

JAN 3, 2021

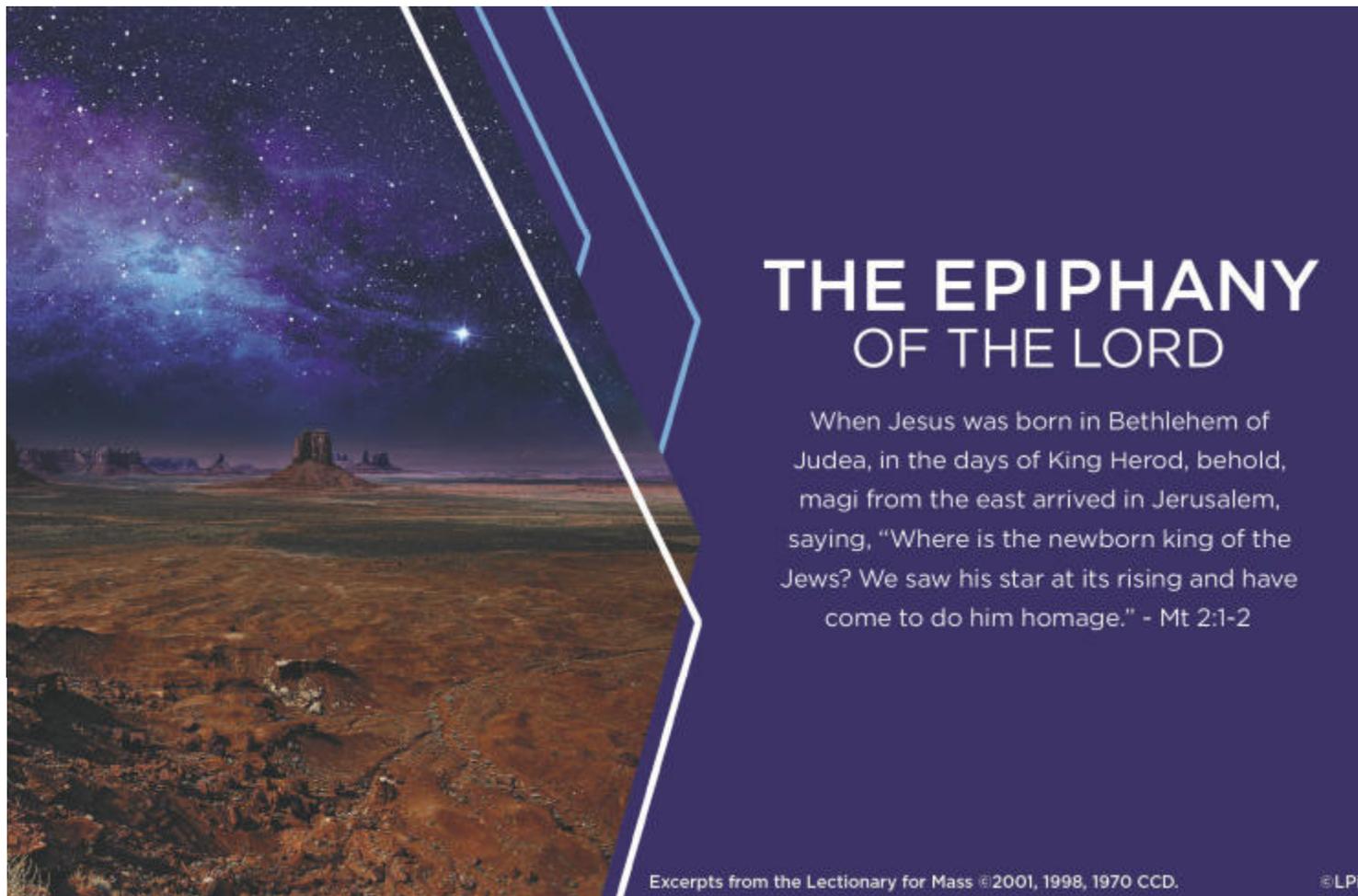
The Epiphany of the Lord



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

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coming to know
the kingdom of God
by being Christ
to the world.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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3722 S. 58th Street | Milwaukee, WI 53220-2053 | (414) 545-4316

EUCCHARIST:

SAT 5:00 PM

SUN 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM

Capacity limited to 100 people during social distancing. Reservation required to attend Mass.

