



SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

The members of St. Joan of Arc Parish are disciples of Jesus Christ, who recognize God's love for the world & are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to all people through joyful worship, life-long education, compassionate service, responsible stewardship, & active community living.

~ Mission Statement - Pentecost 1998 ~

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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

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22412 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528
Website: www.sjascscs.org

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574
Website: www.stjoan.net

FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528

School

Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574

Faith Formation

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Lead for SJA

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Msgr. Gary Smetanka
(Moderator)
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Fr. Jim Commyn
parish@stlucychurch.com

Fr. Eric Fedewa
frericstbasil@comcast.net

Fr. Stan Pachla
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Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
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Music Director

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Assistant Principal

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Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
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Michelle Russo

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am
Wednesday: 6:00 pm

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 pm

Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm
7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Wednesdays: 5:00 pm
Saturdays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
in the Sister Carol Center

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7am Mass

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center is open:
Monday - Thursday: 8:30am - 5:00pm
Friday: 8:30am - 4:00pm

Mass intentions and most services can be done in person or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

Our after-hours emergency number: 586-777-1342.

Baptisms: Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form. You will be contacted to make further arrangements based on submission of that form.

Marriages: Arrangements should be made at the Parish Center at least six months prior to the desired date. Pre-marriage series required.

Registration: It is very important that every family and independent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to register at your earliest opportunity: 586-777-3670.

OCIA: Please call the Parish Center: 586-777-3670.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you by phone. Or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Live Stream Broadcasts have become a standard part of our celebrations at St Joan of Arc. This has increased our mass participation at daily and weekend masses. It has also allowed many of our parishioners to stay in touch with their faith community remotely.

Go to: livestream.stjoan.church to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.

Weekday Masses

Monday thru Friday @ 7am
Wednesday @ 6pm

Weekend Masses

Saturdays @ 4pm & 6pm
Sundays @ 8am, 10am, 12pm

Holy Hour

Thursdays @ 7pm



You Asked the Wrong Team: Sometimes, I wish I had a master checklist for all the pre-Christmas Mass “stuff” I need to accomplish. It’s usually all up in

my head but only comes to light ... or spills out from the recesses of my mind ... when I’m in the middle of something else. One task that didn’t quite go as planned was organizing the collection process for our Christmas Masses. With the large crowds, we pass collection baskets instead of relying on the boxes in the Gathering Space. The boxes work well for most of the year, but baskets are more practical with the sheer number of attendees on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

When I explained to Father Bob how we manage to get enough volunteers to pass the baskets at each Mass (we needed at least eight for every Mass), I had a “brilliant” idea. I decided to create an instruction sheet for every volunteer at each Mass—eight individual sheets, specifying the volunteer’s number and the section they were responsible for. The idea was to hand out these sheets as people agreed to help. It sounded great in theory, but my execution fell short. The instruction sheets needed more detail. People had questions, and some didn’t realize they’d been assigned to a specific section. While watching this play out in real-time during the Masses, it became clear the plan wasn’t working well.

After one of our Christmas Day Masses, as I greeted parishioners, one approached me and said, “You know, Monsignor, you had NO WOMEN taking up the collection.” I initially got a bit defensive, explaining that the volunteers were randomly picked as they entered the church. I assured her it wasn’t intentional. But she continued, “Don’t worry. Just listen. Our section was visited three times, and I had to help the men figure out where to go next.” Just then, another female parishioner chimed in, agreeing with her. The first woman smiled, laughed, and added, “Had there been some women on the team, it would’ve been done right the first time, and there wouldn’t have been any confusion.”

At this point, I couldn’t help but laugh too. It reminded me of a Christmas plaque I bought on one of my trips to the U.P. It said, “Three Wise Women ... would have

asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, brought practical gifts, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and there would have been Peace on Earth!”

Okay, okay, I’ll take the blame here! The lack of perfection was totally my fault. I have a year to rewrite those instruction sheets and refine the process. Maybe next year, I’ll start the project earlier than the morning before Christmas Eve! I do try, honestly. But perhaps I need some wise women to help me turn what’s in my head into instructions that actually make sense. Clearly, that’s a skill I still need to perfect!

