

# EPIPHANY



July 16, 2023

"The seed sown on rich soil  
is the one who hears the  
word and understands it"

Fifteenth  
Sunday of  
Ordinary Time



# WELCOME to Epiphany

## SOWING PARABLES

Jesus does not speak of a reorganization of society as a political possibility or of the doctrine of salvation as a doctrine. He speaks of *what it is like to find a diamond ring that you thought you'd lost forever*. He speaks of *what it is like to win the Irish Sweepstakes*. He suggests rather than spells out. He evokes rather than explains. He catches by surprise. He doesn't let the homiletic seams show. He is sometimes cryptic, sometimes obscure, sometimes irreverent, always provocative. He tells stories. He speaks in parables, and though we have approached these parables reverentially all these many years and have heard them expounded as grave and reverent vehicles of holy truth, I suspect that many if not all of them were originally not grave at all but were antic, comic, often more than just a little shocking. I suspect that Jesus spoke many of his parables as a kind of sad and holy joke and that that may be part of why he seemed reluctant to explain them because if you have to explain a joke, you might as well save your breath. It's like the joke Jesus told when he said it is harder for a rich person to enter Paradise than for a Mercedes to get through a revolving door, harder for a rich person to enter Paradise than for Elon Musk to get through the night deposit slot of Citi Bank. And then Jesus added that though for man it is impossible, for God all things are possible because God is the master of the impossible, and he is a master of the impossible because in terms of what man thinks possible he is in the end a wild and impossible God.





# About God's Word

## THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

**Sunday, Jul 16, 2023**

### Pause before speaking

Words are deeds, as theologian Peter Kreeft astutely reminds us. When we speak our thoughts into the air, we are doing something. So many words circulate in the machinery of our media that we tend to take them for granted and view them as cheap or even meaningless. But words matter. They take root in our minds and hearts, as well as in the thoughts and feelings of people who receive them from us. Before you utter the response, make the call, or hit the send key, pause to contemplate what impact your words may have on someone else.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23 (103). *"My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."*

**Monday, Jul 17, 2023**

### Heartfelt holiness

Like any family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph experienced misunderstandings, disagreements, and hurt feelings within the family unit. Some of those experiences are told in the gospels, but there were surely others we never learned about. The Holy Family is a model for all families in the struggles and joys of family life. There are many devotional prayers to the Holy Family, including a litany and even a devotion to the hearts of the Holy Family. Most Catholics are familiar with the images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but perhaps less so with the Chaste Heart of Joseph. Consider adorning your family home with artwork of all three.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 1:8-14, 22; Matthew 10:34-11:1 (389). *"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."*

**Tuesday, Jul 18, 2023**

### Instituting a better bedside manner

Hospitals in Rome and throughout Europe were abysmal in the 1500s, when Camillus de Lellis was admitted—twice—with an infected leg. Hospital workers were poor, often beggars and prisoners, who showed up mostly for free meals. Some even stole food from patients! Saint Camillus was so disgusted by this treatment that he got up from his bed to provide comfort—and cleanliness—to other patients. Thus his vocation was born, along with the Servants of the Sick, the religious institute Camillus founded after becoming a priest. A great Catholic tradition was likewise born: not just spiritual solace but clean and professional care as well. Visit the Catholic Health Association website to pray for hospital workers.

MEMORIAL OF CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 2:1-15a; Matthew 11:20-24 (390). *"She was moved with pity for him."*

**Wednesday, Jul 19, 2023**

### Mercy me

Our tradition contains a variety of words to describe "missing the mark" when it comes to personal conduct: sin, transgression, and iniquity, a word used hundreds of times in scripture. Iniquity describes willful harming, where we choose to hurt or act with malice. It gets at the character or quality of our intentions. In a sense, our actions are all we really ever own. We carry them with us and we fall short at times. Thankfully, God's mercy is greater even than our iniquity. Examine your conscience, make amends

where possible, and call upon the Lord's mercy. Ask God to crown you with kindness and compassion, as today's psalm promises.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12; Matthew 11:25-27 (391).

