

# EPIPHANY

December 3, 2023

"Be watchful,  
be alert!"

First Sunday  
of Advent

A painting of a man with short brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, looking through binoculars. He is smiling and looking upwards. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a faint map of the world visible in the upper left corner. The overall style is expressive and painterly.

# WELCOME to Epiphany

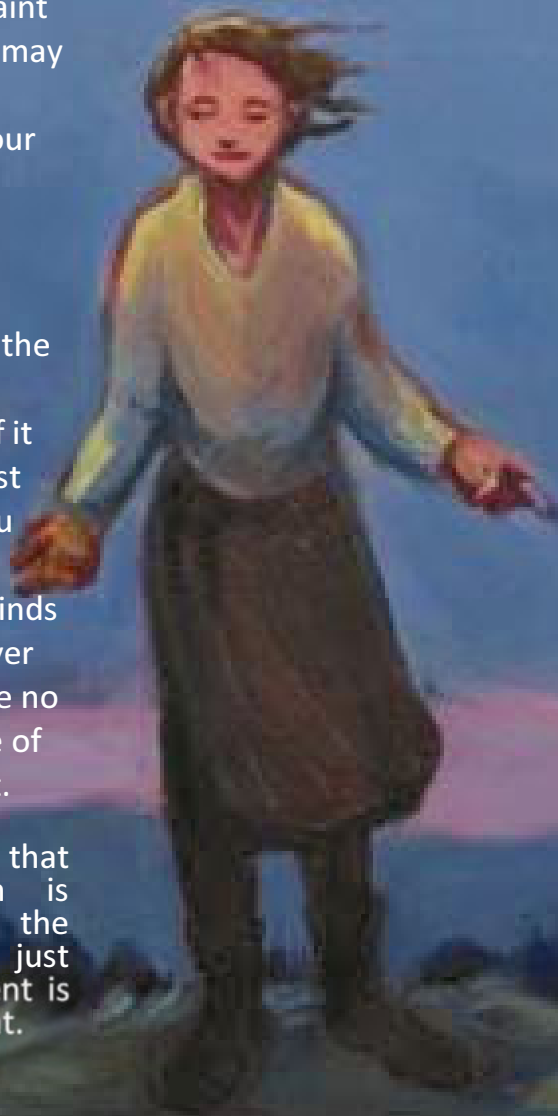
THE HOUSE LIGHTS GO OFF and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised the baton.

In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.

You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart.

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

# ADVENT







# SYNOD

from the Greek *syn-hodos*  
meaning

## *Journeying Together*

What is shaping up as possibly one of the most important gatherings in the long history of the Catholic Church took place in **Rome Oct. 4-29, 2023**. Pope Francis hosted the first of two back-to-back assemblies of the Synod of Bishops that for the first time included lay women and men. Through this synod, the Church is saying: the voice of **everyone** matters because God can talk through **anyone** -- not only bishops, priests, deacons, brothers, or sisters---but **all** the baptized. Pope Francis has stated that this collaborative, inclusive approach of synodality is precisely the "the path that God expects of the Church in the third millennium." It is ushering in a new way of listening to the Holy Spirit, as God calls the Church to dynamically meet the fast-changing world all around us with the message of radical love that Jesus calls us to deliver.

## **EPIPHANY'S SYNOD, PT 1**

**Monday December 4th**

**7-9pm Parish Hall**

Interested in learning about the recent Synod on Synodality that was held in Rome? We have a fantastic program that will explain to you the process of spiritual listening that Pope Francis promises will help us reinvigorate our faith--and the church--for the future. You will get the chance to experience the process that was used by the bishops and laypeople in Rome in October, as we apply it to the presentation itself. It provides a remarkable entree for the Holy Spirit to speak to us individually and unite us communally.



We recall that the purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands

~POPE FRANCIS







# About God's Word

## THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

**Sunday, Dec 03, 2023**

### A season of welcome

The color violet reminds us that a new season has begun: a time to prepare to welcome Christ in our midst for all days and in all persons. Coincidentally this year, Advent starts on the World Day for Persons with Disabilities. How welcoming is our church to the people with physical and mental challenges? Not just improving accessibility with an entrance ramp or elevator but providing accommodations for those with hearing, visual, and intellectual impairments, including for liturgies and sacramental preparation? Take a look around your own parish. Is it true that "all are welcome"?

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). *"We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands."*

**Monday, Dec 04, 2023**

### Iconic inspiration

Think of how much sacred images of Jesus, Mary, angels, and the saints—in painting, stained glass, and sculpture—have filled your life and stimulated your spirit. You might have many sacred images throughout your home. Perhaps you can find them in different public places in your city. Our Catholic churches are certainly full of them. Think of how much they inspire and prompt you to momentary prayer, a fleeting lifting of your heart and mind to God as you pass by them, or to long stretches on your knees, deep in conversation. You can partly thank John Damascene, who defended holy images against iconoclasm, a movement in the eighth century that was opposed to the veneration of icons.