Family Life: Perils to Avoid ... Pearls to Embrace: Last weekend, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We usually picture the Holy Family in the context of the peaceful manger scene, but we forget all the ups and downs they experienced as a human family. It wasn’t always easy for them. And it’s not always easy for us! Yet every family is called to be a HOLY family, and the Holy Family should give us hope and encouragement as we try to follow their example. While it may not be easy, it certainly is possible if you’re willing to avoid the perils that obstruct the holiness of a family and if you are willing to embrace the “pearls” that lead to healthy family living.

This week, I’ll focus on the perils that obstruct the holiness of a family. This list could be quite long, but I’d like to highlight three points that immediately come to mind: 1) Embracing wrong priorities, 2) Being overscheduled, and 3) Problems with addictions.

Embracing wrong priorities: Unfortunately, we live in a culture that often challenges or ridicules those who keep faith and family as top priorities in their life. Our culture says that many things “outweigh” these fundamental priorities. Faith and family NEED to be at the top of our list. Our actions as individuals and as families need to be directed by the keeping of these essential priorities in our lives. I am amazed how many excuses I hear as to why people chose not to attend Sunday liturgy or why families don’t gather on weekends like the “good old days.” The excuses run the gamut from “I’m just too busy,” “This was my only free day to get anything done,” or “My kid is on this traveling sport’s team, and it’s really important to him/her, and we simply couldn’t find time to get to Mass.” I’m equally amazed how many families don’t find time to eat a common meal at least

once during the week. Eating a common meal together without all the electronics is vital for family bonding.

If you were to list your priorities, would faith and family be number one and number two on the list?

Being Overscheduled: One doesn’t have to look too far to realize we’re way overscheduled. We go from event to event without even thinking about how being that overscheduled takes a toll on us. We add so much to our day that our lives become unbalanced, overly stressed, and absolutely unhealthy. We run out the door without eating breakfast because we have to get someplace. We go to bed late and wake up early because we have something to do. The list goes on and on. At some point, we have to sit down and acknowledge that we can’t take on the whole world. It’s okay to say NO. That simple little word can help us start living a more balanced life.

Problems with Addictions: You don’t have to look too far to realize that addictions to alcohol, drugs, and other substances are on the rise. Then there are the addictions to pornography and immoral sexual behavior. While this list of addictions isn’t exhaustive, it highlights several addictions that contribute significantly to the destruction of family life.

I often tell people that we have to do all that we can to protect our “house,” that is, our physical and spiritual person, from the insidious attacks of Satan. Protecting our “house” means doing all we can to make sure we don’t fall into temptations or grow weak enough to fall into Satan’s traps. We are most vulnerable to Satan’s attacks when we are hungry, angry, lonely, or tired. Without thinking and without any determination of will, one can fall because the “moment was right.” We must fortify our house so we don’t fall even to the slightest temptation. As the saying goes, “Give Satan an inch, and he will become a ruler!” Christ has to be our all. If there is something that even in the slightest way isn’t Christian or Christ-like, we need to refrain from it with all our might lest we get driven down the wrong road (and it can happen so quickly).

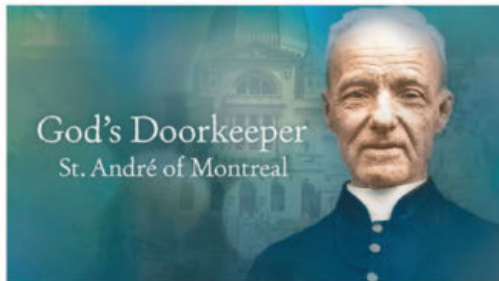
Enjoy the week. Know of my prayer.

In Christ

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of January 05, 2025



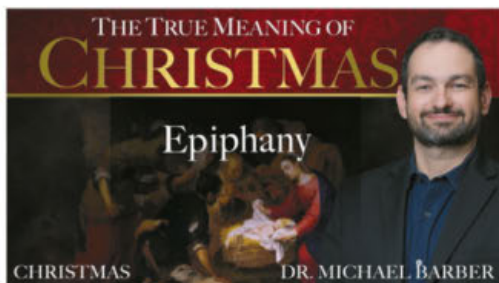
God's Doorkeeper

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



The Three Wise Men

Ms. Kim explains the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts by teaching students how to draw the three magi. She challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus.



