

EPIPHANY

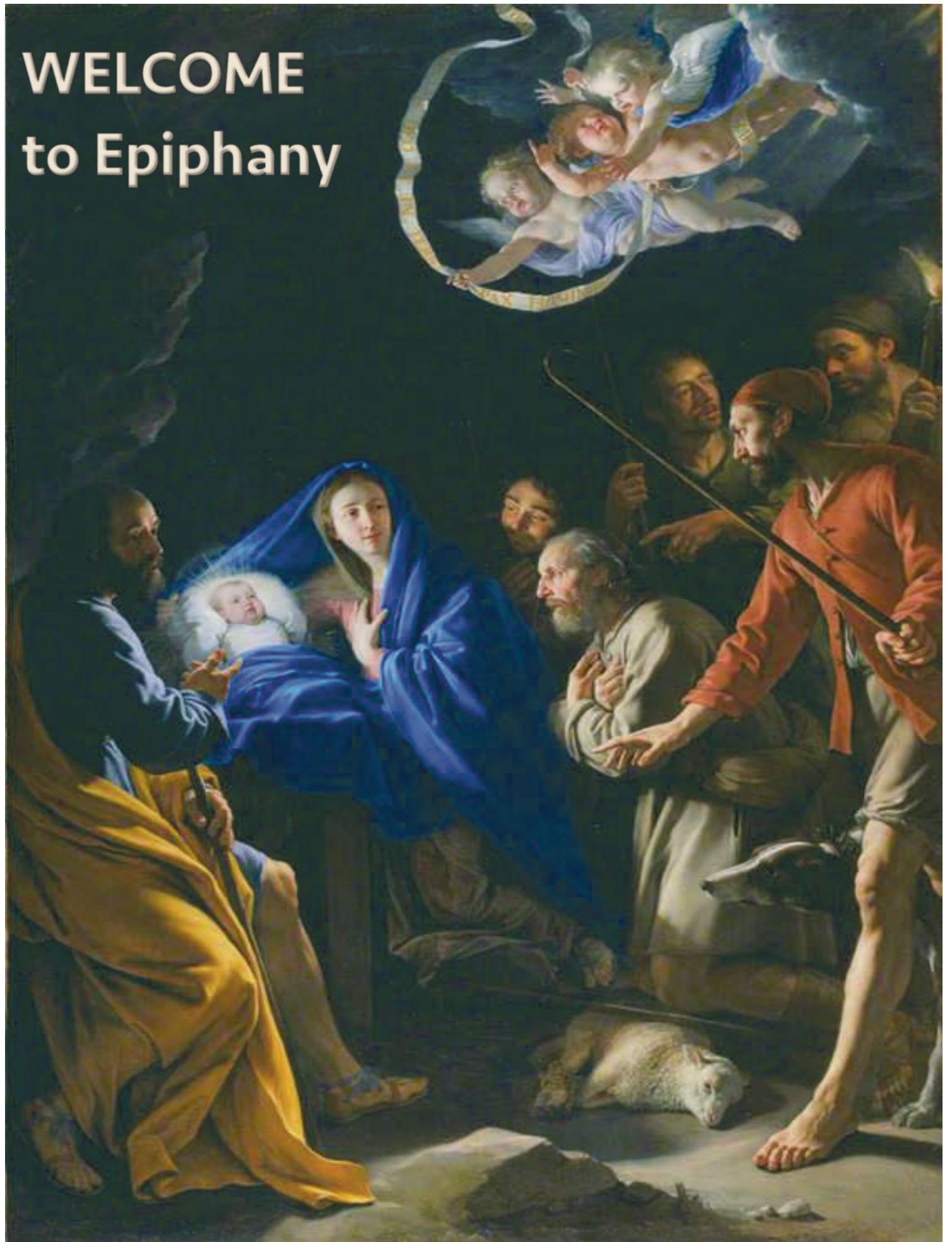


December 24, 2023

"Do not be afraid,
Mary"

Fourth Sunday
of Advent

WELCOME to Epiphany



EPIPHANY

Christmas

Christmas Eve Mass Dec 24 4 pm

Christmas Day Mass Dec 25 11am

Solemnity of The Blessed Virgin Midnight Mass Dec 31

Mass For The New Year Jan 1 12:10pm

Feast of the Epiphany Jan 6 & 7 (All Masses)



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About God's Word

THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

Sunday, Dec 24, 2023

An embarrassment of riches

Every so many years, we experience this happy collision of observances: the last Sunday of Advent blossoms into Christmas Eve in a single day. Which means next week, the Feast of the Holy Family will roll into the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God by nightfall. It's a mad scramble for presiders, preachers, choirs, and liturgists to keep up with the whole, holy mess of these occasions. Parishioners too will be obliged to untangle the remarkable Mass schedule this landslide of liturgies creates. Consider it a cheerful reminder that liturgy gathers us into mysteries that are not finite but everlasting.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). *"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."*