*"The Lord is kind and merciful. He pardons all your iniquities, he heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion."*

**Thursday, Jul 20, 2023**

### Inspiration for a dangerous mission

Today's saint, Apollinaris, was a bishop during the first century of the church, a dangerous time to be a Christian. Roman authorities and others disliked the followers of Jesus for disrupting social norms and threatening a social order that gave Roman emperors God-like authority. Christianity was also a new movement, making it even more untrustworthy. Apollinaris was bishop of Ravenna, Italy, and for that public role he was savagely beaten, later dying of his wounds. His martyrdom inspired early disciples. Who inspires you to live dangerously in faith?

MEMORIAL OF APOLLINARIS, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 3:13-20; Matthew 11:28-30 (392). *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."*

**Friday, Jul 21, 2023**

### A beautiful work in progress

God is the creator par excellence and invites all of creation, especially human beings, to share in the gift of creating. God enables us "to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony" (Catechism §307). There is a beauty in the incompleteness or "unfinishedness" of creation. Not only does it give us the opportunity to follow God's lead, but, according to distinguished professor and theologian Sister Anne Patrick, S.N.J.M., it reveals a beauty of its own and stirs us to gratitude for creation's patient unfolding. What gifts do you find in your own acts of creating?

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 11:10—12:14; Matthew 12:1-8 (393). *"I say to you, something greater than the temple is here."*

**Saturday, Jul 22, 2023**

### Who do you say she is?

No biblical figure is surrounded by more mystery than Mary Magdalene. Who was she, really? What we know from the texts, says Catholic writer James Carroll, is that she was a leader in the community of Jesus' followers. While the men abandoned Jesus in his hour of need, Mary was one of the women who stayed with him even through the Crucifixion. She was the first person to whom Jesus appeared after his Resurrection and the first to preach that Good News, and her status as an apostle in the early church rivaled even that of Peter. Over time, her status was questioned, her reputation tarnished. Powerful women have contended with such treatment throughout the ages. Mary Magdalene stands as a symbol for gender equity and justice as well as faithful witness.

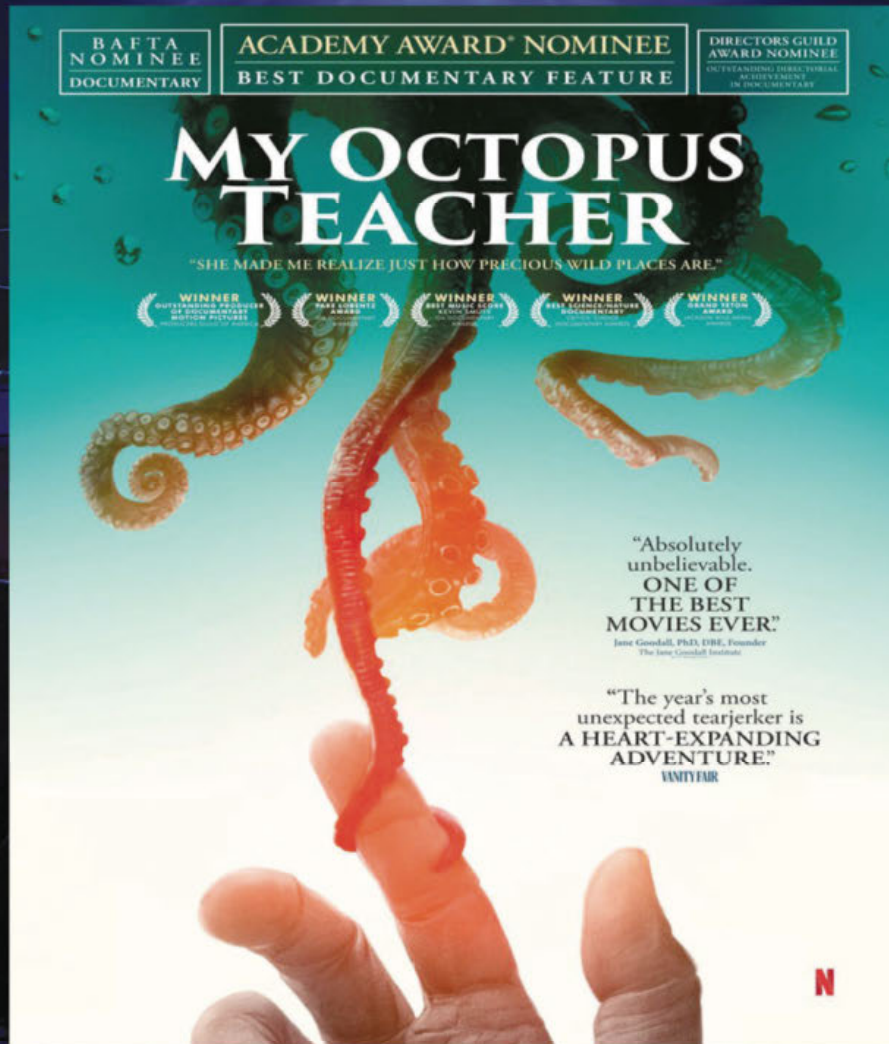
FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE, APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; John 20:1-2, 11-18 (603). *"On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb."*