Epiphany

What is Epiphany? Join Dr. Michael Barber to find out.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

Voiland's View

With the New Year upon us, the thought of starting it with a clean slate is mighty appealing. The desire for a start fresh at the beginning of a year motivates many new resolutions. We resolve to wipe away those things that have bogged us down in the past, so we can thrive and improve our lives. One area in many of our lives that could use some clean-up and revitalization is forgiveness of past sins against us. Improving our forgiveness of others provides a powerful opportunity to greet the new year with a fresh start and to move forward in our relationships with God and others. The problem is, forgiving is hard to do. We need help to do it well.

Two examples of extraordinary forgiveness offer insight into how we ourselves might become better at forgiving. St. Stephen (whose feast we just celebrated on December 26th) and Jesus challenge and enlighten us when we witness their ability to forgive. Both of these men said essentially the same thing as they were *in the process* of being murdered: from the cross, Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,” and as Stephen was being stoned to death, he cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” Wow . . . imagine that. In the midst of their painful deaths, they both beseeched God to forgive their murderers.

We struggle to forgive others for far lesser offenses against us than killing. Not to say that lesser violations against us are not significant. We don't need to be physically attacked to be deeply wounded. Deep harm can be inflicted as well through betrayal of a relationship that was thought to be sacred and respected. Family members who suddenly turn on each other for worldly gain at the expense of their family bonds cause a wound that is tantamount to shedding blood – the severing of family blood-ties that God intended to be permanent. In the same way, friends who once saw each other as sisters or brothers can become inflamed over spoken words, that may or may not have been intentional, only to be divided by a wall of hostility that can't seem to be torn down.

Most often, our inability to forgive others tears apart our relationship with God, too. We know well that God wants us to forgive. We hear the Scriptural instruction of Jesus that we should “forgive not *seven* times, but *seventy times seven* times!” In the Our Father, the prayer of all prayers, Jesus tells us to ask the Father to “forgive us our trespasses, *as we forgive* those who trespass against us.” We know forgiveness is a big deal to God. We know in our hearts, too, that forgiveness is a gracious act that we want to be able to give and receive. We also know we are not always so good at it. We then tend to feel like losers as Christians – we are so *un-Christlike*. But not so fast. Maybe we are simply depending too much on our own abilities to forgive and not enough on God's help.

Think again about what happens with Jesus and St. Stephen as they forgive their murderers. As they pray for their adversaries, they both know death is imminent. They are on their way to the Father. They are physically helpless against their attackers. Jesus is nailed to a cross, suffocating under his own weight. Stephen is incapable of stopping an endless barrage of stones pummeling his body. They are at the point of surrender. And surrender they do – *TO GOD, their FATHER*. They do not surrender to hatred. They do not demand the destruction of their persecutors. They do not panic for feeling abandoned by God. They lean *into* the relationship with God that they have depended on all their lives. And they ask for forgiveness for those who are trespassing against them. They are able to do this because of their union with the Father. They are not consumed by their worldliness.

The lesson we can learn about forgiveness from Jesus and Stephen is that there is a divine element needed for us to forgive. We are not able to do it all on our own. We experience a certain helplessness in our ability to forgive others. We need supernatural help to succeed. If we expect *ourselves* to come up with the *full* means to forgive like Jesus or St. Stephen, we will fall short.