Monday, Dec 25, 2023

The wonder of it all

In the early church, Christmas was actually not a major feast, but over the centuries it grew in importance, and Saint Francis of Assisi catapulted its popularity in 1223 by creating the first nativity scene in a cave with live animals. Christmas Midnight Mass was celebrated there and it was a huge hit with the whole town. The tradition of the Christmas crèche was born. Francis loved Christmas, considering it the "Feast of Feasts," because God chose to take the humble form of a poor baby. Let the wonder of the Incarnation imbue your day.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 (15); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."*

Tuesday, Dec 26, 2023

For the love of Saint Stephen

On this second day of Christmas, consider words about true love—and Saint Stephen—from Saint Fulgentius, a North African bishop of the sixth century: "Love was Stephen's weapon by which he gained every battle, and so won the crown signified by his name. His love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob; his love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him." Celebrate the Christmas octave with the same steadfast love the first Christian martyr showed his persecutors.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."*

Wednesday, Dec 27, 2023

Through thick and thin

Beloved! That's what we know about today's saint—John the apostle is the "disciple whom Jesus loved." John was the last apostle to leave Jesus at the cross and one of the first to discover his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. He earned the title of evangelist by writing the fourth gospel (likely with help from his

followers). His account of Jesus' life has a more spiritual and mysterious air than those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But that doesn't mean he's otherworldly—after all, John is the patron saint of loyalty and friendships. Honor him today by visiting with a friend.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us."*

Thursday, Dec 28, 2023

Mortal consequences

Amid the Christmas festivities, today the church has a somber reminder of the infants in the vicinity of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod in his fruitless effort to destroy Jesus. They were "collateral damage" that paved the way for Christianity, a faith that confesses to protecting the most vulnerable. In honor of the Holy Innocents, we might consider the many innocents who die prematurely because of lack of healthcare, pollution that results in disease, and isolation that leads to early death. Strive to be a force for life.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all."*

Friday, Dec 29, 2023

The Catholic bucket list

Gift-giving at Christmastime is a common custom. Whether it's at home under a lit tree or at the secret Santa party at work, it's fun to give and receive. "Experience" gifts are becoming more a part of this custom: tickets to see a ballgame, an art class, a hiking trip. Experience gifts can be given any time, and we can even treat ourselves. Since it's the season of Christmas, let's think of Catholic experiences that we'd enjoy and create a kind of "Catholic bucket list." See the pope? Run a food pantry? Visit Assisi? Take a scripture class? Spend the rest of the Christmas season creating your own list.

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"It had been revealed to [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord."*

Saturday, Dec 30, 2023

What is the purpose of life?

This age-old question has as many answers as there are questioners. For Catholics though, there is one simple answer: love. But when is love ever simple? Deep love can be complicated and even gut-wrenchingly hard. It can bring pain, longing, disquiet, questioning, loneliness, and sacrifice. Yet, "The pain that comes from deep love makes your love ever more fruitful," writes Henri Nouwen. Love is our purpose, and we join with those celebrating Kwanzaa who are reflecting this day on the principle of Nia, that is, purpose.

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"Whoever does the will of God remains forever."*

@EPIPHANY

DEC 24 - DEC 31

EVENTS



11:00am Fourth Sunday
of Advent Mass
4:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass
No 7:30pm Mass



11:00am
Christmas Mass



12:10pm Mass



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



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



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



4:00pm Vigil Mass



11:00am Family Mass
& Sunday Scripture
No 7:30pm Mass
New Year Midnight Mass

Church of the Epiphany

Rev Austin Titus, Pastor

Rev James Mayzik SJ, Parochial Vicar

Kate McHugh, Principal

Tadhg Malone, Director of Faith Formation & Mission

John D. Coen, Director of Music

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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 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.

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?

MASSES

Monday-Friday 12:10pm

Saturday Vigil: 4pm

Sunday 11am & 7:30pm

THIS WEEK'S

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 23

4:00pm Dr. Jacquelyn Wilson

Sunday, December 24

11:00am William Eglinton

4:00pm the McGroarty Family

NO 7:30 MASS

Monday, December 25

11:00am the people of Epiphany parish

NO 7:30 MASS

Tuesday, December 26 *Feast of Saint Stephen*

12:10pm the people of Epiphany parish

Wednesday, December 27 *Feast of Saint John*

12:10pm Fernando Luis Puente

Thursday, December 28 *Feast of the Holy Innocents*

12:10pm Elizabeth Y.Y. Chow

Friday, December 29

12:10pm Helen Gormley

Saturday, December 30

4:00pm George Memoly Sr.

Sunday, December 31 *Feast of the Holy Family*

11:00am Sr. Doris Sahyonne

12:00am Midnight Mass (No 7:30 pm MASS)

Monday, January 1 *Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

12:10pm Sr. Doris Sahyonne

Tuesday, January 2 *Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen*

12:10pm the people of Epiphany parish

Sanctuary Lamp

Dec. 24-30

John Caradonna

Altar Bread & Wine Dec 24-30

Lillian & George Conard,

Jack Warmbrand & James Lee

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faithful departed, rest in peace.**

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