreciate the watchful care that surrounds you and protects you from spiritual and perhaps physical dangers. Their constant attention indicates how precious you are to God and how active God wishes to be in your life.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11 (22). *"He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you."*

Monday, Feb 27, 2023

A book for your nightstand, next to your Bible

Grigor Narekatsi, born near the turn of the first millennium, was an Armenian mystical and lyrical poet, monk, and theologian. He has the distinction of being venerated as a saint in the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Churches and was declared a doctor of the church by Pope Francis in 2015. The prayer book of Gregory of Narek is a fixture in religious Armenian homes, second only to the Bible, and is considered a masterpiece of Christian spiritual literature. It has been translated into 30 languages, including English. Given the rave reviews, consider this writer-saint for your next read!

MEMORIAL OF GREGORY OF NAREK, ABBOT, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46 (224). *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*

Tuesday, Feb 28, 2023

United in prayer

Pope Benedict XVI, may he rest in peace, wrote beautifully on prayer and the Our Father: "In praying our heart is opened. Not only do we enter into communion with God but actually with all the children of God, because we are one body. When we address the Father in our inner room in silence and in recollection we are never alone. Those who speak to God are not alone. We are within the great prayer of the Church, we are part of a great symphony that the Christian community in all the parts of the earth and in all epochs, raises to God." Pray the Our Father slowly and consciously today, with everyone.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). *"This is how you are to pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."*

Wednesday, Mar 01, 2023

Get on board for justice

Today marks the 98th death anniversary of Homer Plessy, the man who attempted to end segregation with his legendary ride on a whites-only streetcar in New Orleans in 1892. His efforts were unsuccessful, and the following seven decades of U.S. jurisprudence included segregation as a bedrock feature. Plessy, however, is much less heralded for the fact that he was a man of faith, a black Catholic whose famous ride was organized by an interracial activist group known as the Comité des Citoyens (Citizens' Committee). Their holy disobedience was one of the first Catholic-led efforts against the

developing hierarchy of racism in the formerly French and Spanish regions of the Deep South. May the courage of Plessy and his allies be of use to us today as we continue the march toward justice.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). *"Man and beast shall be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; every man shall turn from his evil way and from the violence he has in hand."*

Thursday, Mar 02, 2023

Read it and reap

Welcome to Read Across America Day, established in 1998 by the National Education Association to encourage this most central, enjoyable, and enriching of activities. Popular among teachers, students, and librarians, today can also be a day for Catholics to explore and support organizations such as the Catholic Media Association, whose members inform, inspire, and educate readers, keeping them connected to their faith, and telling the story of the church. Check a list of Catholic newspapers and magazines to find one you can support with a subscription. You in turn will be supported in your faith.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). *"Everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."*

Friday, Mar 03, 2023

Store up treasure in heaven

Saint Katharine Drexel was born in Philadelphia in 1858 to a wealthy family. The Drexels had a reputation for generosity, reportedly opening their home several days a week to feed and care for people in need. They also made time every day to pray together. During a trip to Europe as a young woman, Katharine was able to have an audience with Pope Leo XIII. She asked the Holy Father to send missionaries to Wyoming. He answered, "Why don't you go?" Not long after, Katharine stunned society by leaving behind her privileged life to dedicate herself to religious life. She worked to improve living conditions and educational opportunities for African Americans and Native Americans. She left a legacy far greater than her family fortune.

MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). *"Go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*

Saturday, Mar 04, 2023

Short but sweet sainthood

Lenten inspiration can come from anywhere—from scripture to Instagram, from saints to young people. While not a Bible figure or social media influencer, 15th-century Casimir of Poland happens to fit the categories of both saint and young person. Saint Casimir was a prince who was under intense pressure from his family and country to take a leading role in government and politics. But Casimir felt called to focus on prayer, study, and care for people in need. Although he had to contend with some very disappointed people, he stood firm in his decision to follow his calling. Disease cut short his life at the tender age of 25, but his example can inspire us to live out our calling and thus help fulfill his.

MEMORIAL OF CASIMIR, PRINCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). *"This day the LORD, your God, commands you to observe these statutes and decrees. . . with all your heart and with all your soul."*

GIVING OUT FOR LENT @ epiphany

STEPS TO SPIRIT PROGRAM

Challenging us to greater commitment to God and to our sisters and brothers, and which offers us concrete steps to measure our progress;

SPECIAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Which are sponsored by Epiphany ministry teams

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

In the parish hall every Saturday at 11am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

In the church every Friday at 12:45pm and 7:15pm

THE CHOSEN

Screenings of The Chosen followed by discussion, every Monday at 7pm in the parish hall

EVENING OF WORSHIP SONG AND PRAYER

In the church Wednesday March 15 at 7:00pm

ST PATRICK'S CONCERT

March 12th at 3pm in the church

GOOD WEDNESDAY SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Sponsored by the Ladies of Charity April 5th in the church

SPECIAL LENTEN ARTS PROGRAMS

Details to be announced soon

Church
of
the
Epiphany

The CHOSEN For Lent

Think you know him? Look again.

Monday EVENINGS 7:00pm

PARISH HALL

Screening and discussion

Church
of the
Epiphany



@EPIPHANY

FEB. 26 - MAR.5

EVENTS



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



12:10pm Mass
12:30pm Miraculous Medal
Novena
7pm THE CHOSEN, parish hall



11:00am 22 Club
12:10pm Mass
2:30pm Prayer Corps (zoom)
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
12:45 Stations of the Cross
2:15pm Legion of Mary
6:30pm Sant Egidio
7:15pm Stations of the Cross



10am Parenting Ministry
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
Jose Ramos & Thomas Lewis, Parish Trustees

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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.

Sunday Readings for 2/26

First Reading: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Secind Reading: Rom 5:12-19
Gospel: Mt 4:1-11

MASSES

Monday-Friday 12:10pm

Saturday Vigil: 4pm

Sunday 11am & 7:30pm

THIS WEEK'S

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 25

4:00pm James DiMarco

Sunday, February 26

11:00am Giuseppe Astorina

7:30pm Erika Marie Escueta

Monday, February 27

12:10pm Neresito Creus

Tuesday, February 28

12:10pm JoAnn & Antoinette Iacono

Wednesday, March 1

12:10pm Sally Vogt

Thursday, March 2

12:10pm Peggy O'Dea

Friday, March 3 *Memorial of St. Scholastica*

12:10pm Edward Murphy

Saturday, March 4

4:00pm Idesia Bastos

Sunday, March 5

11:00am Ramon Santo Domingo

7:30pm Ann Ahern

Monday, March 6

12:10pm John T. Rafferty

Tuesday, March 7

12:10pm Mary & Joseph Walsh

**Sanctuary Lamp & Altar
Bread & Wine Feb.26 - Mar. 4
Peggy O'Dea**

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

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