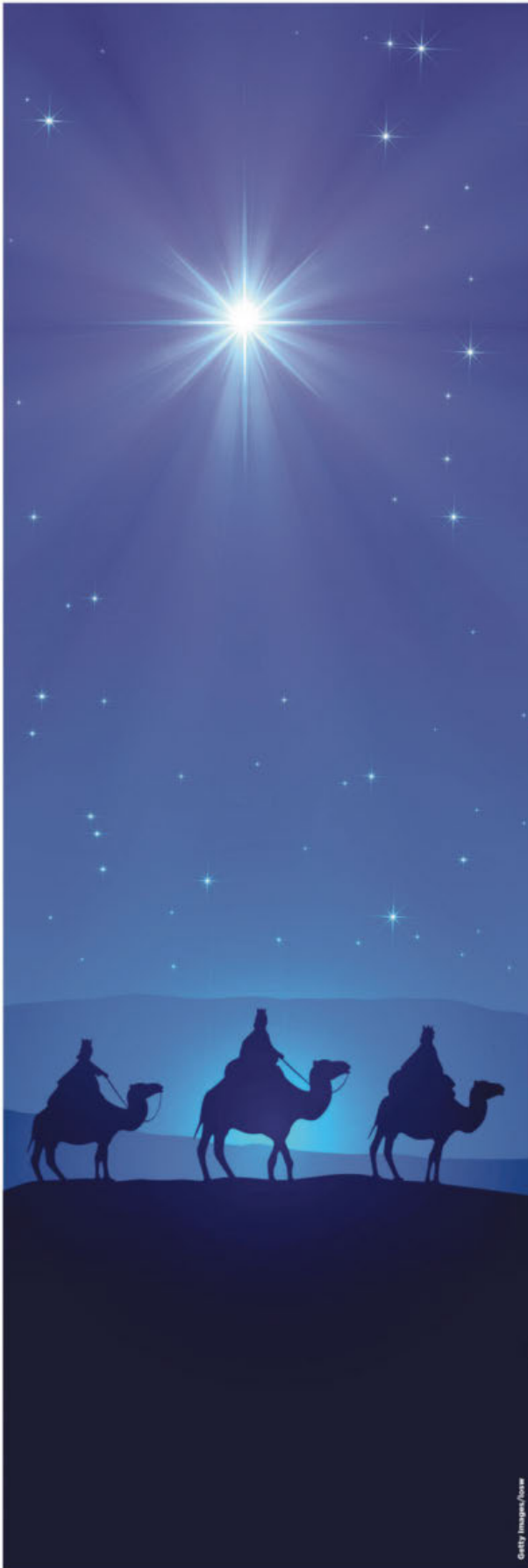
We have an additional window into what Christlike forgiveness looks like when we see parents forgiving their children – children who may not *want* forgiveness, or see a need to be forgiven. In love, parents want what is good for their children. They want moral justice for their offspring. And, at the same time, parental love is full of mercy. They want their children to be saved and to go to heaven – no matter what. Healthy parental love is like God's love for us. He is our Father. He is always willing to forgive, if we are willing to turn to him and ask. In fact, he has forgiven us already through the shed blood of his Son. We need only accept the gift of Jesus' redemption.

Christ shows us a new and deeper way to forgive others by inviting him into the process. God provides us a level of letting go that we cannot produce on our own. Sometimes, forgiveness calls for us to give more than we've got. If we turn to Christ, he will provide the rest. Letting God in to help us is a smart and liberating thing to do.

Blessed 2025!

Fr. Bob





January 5, 2025

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Deeply fatigued from their perilous journey, the three wise men must have been filled with doubt and hope in equal measure, wondering if the star would truly lead them to the promised King. “Is this really worth it?” they may have questioned. “Will we ever meet this child?” And then, in a single gaze, Christ broke into the world of humanity. In this perfect encounter with the Son of God, the wise men “prostrated themselves” and “opened their treasures” before him – in all his glory and all his innocence. We, on our earthly pilgrimage, may relate to feeling exhausted, full of both hope and heartache, as we wait and wonder where we will meet Jesus. Today, remember, he is here, among us. Waiting for our presence, waiting for our heart. Like today’s Scripture from Isaiah, the Magi must have experienced their hearts *throbbing* and *overflowing* with wonder and awe at the sight of their long-awaited King.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

“Your light has come!” What thrilling words these must have been, proclaimed to a world that had been shrouded in darkness, eagerly – *desperately* – waiting for their God to save them. And not only has their light come; with it came a promise that this light would guide all nations. Yet this invitation to light, to *freedom*, also comes with a great responsibility. This light that came into the world isn’t just for us to follow; it is also for us to reflect to others. In today’s world, this may not involve leading flocks of sheep or strumming a 10-stringed lyre, but it does call us to live as radiant witnesses of Christ’s love, always singing his praise! Perhaps this means living joyfully despite our suffering. Maybe it looks like practicing generosity, when we feel like we have little left to give or remaining hopeful in a bleak situation. We are called to praise at all times, but it takes different forms in the different seasons of our life. Whatever season we find ourselves in, let us, like the Magi, seek the King, trusting in his promise and following his light.

