

EPIPHANY



December 10, 2023

"A voice of one crying
out in the desert"

Second Sunday
of Advent



WELCOME to Epiphany

John's Baptizing Waters

Baptizin g heads du nked in shame risen in hope, glistenin g and new with Jordan wate r the su n beamin g through the c lounds like a portal straight to the land of future promises. Baptizin g the heads of my sons, the heads of my daughte rs, my brothe rs and siste rs, wheat separatin g from the chaf f. Baptizin g with sticky honey hands washed c lean sins tricklin g through his ears breath of locusts — REPENT! For the Kin gdom of Heaven is at hand! — with those wild brown eyes that have seen the provision of God in the wilde rnes s.



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 10, 2023

A voice cries out

This year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 75. The world could use a reminder that human rights belong to each of us and must be defended without exception. We live in an age marred by misinformation. Attacks on others grow more destructive online and in our common spaces. Climate change, hunger, and poverty are unequally borne by those whose rights are not recognized or protected. Advent is the perfect time to identify the rights that resonate most powerfully for you. Claim them. Discover ways to stand up for them. Create alliances with those whose rights are in jeopardy.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). *"In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"*

Monday, Dec 11, 2023

Backstory on the Bible

The 73 books in the Catholic Bible were written hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years before they were officially compiled. It wasn't until the late fourth century that the Catholic Church decided upon the list of sacred scripture to be included. Pope Damasus I presided over the Council of Rome of 382 that determined the scriptural canon, and he commissioned Saint Jerome to translate these texts from Greek into Latin. This collection of sacred books is the inspired word of God, reveals the truth of Revelation, and forms the core of Catholic beliefs. Pass on the Good News!

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

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

Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023

Mysterious mother of the Americas

On a wall, under glass, is the life-sized image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—enshrined in the Basilica of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego in December 1591. As mysterious and symbolic as the Woman of the Apocalypse described in Revelation 12, it continues to defy human explanation, including analysis from a NASA scientist. The humble cactus fiber cloak it appears on hasn't deteriorated in more than 400 years, nor has the image, which experts from Kodak likened to a photograph though photography wasn't invented yet. Countless miracles are associated with Guadalupe, but the greatest is the conversion of an entire continent. Pray for the people of the Americas with the Center of Concern prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe that begins: Hail Mary, Lady of Peace, We pray for the peace in our world; make us peacemakers.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). *"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun."*

Wednesday, Dec 13, 2023

Keep your eye on the divine

Like many early Roman saints, little is known about Saint Lucy. Tradition says that her eyes were removed in an act of torture before her death for being a Christian. As such, she is the patron saint of the blind. We often take sight for granted, but Lucy should

—and see with God's eyes. The reward for our faithful acts is the beatific vision. Or as Saint Paul puts it: "We see now in a glass darkly, but then face to face" (1 Cor. 13:12). Work to improve your vision.

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). *"Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things."*

Thursday, Dec 14, 2023

He wasn't afraid of the dark

Today is the memorial of Saint John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite mystic, poet, and reformer who died in 1591. He may be best known for *Dark Night of the Soul*, which develops the idea that suffering—including the sense of God's absence—can actually lead to unity with God. "The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light," he wrote. John came to his insights through experience, having been maltreated and even imprisoned by his own religious community. If God ever seems far away, let John of the Cross guide you to the light.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). *"Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

Friday, Dec 15, 2023

The secret to our success

Damned if you do, damned if you don't. That is Jesus' complaint about public opinion. John the Baptist fasted and they called him crazy. Jesus feasted and they called him a glutton and drunkard. We've all been there. The best response to criticism is success. What is success in the spiritual life? "In God's will, there is great peace" is the answer Saint Josephine Bakhita offers. Wise words. Ignore your critics, and follow Jesus' path to peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

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

Saturday, Dec 16, 2023

Modernism gets its say

Maude Petre, who died on this date in 1937, was a British writer and religious sister best known for her work on Catholic modernism. She was a prolific author, writing on a wide range of topics, including theology, philosophy, politics, and literature. She openly supported women's suffrage, which the church opposed at the time. Her 1907 book *Catholicism and Independence* got her kicked out of her order and she was refused the sacraments by her bishop. Her views were controversial, but they helped form Catholic thinking for the Second Vatican Council. Prayerfully consider that the Catholic controversies of today may lead to the church of tomorrow.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *"Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come."*

@EPIPHANY

DEC 10 - DEC 17

EVENTS



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



12:10pm Mass
12:30pm Miraculous Novena
7:00pm Epiphany's Synod pt. 2



11:00am 22 Club
12:10pm Mass
2:30pm Prayer Corps
7:00pm Connect



12:10pm Mass
12:40pm OLPH (Church)
7:00pm Breaking Open The Word



12:10pm Mass
7:00pm Imaginative Meditation of the Incarnation
7:00pm Legion of Mary



12:10pm Mass
6:00pm Curia of the Legion of Mary
6:30pm Sant' Egidio Fridays



4:00pm Vigil Mass



11:00am Family Mass & Sunday Scripture
3:00pm Ceremony of Carols
7:30 Young Adult Mass

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Rev James Mayzik SJ, Parochial Vicar

Kate McHugh, Principal

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Are you retired and in possession of an IRA?

You can satisfy the dreaded RMD and avoid its related income tax by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (hopefully to Epiphany!). Bottom line: you paid no tax on the income that went into the IRA, and you pay no tax on that income and its earnings coming out of the IRA, at the same time satisfying the RMD requirement.

Consult your tax advisor about this extraordinary tax advantage, known by its acronym QCD. Why not save yourself a lot of money?

Christmas Novena of 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 9-10

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 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

Wednesday, December 13 *Memorial of Saint Lucy*

12:10pm Denise Sweeney & Felisa Marin

Thursday, December 14 *Memorial of Saint John of the Cross*

12:10pm Agustin Fernandez

Friday, December 15

12:10pm Hugh Gormley

Saturday, December 16

4:00pm Gloria Gannon

Sunday, December 17

11:00am Vito Gazzettino

7:30pm Constance Bochicchio

Monday, December 18

12:10pm James Healy

Tuesday, December 19

12:10pm John O'Sullivan

Sanctuary Lamp

Dec. 10 - 16

Theresa Sullivan

**Advent Candle Dec 10 - 16 Peace
deceased members of the McElroy &
Sheehan families**

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

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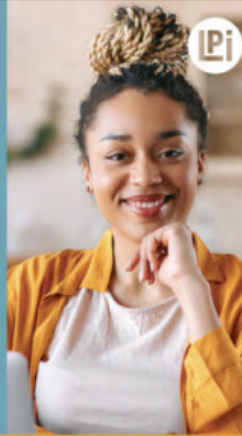
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