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BLESSED SACRAMENT
ORATORY + COALGATE



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday	10:00 am
Sunday (<i>Spanish</i>)	12:00 pm
First Sunday (<i>Bilingual</i>)	10:00 am
Tues. & Fri.	5:30 pm
Wed. & Thurs.	8:00 am
Saturday (Sunday Vigil)	5:00 pm
Sunday Vigil @ Coalgate	5:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Jovita C Okonkwo,
Pastor & Dean, Southern Vicariate
Rev. Khiet Nguyen,
In Residence @ Coalgate
Debbie Osborne,
Secretary & Office Manager
John Wolf,
Director of Communications
Pam Pulchny,
Director of Religious Education
Bill Avanzini,
Administrator, Coalgate Mission

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www.stjohn-mcalester.org



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YR C JANUARY 2ND, 2022

"Since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." - Mt 2:66

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

New Parishioners: Welcome! We are glad to have you. Please register in the vestibule, parish website, or at the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Offered on Saturdays 4:00 p.m. to 4:55 p.m.; Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. or by appointment.

Sacrament of Anointing: Offered during *Mass for the Sick* on 1st Tuesdays of the month. Call the office/rectory for sick visits.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTION

DECEMBER 26TH, 2021

	Dec. 26, 2021	Dec. 19, 2021	Total M-T-D
Main	\$6,837	\$4,478	\$19,250
Assistance	\$0	\$0	\$545
Bldg/Main	\$30	\$25	\$205
Youth	\$0	\$135	\$235

*N/B Our budgeted operating cost for December 2021 is \$18,000. Your generosity has brought in \$19,250. This month we net \$1,250 above our monthly operating cost. Thank you to all those giving larger donations. May God reward you tenfold!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 26—Jayden Self, Pauline Glover;

Jan. 7—Elizabeth Tweedel, Larry Edwards

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Kindly let us know when your wedding anniversary falls and we'll celebrate with you and your family.

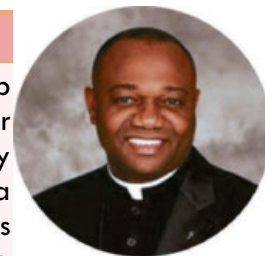
PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ada Nell Ward, Alan Holloway, Amy Nohelty, Bette Santine, Bob Armstrong, Candace Sanner, David Griffin, Don Laws, Donna Espinosa, Donnie Sherman, Elizabeth Thompson, Elizabeth Tweedel, Frank Gonzales, Gary Jackson, Guy Hudson, Hal Dalton, Herman Seiter, Ian Leybas, Irma Gonzalez, James Gray, Jamie Keef, Jason Wright, Jesse & Johnny Stiles, Jim Kelley, Jim Lauerman, Jonathan Reed, Juanita Zimmer, Kimberly Thomas, Mark Grosfield, Mary Zoller, Mr. Homer Sr., Paul Mills, Paul Zoller, Ruth Lauerman, Sawyer Davis, Sue McMullin, Sue Tillman, Tad Bowden, Tammy Gardner, Teddy & Janet Bernasky, Tim Mills, Tony Helmert, Zearley Families, Andrew Zdeb, SSG Ben Ales, Edward Zdeb, PVT Erick Palacios, SGT Greg Thompson, AMN James Lisle, PFC John W. Pelzel, PVT J P Dunlay, AMN Michael Kaskie, SGT Pierre Tertaje, SSG Timothy Moore; those who suffer from Coronavirus.

(To add or remove a name on this list, please email stjohnmcalister@yahoo.com or call 918-423-0810).

REFLECTION

Fr. Chukwudi Jo Okonkwo



Often what happened in your childhood ends up leaving a lasting impression on you. That's how I remember certain practical details of my childhood, especially discipline around the home. The first thing you learn as a child growing up in the household of Martin and Priscilla is the names of our ancestors, a kind of genealogy—tracing from our oldest sibling, Uba, to the first man, Dara (or Adam), made from the soil. It's impossible to forget these names. Again, my siblings and I hardly understood the meaning of some of the words written on the walls of my dad's living-room, but we memorized them anyway because we saw them everyday. As you enter our parlor or living room, your eyes cannot miss the 24 by 36 framed artwork hanging on the wall in which were inscribed these words: **"Christ is the Head of this House, the Unseen Guest at Every Meal, the Silent Listener to Every Conversation."** My dad drilled it inside us as kids that Jesus hears every word we utter, so we should make them kind. On the north side of the living-room hangs another saying: **"The Family that Prays Together Stays Together."** I have said many times that there is compulsory morning prayer for all at 5:00 am every day in our living room. But the third sign on the east side of the living-room was the one that none of us kids understood until a particular event. It reads: **"Wise Men Still Seek Jesus."** My oldest brother had gone to college, and returning for Christmas, he skipped the compulsory morning prayer. My father gave orders to wake him. When he staggered into the living room, he was directed to read the sign on the east side of the room, to which he muttered, "Wise Men Still Seek Jesus." He was made to repeat that three times before my dad said: **"If you think you've gone to college and become wiser than everyone, not in this house, because wise people still seek Jesus."** Try that with your child today and you may never see him or her again.