Treasure the rich imagery of our tradition.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven."*

**Tuesday, Dec 05, 2023**

### Be a light in the darkness

As Advent days grow ever darker, Isaiah offers hope: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isa. 9:1). We Christians seek the Son's light, but we also take the Savior at his word when he describes us as the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:14). 'Tis the season, to celebrate those who shared their light, such as Rosa Parks, who co-led the Montgomery bus boycott beginning this day in 1955. Or Mary McLeod Bethune, who formed the National Council of Negro Women 20 years earlier. To quote Saint Isidore of Seville (who opened the Fourth Council of Toledo on this day in 633): "Just as we must love God in contemplation, so we must love our neighbor with action."

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth."*

**Wednesday, Dec 06, 2023**

### Peace on Earth requires living on the edge

This year we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Phil Berrigan, the famed peace activist and one-time Josephite priest. His dedication to serve the African-American community quickly blossomed into an all-out crusade for justice, resulting in his many

arrests, sentences, and continuing activities to emphasize the Catholic opposition to bloodshed. He was hardly rewarded for his efforts in this life, and in this time of war in our day, we owe him a great debt. We can pay it by walking as he walked, in the path toward peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). *"On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever."*

**Thursday, Dec 07, 2023**

### Unite to fight for good

Today is Pearl Harbor Day, when the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor officially thrust the United States into World War II. Americans sacrificed in multiple ways to serve the war effort, from military service to rationing. What if we were to unite in the same way to fight poverty? An emphasis on charity and justice for the poor exists within all the Abrahamic traditions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Who is fighting poverty in your community? Take a step today to unite with them.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven."*

**Friday, Dec 08, 2023**

### A day of grace

Today is all about grace. It was God's grace that provided Mary with the privilege of being born without original sin; it was Mary's grace that said yes to God's plan; and it is our grace to honor Mary's witness and protection. As Pope John Paul II explains, "Grace means love and the gift of God himself, the completely free gift in which God entrusts to [us] his Mystery." In honor of this day, pray the mysteries of the Rosary.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."*

**Saturday, Dec 09, 2023**

### Mary mirrors her people

Can you imagine what today's saint, Juan Diego, was going through when he encountered Our Lady of Guadalupe? First of all, she looked nothing like the pictures of the Blessed Virgin he was used to. She wasn't a blue-eyed, white European. She was brown-skinned with dark hair and dark eyes. She wasn't wearing a blue veil either. And she didn't even speak to him in Spanish, but in Nahuatl, the ancient language of his ancestral Aztec. Was she for real? When the image of the Virgin appeared on his cloak, he knew she was. Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, who acts as a reflection for all the faithful.

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN, VISIONARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*



# @EPIPHANY

## EVENTS

**DEC 3 - DEC 10**



**Advent Begins**  
11:00am Family Mass  
& Sunday Scripture  
7:30 Young Adult Mass



**12:10pm Mass**  
12:30pm Miraculous Novena  
7:00pm Epiphany's Synod pt. I



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



**12:10pm Mass**  
12:40pm OLPH (Church)  
7:00pm Advent Adoration



**12:10pm Mass**  
7:00pm Legion of Mary



**9:00 12:10pm & 5:30pm**  
Immaculate Conception Mass  
6:30pm Sant' Egidio Fridays



**4:00pm Vigil Mass**  
6:00pm Tree Lighting &  
Santa on the Plaza



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

# Church of the Epiphany

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**Rev James Mayzik SJ**, Parochial Vicar

**Kate McHugh**, Principal

**Tadhg Malone**, Director of Faith Formation & Mission

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## What Should I Give To God This Christmas?

Your Heart. If you give him your heart you will support his bride, the church, with a generous in proportion to your means. Our Christmas collection is our most important collection. Thank you for your heartfelt generosity.

**Fr. Austin Titus**

## CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

Beginning on Christmas Eve and continuing through the Feast of the Epiphany, every Mass will include a special prayer for the special intentions listed on our Christmas Novena envelopes, which can be found in the narthex.

Please complete the envelope and place it in the collection basket or give it to a minister or priest.

## Second Collection For The Retirement Fund for Religious December 10 - 11

Your gifts provide vital support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers, & religious order priests. They served us in their younger years in schools, hospitals & parishes. Now we can thank them by providing for them in retirement. Let us reward their kindness with our gratitude.

## MASSES

**Monday-Friday 12:10pm**

**Saturday Vigil: 4pm**

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

## THIS WEEK'S

### ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 2**

4:00pm Erin & Maryanne Laura

**Sunday, December 3**

11:00am Dolores Patterson

7:30pm Mary & Joseph Walsh

**Monday, December 4**

12:10pm Pedro Abinon

**Tuesday, December 5**

12:10pm King Phojanakong

**Wednesday, December 6**

12:10pm the Brown family, living & deceased

**Thursday, December 7** *Memorial of Saint Ambrose*

12:10pm Jamie & Ellen Keane

**Friday, December 8** *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

12:10pm the intentions of Agnes Gratil

5:30pm Rick Connor

**Saturday, December 9**

4:00pm Charles Rios

**Sunday, December 10**

11:00am Theresa Sullivan

7:30pm Ann Ahern

**Monday, December 11**

12:10pm Josefina Barroso

**Tuesday, December 12** *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*

12:10pm Emilio Calica

**Sanctuary Lamp**

**Dec. 3-9**

**Donald Jordan**

**Advent Candle Dec 3-9**

**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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