REFLECT

Consider areas in your life where the Child Jesus is waiting to break in. Where does he long to heal you, comfort you, and bring you peace? Like the wise men, we are on a pilgrimage filled with hope – and at times, fear and restlessness. On this great feast, let us offer Jesus our treasure – our hearts – and, in return, he will give us the greatest gift of all: himself.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 12 C

Reading One – Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by a strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30

R. O bless the Lord, my soul.

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak. You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth.

R. O bless the Lord, my soul.

You have constructed your palace upon the waters. You make the clouds your chariot; you travel on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, and flaming fire your ministers.

R. O bless the Lord, my soul.

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have wrought them all the earth is full of your creatures; the sea also, great and wide, in which are schools without number of living things both small and great.

R. O bless the Lord, my soul.

They look to you to give them food in due time. When you give it to them, they gather it; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

R. O bless the Lord, my soul.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to the dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

R O bless the Lord, my soul.

Reading Two – Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Alleluia - Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia.

John said: One mightier than I is coming; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The journey of the magi would have been treacherous and uncomfortable. Imagine the peace in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them. It can be the same for us.

The Answer

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer.

It should be the same for us.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Answer:

Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

St. Joan of Arc OCIA



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are you or anyone you know interested in learning more about the Catholic Church? A new group is starting soon.

What is OCIA?

OCIA is the process through which a person becomes a fully initiated member of the Catholic Faith. It's for

- Adults and children of catechetical age (over 7 years) who have not been baptized
- Those who have been baptized in another Christian denomination who want to become Catholic
- Those who were baptized as infants in the Catholic Church but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (First Eucharist and/or Confirmation) and who have had no faith formation

How long does it take?

Each person is on a personal journey in his/her relationship with God. Time varies depending on the individual. We walk with you in this process.

Do I have to commit to becoming Catholic if I enter the OCIA process?

No, the OCIA process is marked by opportunities for discernment along the way, and ultimately it is about one's readiness and desire to be received into the Church.

Fill out the contact form for our OCIA coordinator, Patty Chase, at sjases.org/ocia or call the Parish Center at 586-777-3670

