

EPIPHANY



December 11, 2022

“Among those born of women
there has been none greater
than John the Baptist.”

Third
Sunday of
Advent

WELCOME to Epiphany

The cave of Christmas
is hidden
in the center of the earth.
You will need a lamp for the journey
A man named John
is a step ahead of you.
His torch sweeps the ground
so that you do not stumble.
He brings you,
at your own pace,
to the entrance of the cave.
His smile is complete,
perfect,
whole,
lacking nothing.
Inside
there is a sudden light,
but it does not hurt your eyes.
The darkness has been pushed
back by radiance.
You feel like an underwater
swimmer
who has just broken the surface of
the Jordan
and is breathing in the sky
John is gone.
Notice
from whom the light is shining,
beloved child.

~John Shea



About God's Word

THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

Sunday, Dec 11, 2022

'Tis the season to be generous

Seasonal gift-giving was originally an expression of generosity toward the needy. These days, gift-giving has become many other things, including a source of anxiety or obligation, mindless consumerism, one-upmanship, and often, an annual occasion of snowballing debt. The gifts Jesus brings are different—they are restorative, occasions of good news. Consider offering gifts that fill hearts, not closets. Heifer International, World Wildlife Fund, and PlanUSA are among the many organizations that accept donations in directed ways to honor your loved ones.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk . . . and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."*

Monday, Dec 12, 2022

We're good enough for God

The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego in December 1531 is reminiscent of the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary. Juan and the young Mary were both understandably overwhelmed by what was asked of them. In the Gospel of Luke, Mary is "greatly troubled at what was said." According to later accounts, Juan told Our Lady to pick someone of higher standing as messenger, since he was a "man of no importance." But by accepting the challenge, a Jewish peasant girl became the Mother of God, and an indigenous Mexican persevered in getting a church built in Our Lady's honor. Today, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world. Think you're not good enough for God's plan? Trust that God equips us all for what we're called to do.

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

Tuesday, Dec 13, 2022

Follow the light

Lucy, whose name means "light," is a great saint for these darkening days of Advent. Her name and example personify the "light" mentioned throughout the Bible, not only Isaiah's promises of a future messiah—"people who walk in darkness will see a great light"—but Jesus, who called himself the "Light of the World", while also calling us the same. Scandinavian celebrations of Lucy, with a crown of candles on her head, remind us that she fed persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs, affixing candles to her head in order to use both hands to serve. How will you be a light to the world today?

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). *"Take refuge in the name of the Lord."*

Wednesday, Dec 14, 2022

In the darkness, a great light

One of multiple doctors of the church celebrated this month, Saint John of the Cross was a renowned priest and friar in Spain, descended from a line of "conversos" (Iberian Jewish converts to Catholicism). A contemporary of another Carmelite saint, Teresa of Ávila, John was, like her, a mystic whose writings have lived far

beyond his own lifetime as classics of European literature. His seminal work, the poem "Dark Night of the Soul," is the basis of a widely held tenant of spirituality involving spiritual distress as a part of searching and growth. (We all have our "dark nights of the soul.") His "Ascent of Mount Carmel" is likewise widely revered. In this season of holy joy as we celebrate the approach of the Messiah, may we likewise honor the legacy of the humble Catholic friar of Jewish descent whose profound and mystical faith has inspired millions the world over.

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

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189). *"And Jesus said to them in reply, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard.'"*

Thursday, Dec 15, 2022

The greatest gifts are priceless

The tradition of Christmas gift-giving can be uncomfortable for those wanting to take seriously Catholic teaching about the environment and consumerism. Fortunately, more and more people are open to alternatives: gifts of time or special skills, gifts made from household items, gifts to charitable causes in loved ones' names. How can you celebrate creatively, in keeping with the spirit of Christmas?

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30 (190). *"I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John."*

Friday, Dec 16, 2022

Truly right and just

The prophet Isaiah tells the Israelites to "observe what is right, do what is just." No easy task, often leading us to ask for some guidance. Fortunately, Jesus showed us the way. As we await the celebration of Christ's coming, take a moment to ponder some of the examples of right and just living Jesus gave us, such as caring for outcasts, being a healing presence, praying, evangelizing, and forgiving. Simply put, follow Christ's advice to love God and your neighbor as yourself and to count your blessings, and let Christ take care of the rest.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36 (191). *"These works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."*

Saturday, Dec 17, 2022

Dip into God's wisdom

Today we begin the recitation of the O Antiphons. The church sings these seven lines during evening prayers (vespers) on the last seven days of Advent, and also uses them as the Alleluia Verse during the daily Mass. Each antiphon is a title for Christ taken from the Book of Isaiah. They go back to an unknown source some 1,500 years ago in medieval Europe, and all begin with "O," thus known as the "O Antiphons." Take an opportunity today to connect to this ancient tradition by enjoying sung versions and explanations of the antiphons on the internet, starting with today's antiphon, O Wisdom.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice."*



SANTA ON THE PLAZA

**Christmas Tree Lighting
And
Ornament Making with
the Young Adults**

**DECEMBER 10th
6 - 7pm**

***Advent
Family
Workshop***

**Multiple Activity
Stations**

**Advent Prayer Service
Advent Wreath Making
Advent/Christmas Card
Making
Advent Banner Making
John the Baptist Skit
Advent Bingo**

**Dec. 11th
12:00pm**



@EPIPHANY

EVENTS

DEC. 11- DEC. 18



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



12:10pm Mass
12:30pm Miraculous
Medal Novena
7:00pm Meeting God in The Dark



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



12:10pm Mass
12:40pm OLPH (Church)
1:00pm Adopt-a-Family
6:30pm Cub Scouts
7:00pm Breaking Open
The Word via Zoom



12:10pm Mass
7:00pm Meeting God in
the Dark (Parish Hall)



12:10pm Mass
2:00pm Pocket Prayer Shawl
2:15pm Legion of Mary
6:00pm Curia of Legion of Mary
6:30pm Sant' Egidio Prayer Service



4pm Vigil Mass



11:00am Family Mass &
Sunday Scripture Program
12:00pm Hunger Sunday
3:00pm Lessons & Carols
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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What Should I Give To God for Christmas?

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

Father Austin Titus

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

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.

MASSES

Monday-Friday 12:10pm

Saturday Vigil: 4pm

Sunday 11am & 7:30pm

THIS WEEK'S

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 10 *Memorial of St. Francis Xavier*
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

Wednesday, December 14 *Memorial of St. John of the Cross*
12:10pm Felisa Marin

Thursday, December 15
12:10pm Geraldine Summers

Friday, December 16
12:10pm Mary & Joseph Walsh

Saturday, December 17
4:00pm Augustin Fernandez

Sunday, December 18 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
11:00am Carmelo & Theresa Spadaro

7:30pm Ann Ahern

Monday, December 19
12:10pm Msgr. Thomas Modugno

Tuesday, December 20
12:10pm Vito Gazzetino

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

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