PARISH DIRECTOR

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Parish Support - December, 2020

	ACTUAL <i>as of 12/18/20</i>	BUDGETED <i>for Dec.</i>
Reg. Envelopes	\$59,988.98	\$105,000.00
Offertory.....	\$568.00	\$7,500.00

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: December, 2020

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Operating Income.....	\$459,214.24	\$463,210.02
Operating Expenses.....	\$335,530.35	\$435,999.98

Improvement Fund Updates

Beg. Balance 7/1/20	\$69,882.96
Donations	\$ 16,773.43
Expenses	<u>\$ 2,027.87</u>
Balance (12/18/2020)	\$84,628.52

THANK YOU!

Our Lady of Lourdes is grateful for your continued support of all our ministries. We are blessed by your generosity!

2020 Catholic Stewardship Appeal (12/9/2020)

Donations: **\$28,271.00**
Goal is \$42,844.00.....65.99%

Donors: **184**
Goal is 1,11116.56%

DECIDE TO LEAD

www.CatholicAppeal.org

NOTES FROM NANCIE

Turn That Page!

There have been a few times in my life when I could not wait to turn the calendar page to a new year, and this is certainly one of them! A fresh year filled with fresh hope!

As Christians, we are by nature, people of hope. We have just completed a month of hopeful anticipation to lead us into the celebration of Christmas, the birth of hope. As we wind down that season, the challenge before us is to live into the hope we profess.

What will this new year bring? We hope for a COVID-19 vaccine that is effective and safe. We hope for a return to all of those activities we have taken for granted—Eucharist and our other beloved sacramental times; graduations; weddings, and even funerals; parties; picnics; parades; and family gatherings of all sorts. We miss each other and want to gather safely again.

We hope for a reconciling of our fears of each other, be it political, racial, religious, or gender based.

We hope for courage to continue on through this pandemic knowing love and support from each other.

We hope for clear vision as we enter the new reality of being a post pandemic parish community when the time comes.

Go turn that page if you haven't done so already.

Peace,
Nancie Chmielewski

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

REVERENCE

Reverence is living with an awareness that we are always in the presence of the Creator and that all life is precious. When we practice reverence, we open ourselves to experience faith, love and deep respect for the mysteries and wonders of life. We take time for silence each day to contemplate, to pray and reflect. We seek to discern the deeper meaning of our lives. We treasure all life.

In this week's Gospel there is so much to ponder: seekers, new life, jealousy, danger, discernment, and reverence. What is new in your life as this year begins that needs reverence? What familiar people or events require your practice of reverence?

SUN 3

MON 4

TUE 5

8:00 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED
10:30 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org

Building Closed

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm—3:00 pm**

Building Closed

**Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm—3:00 pm**

COMMUNITY LIFE

FORMATION

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Gil Latus
From
Ruby Kirley

GIFT Catholic Social Teaching

Join us on Sunday, January 10, as Dr. Juliana Vazquez Krivsky guides us in a timely discussion of how the four major principles of the Church's social teaching—human dignity, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity—can help us love God and love each other more deeply during times of crisis.

Dr. Juliana Vazquez Krivsky is Assistant Professor in the Department of Dogmatic Theology and Pre-Theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, where she currently teaches philosophy to seminarians.

TAG (Teen Action Group)

We are kicking off the second half of our virtual year on Tuesday, January 12, from 7:00 pm–8:00 pm. All students in 6th–12th grade are welcome to join! To receive the meeting log in information and to stay update on all TAG events, sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/tagcontactinfo>.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The Wise See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

WED 6

Building Open
9:00 am–3:00 pm

Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm

7:00 pm Liturgy Team Mtg. Virtual

THU 7

Building Closed

Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm

FRI 8

Building Closed

Food Pantry Drop-off
12:00 pm–3:00 pm

WORSHIP

New Year's Prayer

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family, and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color, or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth, and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy, and peaceful new year.

Rev. Marcy Sheremetta, Xavier University

OUTREACH

From St. Vincent de Paul

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: January 19, February 2, 16

Drive-thru pickup for the Food Pantry is in the south parking lot and is open from 3:00 pm–4:30 pm on the above dates. Two prepacked bags will be given to each car.

Please note that there is no drive-thru pick up on January 5.

Food Pantry

Please drop off bagged food at the handicap entrance, Monday–Friday, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm.

Most needed items: canned vegetables (all varieties), canned meats, canned fruit, condensed soup, Chef Boy R Dee (updated 12/21/20). Please watch the expiration dates. Non-perishable items only, please. Learn more at ololmke.org/food-pantry.



