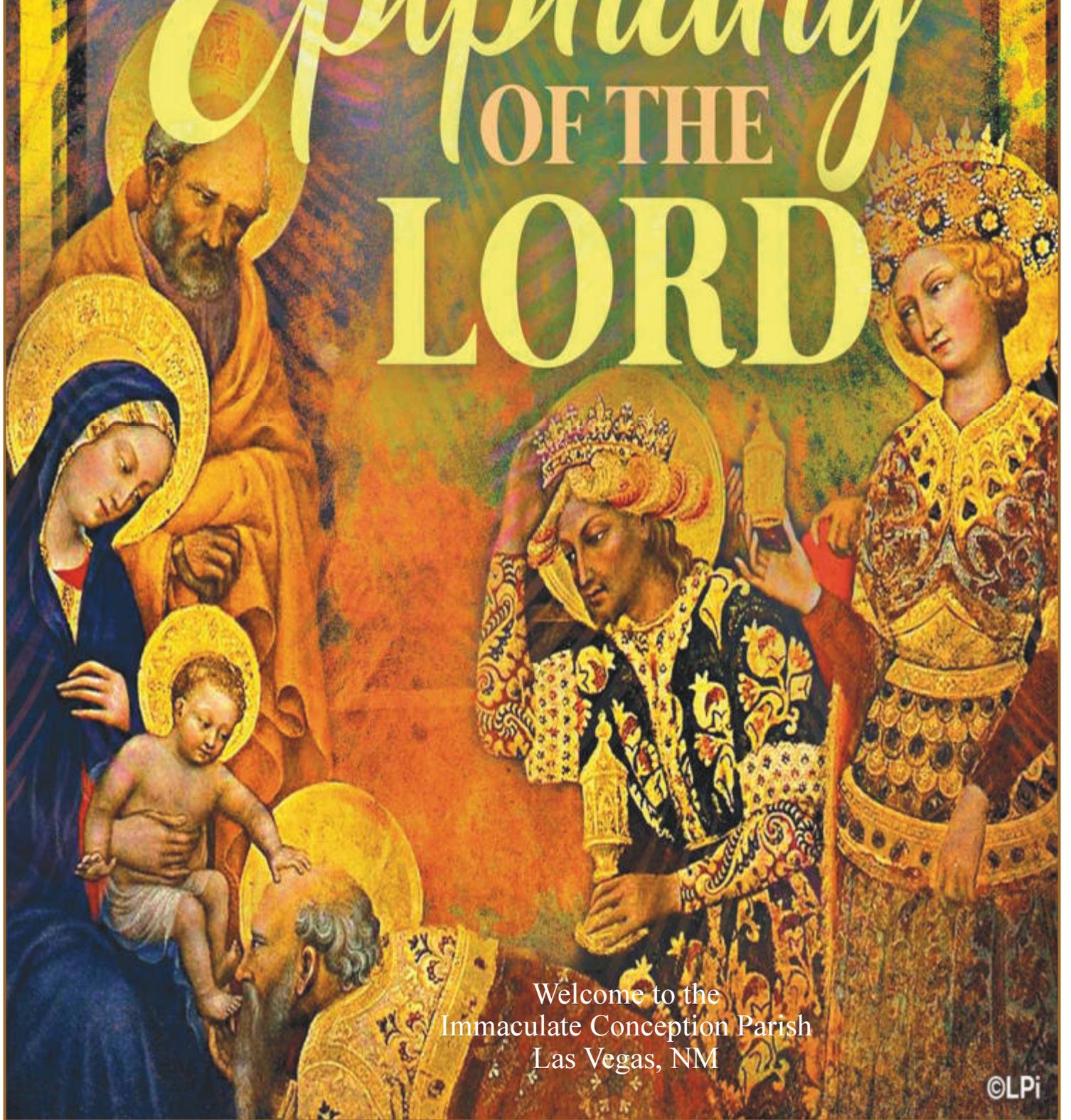


January 3, 2021

# Epiphany OF THE LORD



Welcome to the  
Immaculate Conception Parish  
Las Vegas, NM

# The Epiphany of the Lord



January 3, 2021

## Monday, January 4, 2021 - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:00 AM -Special intentions for Ramon/Sara/Daniel Chavez by Chavez Family  
†Luz/Dela Sanchez  
†Andres Chavez/Andrellita Chavez/Dan Gutierrez by Chavez Family  
†Epimenio Herrera (Birthday)/Betty Herrera/Maria Paiz by Ray/Helen Flores

