



OUR LADY OF
Lourdes
 CATHOLIC PARISH



**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

PASTOR
 Rev. Paul E. Sumler

JANUARY 3, 2021

PERMANENT DEACON
 Rev. Mr. Stephen Sellers

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Friday
 8:30 am—4:30 pm

PARISH STAFF

Mrs. JayMarie Granger

Secretary/bookkeeper

(409) 769-2865

Email: ourladyoflourdes@sbcglobal.net

Mr. Michael Strother

Directory of Religious Education

(409) 769-6758 email: dreolol@sbcglobal.net

BULLETIN SPONSORS: Weekly bulletin is furnished free of charge to our parishioners due to the advertisements purchased by the sponsors. We are grateful for their generosity.

Address

1600 North Main Street
 Vidor Texas 77662

Contact

(409) 769-2865
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BAPTISMS Our Lady of Lourdes Parish welcomes all registered parishioners who are wishing to have their child baptized. In order to come to Baptismal instruction class, please contact Parish Business Office or Deacon Sellers deaconss@sbcglobal.net

HOLY MATRIMONY Diocesan policy requires that an appointment be made with a priest of your parish at least SIX MONTHS in advance. DO NOT set a final date for the wedding prior to your interviews with the priest.

CONFESSIONS by appointment (call parish office)

PARISH MEMBERSHIP Parishioners entering or leaving the Parish contact the Parish Business Office during office hours.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TAKING INSTRUCTIONS IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH? Contact Parish Business Office or Deacon Sellers—deaconss@sbcglobal.net



Sunday, January 3

10:00 am †Patricia White

11:30 am Roy Huerta (Special Intention)

Saturday, January 9

5:00 pm †Margaret Melancon

Sunday, January 10

10:00 am †Merle Barnhill

11:30 am †Deceased Members of Broussard Family

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

- SUN 1/03** 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
- MON 1/04** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- TUE 1/05** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44
- WED 1/06** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
- THR 1/07** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
- FRI 1/08** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
- SAT 1/09** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
- SUN 1/10** 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

STEWARDSHIP

Your regular financial contributions is very much appreciated. Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you! When not attending Mass, you can drop your collection in the mail to **Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 1600 North Main Street, Vidor, Texas 77662** Please note: **In order to protect the church and to insure integrity and positive stewardship, procedures are in place handling the sacrificial offering. The collection is placed in bank depository; therefore, there is no money on church premise.** Thank you and may God bless you and keep you safe. *Our giving reflects a true measure of thankfulness and gratitude to God.*

December 20 Collection.....\$3,456.00
Building/Maintenance.....\$ 124.00

CHRISTMAS AND DECEMBER 27TH COLLECTION AMOUNT WILL BE IN NEXT WEEKEND'S BULLETIN.



2020-21 SUNDAY MISSALETTES

Due to the continue of the pandemic, there will be no Sunday Missals in the church this year and we are not able to order them individually because the Missals are ordered in bulk; however, **there are several resource booklets for you to personally subscribe in order to follow along at the Daily and Weekend Masses. Here are a couple. Check them out. Thank you.**

The Word Among Us (www.wau.org)

Give Us This Day (www.GiveUsThisDay.org)

Magnificat (us.magnificat.net)



Elizabeth "Bitsy" Ann Landry passed away December 16, 2020. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

THANK YOU



Thanks to all who graciously donated toward the Christmas flowers to make our sanctuary beautiful this Christmas Season.

FLOWERS IN SANCTUARY: The beautiful flowers in the sanctuary are to remember a loved one or to give thanksgiving for the people and events in their lives. Donation of **\$40** covers the flower costs. Contact Gezel Frank 786-3684.



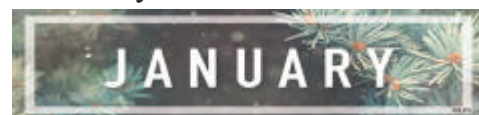
CHRISTMAS FLOWER LIST

In Loving Memory of

- Grace & Raymond Whitman, Margaret Melancon, Don Williams, James Watkins, by Sherry Whitman
- Linda & Jerry Campbell, by Jo Campbell
- J.E. & Eric Howard, Earline Ferguson, Becky Howard by John & Roni Matthews
- My husband, our parents, 2 grandsons, 6 brothers, 3 sisters, and Melvon by Barbara Headley
- John, Sr. & Betty Jenkinson, John Jenkinson, Jr., Gladys & Hubert Dearing, by Mike & Eileen Dearing
- Nelda & Beuford Herford, by The Herford Family

In Loving Honor of

Our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, by Barbara Headley



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

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHASTISEMENT AND A PUNISHMENT?

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.



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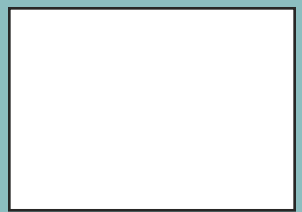
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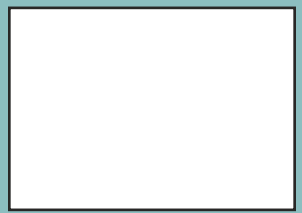
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