

January 1, 2021 and
January 3, 2021

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Office Hours:

M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm by appointment

Horario de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano

Miércoles - Viernes 10 am - 2:00 pm

Telephone: 253-859-0444

Pastor/Párroco: Bishop Eusebio Elizondo

Administration: Brenda Fincher: ext. 214

Ministerio Hispano: Guadalupe Madrid: ext. 229

Liturgy/Music & RCIA/Infant Baptism Preparation:

Holly Renz: ext. 215

Children's Sacramental Preparation and Youth Ministry:

Lisa Pozzi: ext. 212

Homebound Ministry: Martha Ryland: 253-859-0444

Jail Ministry: Miguel Chavez: 206-696-8788

Accountant: Kristi Vasquez: ext. 221

Mass Times / Horario de Misas

Weekdays Wednesday 9:00am

Saturday Pre-registration required
5:00pm Bilingual

Sunday Pre-registration required
10:30 am English 12:30pm Español

Confessions

Saturday 3:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul Society Helpline
206-767-6449

Catholic Cemeteries 253-927-3350

Bautizos, Bodas, Quinceañeras, Funerales:
Guadalupe Madrid, ext. 229

Baptisms, Inquiry into the Catholic Faith:
Holly Renz, ext. 215

Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick:
Brenda Fincher: ext. 214

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God & The Epiphany of the Lord

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

SECOND READING:

It was not made known to people in other generation
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body,
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through
the gospel. (Eph 2:5-6)

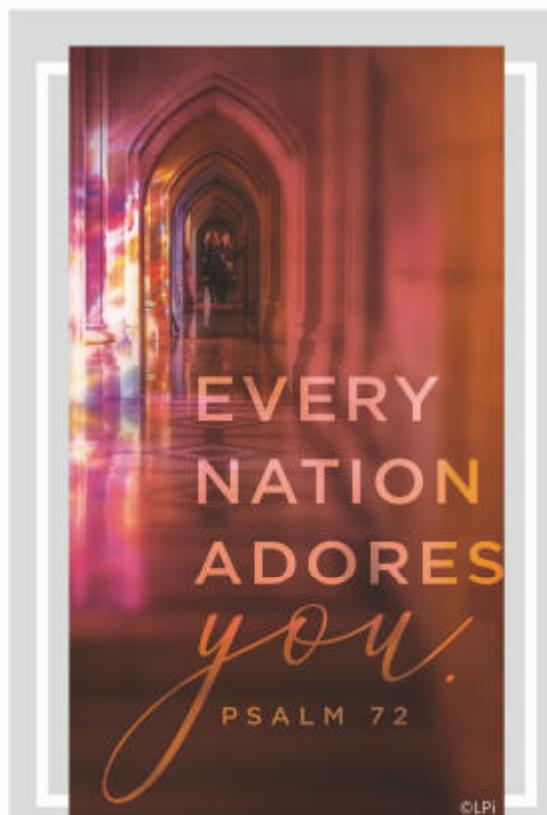
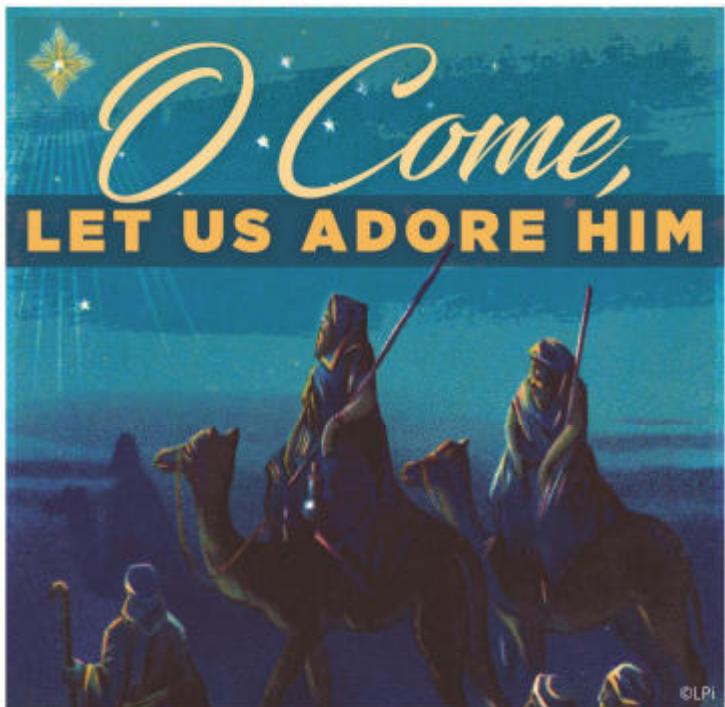
GOSPEL:

They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house
they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Mt 2:10-11)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week
Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Tuesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Wednesday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Thursday: St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord



REFLECT

FIRST READING

In late 6th century BC, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed an unimaginable future of glory for Israel in the wake of their return from seventy years of captivity in Babylon. What message of hope does our nation need today?