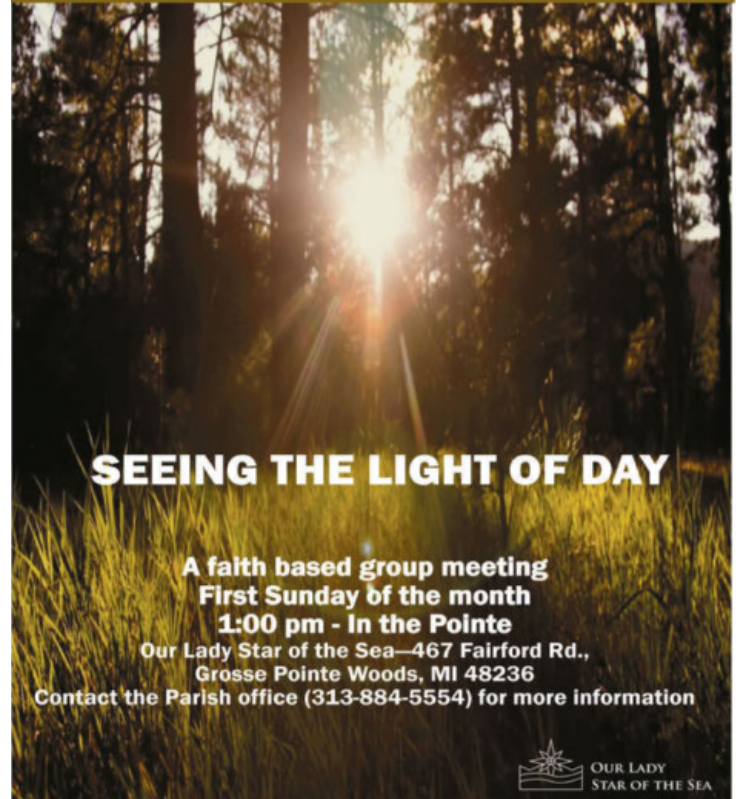
A prayer for conversions

O blessed apostle, St. Paul, greatest of all converts, who labored unceasingly for the conversion of other souls, inspire me with the ardor of your zeal that I may pray and work for the conversion of my brethren, redeemed in the blood of Christ but not as yet blessed with the full light of his truth.

Mindful of the loving concern of the Divine Shepherd for the salvation of the "other sheep that are not of this fold," I now beg your intercession to obtain the grace of conversion for those who do not know you and your church.

May God, the Holy Spirit from whom alone this gift can come, hear my humble prayer and thus enable me to share with others the riches of my heritage of faith through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Bereavement Group



SEEING THE LIGHT OF DAY

A faith based group meeting
First Sunday of the month
1:00 pm - In the Pointe
Our Lady Star of the Sea—467 Fairford Rd.,
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
Contact the Parish office (313-884-5554) for more information



Join us!

SJA Knitting & Crocheting Ministry

The St. Joan of Arc Knitting and Crocheting Ministry has crafted hundreds of afghans, hats, scarves, and baby items for veterans, seniors, hospitals, soup kitchens, and shelters. We'd love for you to join us! Whether you're experienced or just learning, we meet Wednesdays in Emmaus Fellowship Hall, 1-3 p.m., and provide yarn.



For more information,
contact Jo Gielniak
at 586-777-3359

... and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

Save your can tabs!

Spread the word! We're collecting can tabs again.

Let others know that those little pop and food can tabs make a big difference for the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Drop off donations in the buckets in the church or at the Parish Center during business hours.

Light of the Spirit Prayer Group

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at St. Joan of Arc from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Sr. Carol Center.

Join us!

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, January 6th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 AM: Walking with Purpose
7:00 PM: Walking with Purpose

Tuesday, January 7th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, January 8th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
5:00 PM: Reconciliation

6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed
6:30 PM: PTG Meeting - EH

Thursday, January 9th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed
7:00 PM: Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, January 10th

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, January 11th

11:00 AM: Reconciliation
12:30 PM: Baptism of Joseph A. Fabian
1:30 PM: Baptism of Nora A. Radatz
4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed
6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, January 12th

8:00 AM : Sunday Mass - Live Streamed
10:00 AM: Family Mass - Live Streamed
12:00 PM: Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

January 5, 2025 – Government Giveth and Taketh Away

Taxes and their associated benefits are one of those things that, as Americans, we (mostly) just shrug and deal with. As much as we might try to influence tax laws or mitigate the impact our tax bills have, the dial likely only shifts a little bit. And as much as we might work with experts or invest time in understanding “the system,” there’s only so much influence we have on the services we receive.

It’s interesting then, that a new government commission known as the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, is poised to start cutting what it determines to be wasteful government spending. The goal, it says, is to lower taxes for all.

That’s easier said than done, of course, and media everywhere is weighing in on whether and how this could work, and what the impacts to ordinary citizens might be.

Publications from *Mother Jones* to *Barrons* have run stories exploring, for example, the impact on such disparate agencies as prisons and health, and on many citizens’ most critical touchpoint, Social Security. And, of course, there’s no way everyone will be happy with the outcome.

The bottom line, if one chooses to look at it this way, is that we “gift” the government our tax money. And the returns we receive are ... well, up to each person’s point of view.

Far more profound are the gifts we offer to God.

“They were overjoyed at seeing the star,” we hear in today’s gospel passage from St. Matthew. “And on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

What they, and we, receive in return is incalculable.

