

EPIPHANY



December 4, 2022

“One who is coming after
is mightier than I”

Second
Sunday of
Advent



WELCOME to Epiphany

Cousin John

Jesus' cousin didn't fool around. John lived in the wilderness around the Dead Sea. He subsisted on a starvation diet, and so did his disciples. He wore clothes that even the rummage-sale people wouldn't have handled. When he preached, it was fire and brimstone every time. If he baptized you, there was the potential to drown.

The Kingdom was coming all right, he said, but if you thought it was going to be a pink tea, you'd better think again. If you didn't shape up, God would give you the ax like an elm with the blight or toss you into the incinerator like chaff. He said being a Jew wouldn't get you any more points than being a Hottentot, and one of his favorite ways of addressing his congregation was as a snake pit. Your only hope, he said, was to clean up your life as if your life depended on it, which it did, and get baptized in a hurry as a sign that you had,

Some people thought he was Elijah come back from the grave, and some others thought he was the Messiah, but John would have none of either. "I'm the one yelling himself blue in the face in the wilderness," he said, quoting Isaiah. "I'm the one trying to knock some sense into your heads" (Matthew 3:3).



About God's Word

THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

Sunday, Dec 04, 2022

Peace to all who enter here

The holiday season can be full of exciting plans and activities. It can also be stressful, as social demands increase. Shopping and seasonal food preparation take time—a thing always in limited supply. And as families and communities gather, opportunities for harmony or conflict arise. Francis de Sales offers advice for the harried: "Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset." Commit to Isaiah's peaceable kingdom, where calf and lion share the field and childhood innocence leads the way.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (4). "The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them."

Monday, Dec 05, 2022

Feed my flock

"Mandela Day" is an annual international day in honor of South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela celebrated on his birthday in July as a call to action to every individual to change the world with acts of service. Today is the anniversary of Mandela's death and also International Volunteer Day, another reminder for each person to make a positive difference in the lives of others. In 2022, the Nelson Mandela Foundation focused on the intersection of food security and climate change—also themes of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. How can you and your parish help provide nutritious food to all in your community in ways that are sustainable? For suggestions, visit mandeladay.com.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). "We have seen incredible things today."

Tuesday, Dec 06, 2022

Secret Santa

The anonymous generosity of Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra in the 300s, is legendary. So as not to attract praise from others, Nicholas performed charitable deeds on the sly—like the time he saved three poor maidens from destitution because they had no dowry for marriage. Under cover of night, Saint Nick secretly dropped three bags of gold down their chimney to ease their plight. The size, shape, and color of these bags of gold gave rise to the "Christmas orange" traditionally placed in Christmas stockings. Consider an anonymous act of charity today—and maybe treat yourself to an orange, too!

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). "It is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."

Wednesday, Dec 07, 2022

Firm stance, gentle hand

Saint Ambrose of Milan, the esteemed early church theologian and pastor, was consecrated bishop of Milan on this day in 374, during a trip to the city to quell a succession crisis for the contentious church post. Known for his conciliatory demeanor, Ambrose was a staunch defender of orthodox beliefs about the divinity of Jesus, but he was also respected by those who believed Jesus not to be God, because of his willingness to listen to them. Among his countless contributions to the church, he converted Saint

Augustine of Hippo with his preaching and baptized the wayward son before his own journey to theological greatness. In this season of charity, may we all emulate Ambrose's devotion to peace and unity on his holy feast.

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."

Thursday, Dec 08, 2022

Holiness is about more than clean living

Older Catholics might smile as they recall the imagery for sin that they learned in the mid-20th century. Sin-free meant a clean soul. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary as free from "all stain of original sin." Rather than emphasize Mary's clean soul, today many contemporary theologians choose to emphasize Mary's active faithfulness over a lifetime. That's something each one of us can aspire to.