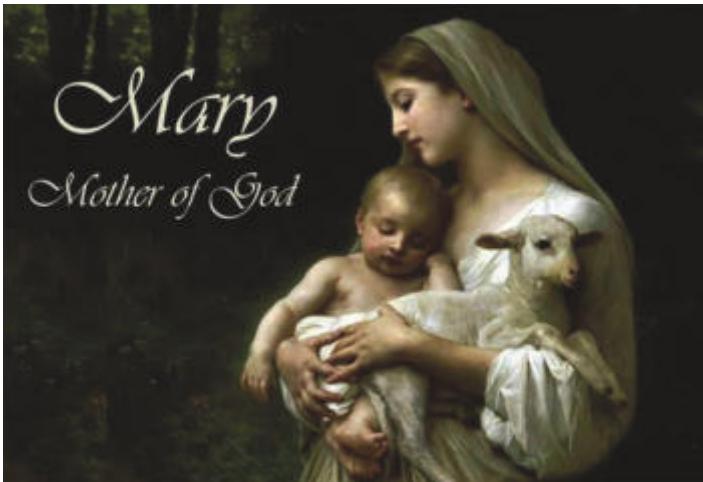
SECOND READING

Paul speaks of God's "revelation" to include Gentiles as "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to those you consider outsiders?

GOSPEL READING

The magi's visit to discover the "newborn king of the Jews" caused great anxiety for the religious leaders of Jerusalem, including King Herod. Why do you think some people are not open to the good news of Jesus Christ?

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH / PARROQUIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO

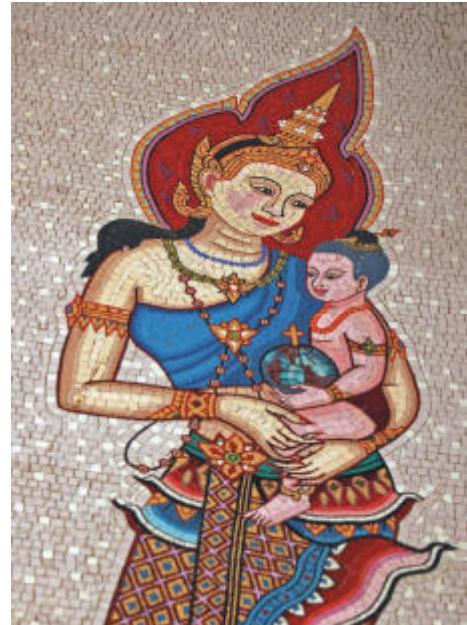


We Ask You to Pray for All Who Are Ill Especially

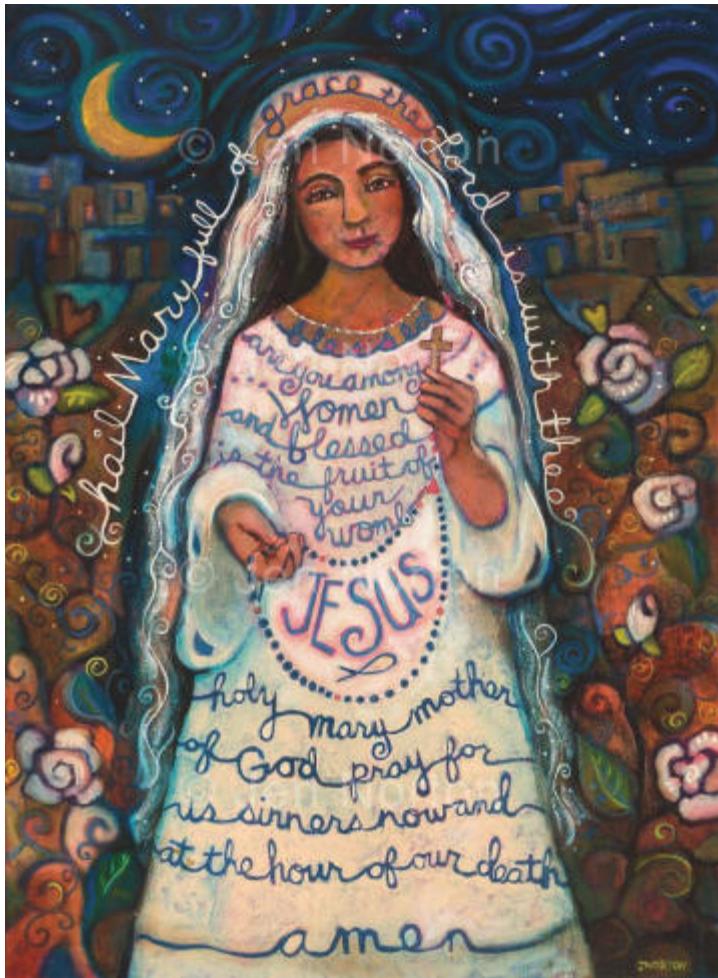
Robert Comacho, Se'Vera Dowe, Griff Fincher, Ken Gannaw, Dave Leitchner, Kathy Lemke, Grantley Martelly, Antonia Morfin, Marian Oliver, Richard Robles, John Scanlon, Marina Serena, Les Thomas, Blaine