## Tuesday, January 5, 2021 - Saint John Nepomucene Neumann

7:00 AM -Special intentions for Rudy Ortega (Birthday) by Family

## Wednesday, January 6, 2021 - The Epiphany of the Lord/Saint André Bessette

7:00 AM †Paul Gonzales/Family by Gonzales Family  
†Virginia Cordova/Octaviano/Dr. Jerry Sanchez by Deena Sanchez  
†Patricio Lujan (1st Anniversary) by Mary Lujan/Family

## Thursday, January 7, 2021 - Saint Raymond of Penyafort

7:00 AM †Vicente/Rose/Ruben Salazar by Sally Gallegos

## Friday, January 8, 2021 - Saint Apollinaris

7:00 AM -Baby Jesus/Blessed Virgin Mary/Saint Joseph by Sally Gallegos  
-Our Mother of Perpetual Help for special intentions by Gloria Sena

## Saturday, January 9, 2021 - Saint Adrian of Canterbury

6:00 PM †Irene Vigil (Anniversary)/Julian Vigil/Antonio/Julia Gurule/Dec'd Relatives by Family  
†Sandy Scheer (Birthday) by Ray/Mary/Santiago Salazar  
†Monico/Eloisa M. Rivera/All Souls in Purgatory

## Sunday, January 10, 2021 - The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 AM †Rita Gonzales by Gonzales Family  
†DeAnna Vigil de Romero by Mom/Dad

9:30 AM †Alfredo Chemo Gallegos/Ricardo/Guadalupe Alarid by Rose Gallegos/Family  
†Eva Montoya/Silviano Serna by Pauline/Lorenzo  
†Vincent/Phoebe Anselmo by Steffie Rawlings/Family

11:00 AM -Saint Agatha/Saint Peregrine/Our Blessed Mother/All Saints for the health/well being of Frances Lucero by Family  
-In thanksgiving for prayers answered by Mark/Geri Cassidy  
†Margarito/Reyna/Roger/Olivia Romero by Romero/Tapia/Griego Families  
†Genoveva Crespín/Deceased Family Members by Celenita Bonney  
†Cindy Moore/Rita Vladez/Ben Cortez/Jimmy Garcia/Julian Valencia by Ernesto/Angela  
†Bertha Cassidy by Mark/Geri Cassidy  
†Rita Lucero/Enedine Gonzales/Jim Garcia by Villegas Family

6:00 PM †Tomasita Valverde (Anniversary)/Deceased Members of the McElroy/Trujillo/Sandoval Families by Loretta Sandoval/Family

### Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
[cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a  
[8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/  
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf.  
11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc,  
17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20  
[12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a  
and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10  
[11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is  
55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn  
5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

**Baptisms will resume on Sundays after the 11:00 AM Mass. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.**

**Attention English-Spanish Sacred Heart League Members: The Holy Father's Prayer intentions for 2021 are now available in the IC Office.**

**If you would like a copy and pay your dues, please stop by the Office. (Dues: \$3.00)**

**If you are interested in becoming a member of the English-Spanish Sacred Heart League, please stop by the IC Office.**

**We are pleased to announce that**

*Axel Jose Luketich*

**was Baptized on  
Sunday, December 27, 2020.**

**Congratulations to his Parents, Godparents &  
Family.**

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**On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. [Matthew 2:11](#)**

“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were “wise men” who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call you. It’s closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself? When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

*Lord, I love You and adore You. I lay my life before You and surrender all. You are my Divine King and Savior. My life is Yours. (Pray three times and then prostrate yourself before the Lord) Jesus, I trust in You*



## Wise Men 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

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**Join today at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!**

2021 Calendars are now available. You may pick one up at the Parish Office or at any entrance of the Church.

**2021**  
Happy New Year!

## Chastisement vs. Punishment

### Question:

What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

### Answer:

The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As [St. John Paul II observed](#), "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them. ©LPi



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