# Meeting God in the Dark

The Spiritual Possibilities of Movies



**Monday July 17 7pm**

**Screening and Discussion**

**Parish Hall**

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

Church  
of the  
Epiphany



# @EPIPHANY

JUL 16 - JUL 23

EVENTS



**11:00am Family Mass**  
**12:30pm Parish Alpha**  
**7:30 Young Adult Mass**



**12:10pm Mass**  
**12:30pm Miraculous Medal novena**  
**7:00pm Meeting God in the Dark**



**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 Legion of Mary**  
**7:00pm YA Alpha**



**12:10pm Mass**  
**6:30pm Sant' Egidio Fridays**



**4:00pm Vigil Mass**



**San't Egidio Food Drive**  
**11:00am Family Mass**  
**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  
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## MASSES

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

## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, July 15** *Memorial of Saint Bonaventure*

4:00pm Miguel Brzostovski

**Sunday, July 16**

11:00am King Phojanakong

7:30pm Dorothy & Gertrude Walsh

**Monday, July 17**

12:10pm Joseph Skiba

**Tuesday, July 18**

12:10pm Ann Guglielmo

**Wednesday, July 19**

12:10pm Robert J. Rafferty

**Thursday, July 20**

12:10pm Domingo E. Gapuz Jr.

**Friday, July 21**

12:10pm Ann McManus

**Saturday, July 22** *Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene*

4:00pm Monico Rivera

**Sunday, July 23**

11:00am Eleanore R. Hamilton

7:30pm Thomas LaPerche

**Monday, July 24**

12:10pm Domingo E. Gapuz Jr.

**Tuesday, July 25** *Feast of Saint James*

12:10pm Attilio Martire

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

Mount Epiphany

### UPCOMING EXPENSES

Required Expenditure to meet NYC Building Code

\$41,300

We are required by NYC code compliance to effect a number of updates to our elevator. It will be a costly process - a real challenge for us. Please keep this in mind as you donate to Epiphany.

**Sat/Sun, July 15-16**

**The Corona Self-Help center will speak at all Masses.**

Dear Families,

The weekend of June 15-16, the Corona Self-Help Center will visit Epiphany to present a brief testimony and raise funds by offering religious t-shirts for sale. We are a not for profit mutual aid association. Our mission is to help individuals suffering with drug addiction by offering them our services free of charge. Our services are made possible through the help and support of the communities where we present our message of life & prevention.

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