Please pray for everyone in the military both at home and abroad, men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect us. And, let us pray for their families.

If you would like a name added, returned to or removed from the prayer list, please contact the parish office at 253-859-0444 ext. 214 or bfincher@holyspiritkent.org .



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God & The Epiphany of the Lord



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

During the Twelve Days of Christmas, the Catholic Church celebrates many important feasts, including the feasts of Saint Stephen, the first martyr (December 26), whose martyrdom is recorded in Acts 6-7; Saint John the Apostle (December 27), who wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, as well as three epistles; the Holy Innocents (December 29), the children who were slaughtered at the order of King Herod, when he was trying to kill the Christ Child; and the Holy Family (normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, and on December 30, when Christmas falls on a Sunday).

None, however, is as important as the feast celebrated on the octave (eighth day) of Christmas, January 1: the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

In the early centuries of the Church, once Christmas began to be celebrated as its own feast on December 25 (having originally been celebrated with the Feast of the Epiphany, on January 6), the Octave (eighth day) of Christmas, January 1, took on a special meaning. In the East, and throughout much of the West, it became common to celebrate a feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on this day.

This feast was never established in the universal calendar of the Church, however, and a separate

feast, celebrating the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ (which would have taken place a week after His birth), eventually took hold of January 1.

With the revision of the liturgical calendar at the time of the introduction of the Novus Ordo, the Feast of the Circumcision was set aside, and the ancient practice of dedicating January 1 to the Mother of God was revived—this time, as a universal feast.

A Holy Day of Obligation

In fact, the Church regards the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, as so important that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's fiat: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word."

God-Bearer

One of the earliest titles given by Christians to the Blessed Virgin was Theotokos—"God-bearer." We celebrate her as the Mother of God, because, in bearing Christ, she bore the fullness of the Godhead within her.

As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her.



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Our Environment

Imagine yourself sitting in a barn with a baby when a bunch of rough-looking guys arrive from a nearby field and want to see your newborn. What in the world provoked them? What to do? One way to think about the scene is to remember that shepherds are people close to nature. They are ever attentive to the environment, looking out for their sheep, especially the lambs, watching for signs good and bad, of safety and danger.

On the night when angels gave them lots of signs, they went to check out an unknown, unexpected, newborn baby near their field. Once the two parties met, both were happy – the parents and the shepherds. We can imagine the shepherds doing all they could to assure the baby's well-being. Then the shepherds made it a point to share the good news with others.

These days our planet is sending out all kinds of signs that our environment is in trouble, threatening people's health, well-being and lives. It's important that we like the shepherds pay attention to what is going on around us and then do what we can to keep everyone safe – sheep, babies, adults, the community, mother earth.

This New Year calls us to pay close attention to what is going on in the global environment of our common home – rising temperatures, rising waters, furious hurricanes, huge fires, atmospheric pollution, viral pandemics, famine, massive migrations. God calls us to see and do all we can to keep everyone around us safe and cared for, reducing as we can the threats to life on earth and enhancing the prospects of everyone's well-being.

Mary and Joseph allowed God to work through them and she delivered a Savior to shepherds and threatened people in the dark everywhere. This New Year's Day when we celebrate Mary gives each of us a chance to read the signs of our times as she and the shepherds did theirs. Each year we, like them, are called to allow God to do something similar through us, what's needed for life on earth in 2021.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/files/resource/attachment/1.1.2021_Solemnity_of_Mary.pdf

Passages from Laudato Si'

All it takes is one good person to restore hope. (#71)

A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings. (#91)

One Person of the Trinity entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross. From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy. (#99)

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