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). "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Friday, Dec 09, 2022

Don't lose sight of Mary

After providing a mantle of roses with the image of Mary miraculously impressed upon it as proof to the archbishop of Mexico City of her appearance to him, Juan Diego spent his days living as a hermit and guide to pilgrims near a shrine built in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a title Mary reportedly chose for herself. The Mexican bishops define the "Guadalupe Event" as the "beginning of evangelization with a vitality that surpassed all expectations." The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe now holds the honor of being the most visited Catholic shrine in the world. As with any Marian apparition, spiritual transformation is Mary's primary purpose—all in the hope of leading a new generation to Christ. Draw on the presence of Mary today, as Saint Juan Diego did centuries ago, to help orient you toward God's boundless love.

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATZIN

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). "Wisdom is vindicated by her works."

Saturday, Dec 10, 2022

Let your spirit soar!

The title of Our Lady of Loreto is owed more to a building and a statue than to a person. The building is the Basilica of the Holy House (Basilica della Santa Casa) in Loreto, Italy. A tradition arose that the Holy House was the actual house where the Virgin Mary lived in Nazareth, which had later miraculously been transported by angels to Loreto. (Crusaders returning from the Holy Land may have more plausibly transported it with them, stone by stone.) The statue is a Madonna and Child image, called Our Lady of Loreto, carved in Cedar of Lebanon and enshrined in the basilica. Whatever you might make of the miraculous story about Our Lady of Loreto, the next time you embark on a long journey or relocation, it might not hurt to ask for her protection.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Elijah has already come."

EPIPHANY

Advent Events

DEC 8 & 12

Meeting God in the Dark
(Film Series)

Dec 5

Lectio Divina

Dec 10

Santa On The Plaza

Dec 11

Family Workshop

Dec 18th

Lessons and Carols

Dec 19

Reconciliation Monday

Christmas

Christmas Eve Mass **Dec 24 4 pm**

Christmas Day Mass **Dec 25 11am**

Solemnity of The Blessed Virgin **Dec 31 & Jan 1**

Feast of the Epiphany **Jan 8 (All Masses)**

@EPIPHANY

DEC. 4 - DEC. 11

EVENTS



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



12:10pm Mass
12:30pm Miraculous Medal Novena
7:00pm Lectio Divina



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



12:10pm Mass
12:40pm OLPH (Church)
6:30pm Cub Scouts
7:00pm Breaking Open
The Word via Zoom



12:10pm & 5:30pm Immaculate Conception Mass
7:00pm Meeting God in the Dark (Parish Hall)



12:10pm Mass
1:00pm Legion of Mary
6:30pm Sant' Egidio Prayer Service



4pm Vigil Mass
6:00pm Santa on The Plaza



Cub Scout Toy Drive
Sant' Egidio Food Drive
11:00am Family Mass & Sunday Scripture Program
12:00pm Family Advent Workshop
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
Jose Ramos & Thomas Lewis, Parish Trustees
Jonathan Ramirez, Communications Producer

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WEBSITE: epiphanychurch.nyc

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to everyone!

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contact Virginia Urban
virginiaurban@yahoo.com
Drop-off date: Wed, December 14
1:00 - 8:00 PM

Epiphany Church narthex- 22nd St @ 2nd Av

The Epiphany School admission season for the 2023-2024 school year is open

Toddler Twos Program through Grade 8
For application information and to
schedule a tour,
visit our website:
www.theepiphanyschool.org

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 3 *Memorial of St. Francis Xavier*
4:00pm Patricia Bertucci

Sunday, December 4 *Second Sunday of Advent*
11:00am Jeanette Gaffney
7:30pm Dennis Shea

Monday, December 5
12:10pm Kevin F. Fitzgerald

Tuesday, December 6
12:10pm the Brown family, living & deceased

Wednesday, December 7 *Memorial of St. Ambrose*
12:10pm Rita Rotiroti

Thursday, December 8 *Immaculate Conception*
12:10pm Msgr. Thomas Modugno
5:30pm return of all catholics to the faith of their Baptism

Friday, December 9
12:10pm intentions of Dale K. Graves

Saturday, December 10
4:00pm Charles Rios

Sunday, December 11 *Third Sunday of Advent*
11:00am Carmelo Spadaro

7:30pm Marie Gerasolo
Monday, December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
12:10pm Denise Sweeney

Tuesday, December 13 *Memorial of St. Lucy*
12:10pm the Capuano family

Sanctuary Lamp
Dec 4 - 10
Eugenia Burgos

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

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