Many years later, today's feast would remind me of those same words on the east wall of our living-room, which says: **"Wise Men Still Seek Jesus."** I have written them on the walls of my heart and invite you to do the same. The feast we celebrate today is called Epiphany, which derives from the Greek word for "manifestation or appearing." **Today we celebrate Christ's manifestation to the world (gentiles) through the visit of the astrologers from the east, whom we call the Magi or the Wise Men.** We call them the Three Wise Men not because we know their number but because of the three significant gifts they brought. Today is Christmas for the Eastern Churches; and it makes sense, because Epiphany is the great appearance or manifestation of Christ to humanity.

The Magi observed His Star at its rising and came to pay Him homage with gifts worthy of a king—Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh—representing His triple role as King, Priest, and Redeemer. Men and women of every age, race and tongue by the millions have continued to do the same, offering their homage to Jesus who has become the universal king of many with His name and deeds spreading to every corner of the earth. That is what we do when we come to Mass. **Faith leads us like the Magi in search of the mystery; the Word of God gives us clues about where to find this mystery; we bring our gifts but do not see a king. We see common bread and wine as the Wise Men saw an infant laid in a trough. Faith still makes us believe what is incomprehensible to the senses. We're filled with His presence as we leave to tell the world about it.**

Christians have the challenge to proclaim to the world that in Christ is true wisdom. They, like Herod, are truly misled who feel that Christ stands in their way. **And any learning that makes one think she/he is above Christ, the Wisdom of God, is utter foolishness.** Searching for and knowing Christ is the sure way to temper the the pride of life, of power and possession, the ambition of personal respect, and the current dominant logic of self-centeredness.

MASS INTENTIONS:

- Sunday, Jan. 2. The Epiphany of the Lord
10:00 am † James Stizza // Guy & Marlene Hudson
- Monday, Jan. 3. Christmas Weekday; The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Private Mass
- Tuesday, Jan. 4. Christmas Weekday; Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
5:30 pm † Evelyn Leinhard // Al Ross
- Wednesday, Jan. 5. Christmas Weekday; Saint John Neumann, Bishop
8:00 am † Grace Black // John Gleese
- Thursday, Jan. 6. Christmas Weekday; Saint André Bessette, Religious
8:00 am † Sir Bruce Manard Pipkin, KHS
- Friday, Jan. 7. Christmas Weekday; Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
5:30 pm † Lillian Higgins // Philip & Laura Stizza
- Saturday, Jan. 8. Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord
5:00 pm † Jack & Rose Ann Ducan // Cathy Godwin

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

SAT. JANUARY 8, 2022 5 PM MASS

Lector: Kelly Drusen, Nancy Massaro; EMHC (Body) — Kim Mansour
Servers: TBA Music: TBA
Ushers: David Stizza, Tony Fields, Tom Steidley

SUN. JANUARY 9, 2022 10 AM MASS

Lector: Philip Stizza; EMHC (Body) — Laura Stizza
Servers: TBA Music: TBA
Ushers: Donnie Pulchny, Frank Gonzalez, John Gleese

NOTICES:

EPIPHANY BLESSINGS: CHALKING OF DOORS

An ancient tradition of the Church in which Christians bless their homes on the day of Epiphany is being brought back this year through the support of the Alcuin Institute of the diocese. Epiphany water, salt and chalk will be blessed after Mass. Pick up these sacramentals for your house blessing. Using the chalk write at the entrance to your home: 20 + C + M + B + 22, after which the head of the family should say the prescribed prayer. CMB represents the names of the Three Wise Men—Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar. It also means in Latin “*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*” or “May Christ bless this house.” 20 and 22 appearing at the beginning and end represents the Year of the Lord, 2022.

NEW YEAR OF GRACE AND DISCIPLESHIP

Together with the entire Church, we journey along the way to God’s kingdom during this new Liturgical Year C with the Evangelist Luke as our guide — meaning that most of our gospel readings will come from Luke. As Luke did in his *Gospel to the Outsider*, we will vigorously pursue the re-evangelization of lapsed Catholics and non-believers and seek to invite them home. Everyone is charged with bringing one member (or seeker) back to Mass and fellowship.

NEW YEAR APPEAL FOR SUPPORT!

As we enter the New Year, we would like to use this medium to thank all of you your support of the parish last year and request that you continue to keep the growth of our parish in mind this new year.

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

Join us for Mass and Eucharistic adoration at 5:30 p.m. Respond to the love of Christ by spending an hour every week in His Living Presence.



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ST. JUDE’S CENTER

The requested items for the St. Jude’s Helping Center this week are pumpkin and dressing. The center is accepting winter items: coats, blankets, socks and gloves. You may drop them off at the center or bring them to Church. Also contact Amelia London at 918-424-8833 to volunteer.



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JOB OPENING

The St. Jude’s Center of Catholic Charities in McAlester is looking for a new coordinator. If you or anyone you know is interested in the position kindly apply at Catholic Charities.

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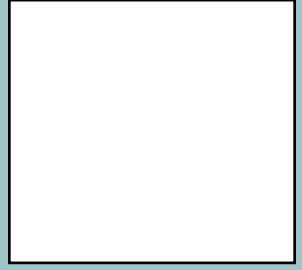
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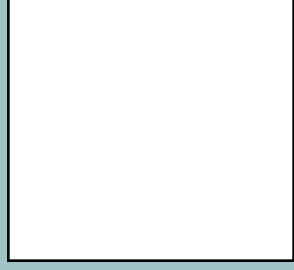


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