SAT 9

5:00 pm Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org

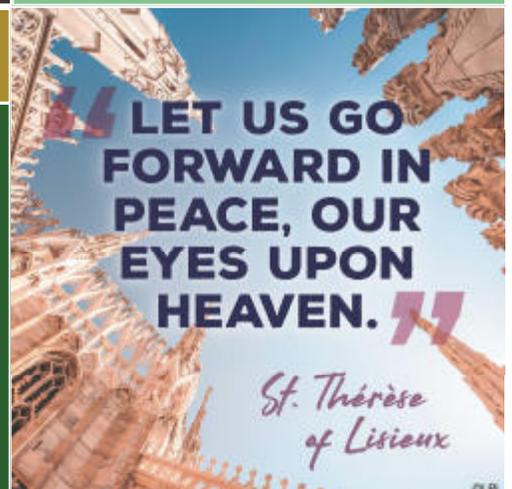
SUN 10

8:00 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

10:30 am Liturgy Church
RESERVATION REQUIRED

11:45 am GIFT Virtual

Sunday Mass Video on ololmke.org



COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Cancellation and Closing Notifications: Cancelling Mass

Over the last couple of weeks, we covered how you receive information regarding event cancellations and building closures due to inclement weather. Since we rely on priests to travel to say Mass here, there is a possibility Mass could be cancelled due to heavy snow.

Notifications for a cancelled Mass will go out no fewer than four hours before the liturgy begins or the night before for an early morning service.

As veterans of Wisconsin winters, we know snow storms can be heavier in some areas and lighter in others.

Use common sense when deciding whether or not to travel even if Mass is not cancelled.

Onward Toward HEALING

Last month the Spotlight article centered on the theme of **HOPE**—Help Our Parish Emerge. This month I want to focus on **HEALING**.

What better way to heal the bitter divide in our nation than by recognizing the problem and its causes through discussion in our own community—our parish community? Change begins on the local level. At OLOL, we are fortunate to have Zoom programs in place to help us achieve this goal: The Discipleship Institute has dedicated this year's agenda toward "Recognizing Prejudice and Racism." With that theme in mind, on January 25, there will be a multi-racial panel discussion webinar. In February, the focus will be "What Can We Do?" using follow-up breakout sessions from the January webinar. A book discussion is being offered in April, as well as a second brainstorming session which should lead to some action plans for our parish. Check the Institute's full schedule on the OLOL website (ololmke.org/discipleship-institute/).

Even with the COVID-19 restrictions, we have the opportunity to enlighten ourselves about prejudice and racism situations with the hope that our parish will eventually be able to reach out to our sisters and brothers of color in a truly meaningful manner following Jesus's commandment to "Love one another."

In a homily last November, Father Bill stated, "Peace comes as a consequence of wisdom." It is my hope that many of us will become wiser by recognizing that we are indeed members of one family—the family of God.

Patricia McKay

Social Justice Committee & Parish Council

DISCIPLESHIP

STAFF EMAIL

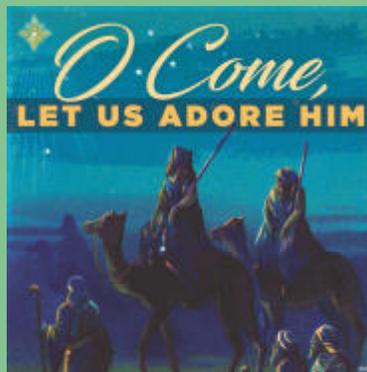
Epiphany

They say that seeing is believing. We certainly live in a visual culture. Think about how we communicate truth to one another. When going visiting do we say "I am going to hear, or smell, or touch, or taste my family? No. We say we are going to see our family. When we hear a strange noise outside what do we say? We say we are going to see what has happened. Of all our senses we tend to trust our eyes the most. Hearing of something is not enough; we have to see it with our own eyes. This is what inspired the Magi. The star drew them out of the confines of their own understanding to witness something remarkable with their own eyes.

There are moments in all of our lives when something we see sends shock waves of understanding in and through us; moments that lift us way beyond normality. These are an epiphany, moments when something we see transforms our lives with freshness and gives us a new found perspective.

Life speaks to us all the time. All we need is vision enough to respond to it. We do not need to search madly for enlightenment. All that is required is that we pay attention.

In this new year, let us all pay attention and let us follow that wondrous star!



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