© 2024, Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

- Monday January 6, 2025 Christmas Weekday; Saint Andre' Bessette, Religious (White)**
7:00 am Tina Calisi
- Tuesday January 7, 2025 Christmas Weekday; Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest (White)**
7:00 am Scott Souva
- Wednesday January 8, 2025 Christmas Weekday (White)**
7:00 am Fr. Edward J. Mitchell
6:00 pm Jerome Rogier
- Thursday January 9, 2025 Christmas Weekday (White)**
7:00 am Anna Fazi
- Friday January 10, 2025 Christmas Weekday (White)**
7:00 am A Special Intention for the Tina Calisi Family
- Saturday January 11, 2025 Vigil for the Baptism of the Lord (White)**
4:00 pm Bonnie Batche, Sophie Rupinski, Joel Byrne, Joe Basirico, Tina Calisi, and a Special Intention for the living and deceased members of the J. Champine Family
6:00 pm Dennis Lex
- Sunday January 12, 2025 Baptism of the Lord (White)**
8:00 am The Intentions of SJA Parishioners
10:00 am Kenneth A. and Mary P. Smith
12:00 pm George J. Bugarin, Tina Calisi and a Special Intention for Christine Bugarin

Daily Readings

Monday, January 6

1 John 3:22-4:6
Matthew 4:12-17; 23-25

Tuesday, January 7

1 John 4:7-10
Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday, January 8

1 John 4:11-18
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday, January 9

1 John 4:19-5:4
Luke 4:14-22a

Friday, January 10

1 John 5:5-13
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday, January 11

1 John 5:14-21
John 3:22-30

Sunday, January 12

Isaiah 42:1-7
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-22



I Am The Resurrection & The Life

“Heavenly Father, welcome home those who you have called from this world and grant peace and consolation to their families.”

Kenneth Clouse
Melissa Kloc

“I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. and he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.”

Minnie Louise Haskins



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office at 844-324-3374 or aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting protect.aod.org calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse.

Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.

Celebrating the Epiphany



What is Chalking the Door?

It is a way to celebrate and mark the occasion of the Epiphany, inviting God's blessing upon our lives and home. The letters we write have two meanings: they represent the initials of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar—who visited Jesus in His first home, the manger in Bethlehem. They also correspond to the first letters of the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house." The "+" symbol represents the cross, and the numbers "20" at the beginning and "25" at the end signify the year. The inscription serves as a request for Christ to bless the home and remain with those who dwell in it throughout the year.

CHALKING THE DOOR

What do you need?

Blessed Chalk and the following Epiphany prayers.

Blessed chalk will be available in the gathering space and at the parish office.

How do you mark your door?

Using blessed chalk, the most senior family member writes on or above the entrance of your home:

20 + C + M + B + 25

While saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-four years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then together the family offers the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love, and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Note: This can be done on more than one door, outside or inside the home. See more at sjascs.org/domestic-church.

Keep the chalk in a safe place to use again next year!

Be a part of Operation REACH OUT and help bring an end to loneliness—one call at a time!



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To sign up or learn more go to:
<https://sjascs.org/reach-out> or scan this QR Code



Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| John Antone | Jeanne Fleming | Patricia LaCombe | Sr. Alice Riegel | James Thompson |
| Geri Beaugrand | Linda Frank | Concetta Leone | Paulette Russia | Jeff Trudell |
| James Belloli | Larry Gehrke | Rosalie Lewakowski | Jenna Rose | Andrew Vermiglio |
| Kristen Benedict | Larry Graham | Mila Lictawa | Marilyn Rose | Linda Vitale |
| Edna Burton | Peter Grantz | David Lott | Victoria Rydholm | Eileen Wallace |
| Maryann Carlin | Chris Gretchen | Dominik Mackowski | Lily Saith | Elaine Walters |
| Ed Cole | Pam Haisenleder | Sam Manalo | Barbara R. Scharneck | Tom Ward |
| Toni Glaeser-Collins | Judith Hasten | Ilene Manning | Dianne Schelosky | Larry Weber |
| Joan Combellack | Ilona Higgins | Joan Mannino | Josh Schultz | Adrienne Weidenbach |
| Maura Corrigan | Ted Hinz | Sandy McCabe | Thomas Sloan | Joan Weitz, O.P. |
| John Crawford | Joan Ireland | Dennis McCarthy | Terri Smigels | Robert Werthman |
| Olivia Crimando | Chris Janutol | Cyndy McMahan | Kathleen Smith | Joseph Whalen |
| Jerry Dedene | Lorraine Jonas | Heather A. Miller | Cathy Spindler | Marilyn Wicker |
| Joan DeDene | Rosemary Jonas | Mark Moffitt | Frances Stafford | Joyce Wiekrykas |
| Anita Dembeck | Kim Jones | Nina Mondalek | Darlene Stanisky | Loretta Williams |
| Debra Dembeck | Zayne D. Kapinski | Jennie Mooney | Wendy Stevens | Jenny Wojcik |
| Grace Dickerson | Lorraine Kilroy | Marco Julian Moro | Patty Stevenson | Joan Wright |
| George Dickerson | Catherine Konen | Robert Peters | Palma Strussione | |
| Ray Dinser | Delaney Kraemer | Frank Poeschel | Cathy Sullens | |
| Kainoa Dunn | Shirley Kraemer | Vicky Pranger | Mary Surmont | |
| Jean Edwards | Laurie Krim | Carol S. Provencal | Terri Szolach | |
| Frank Faiss | Carolyn Kunz | Tracy Rauch | Kim Thomas | |
| Taylor Fisher | Charles LaCombe | Fe Reyes | Bernadette Thompson | |

Pray for the Sick List: Please note that we regularly clear the “Pray for the Sick List” because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don’t always hear from people when they’ve gotten better. If you would like to add a person please call the Parish Center front desk at 586.777.3670 or send an email to our general inbox at info@sjascs.org.

PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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Matthew Krugler
Jeffrey LaTour
John Lewins
Justin Lienemann
Nick Lienemann
Michael Light
David Light
Lee Michael
Thomas Reichling
Frank Schuster
Daniel Sparkman
Tom Stevenson

Jason Gaidis
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Frankie Kocis
Joseph Marable
Tom Miller, Jr
Anthony M. Morgan
Leonardo Pastoria
Luciano Pastoria
John Patterson
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Bringing Home the Word

The Epiphany of the Lord (C)
January 5, 2025

Your Light Has Come!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Many traditional religions have in some way ascribed divinity to light—they claim either that light emanates from a god or that light itself is divine. This is probably because light is a primal necessity, essential for life. We find such thinking in today’s readings.

“Your light has come” (Isaiah 60:1), says today’s Old Testament reading. This is Isaiah’s glorious message for the people of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed; the people were scattered; the future looked bleak. This message must have filled the people with hope. Not only does light bring them hope, but the

light actually streams from their God. It is the Lord who shines, bestowing his radiance upon them. This light is filled with promise.

The story of the Magi is not meant primarily for children who delight in moving figurines of the three kings a bit closer to the stable every day. This is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment. The strangers, ignorant of ancient Israel’s traditions, were able to read the signs of the times. Because of their openness, they found the Light of the World. The learned men of Jerusalem were well schooled in the ancient promises, for they knew where to send the strangers. However, they felt threatened by these signs. They closed their minds and hearts to any omens that might imperil their positions of privilege. They had a chance to benefit from this new light, but they turned their backs on it. †

A Word from Pope Francis

Where did it originate, this spirit of healthy restlessness that led [the Magi] to set out on their journey? It was born of *desire*... With no exaggeration, we can say that we are what we desire. For it is our desires that enlarge our gaze and drive our lives forward...beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good.

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2022



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 60:1–6

Nations shall walk by your light, / kings by the radiance of your dawning.

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

[T]he Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 2:1–12

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.



The story of the Magi is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What truth, or “epiphany,” that is waiting to be revealed frightens me?
- What can I do this year to draw closer to others and to God?

Living in the Light of God

Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

Each day is an epiphany. We live in the light of God, who created us. We are redeemed in the light of Jesus, who poured out his life for the sake of sinful humanity. We are empowered to be the light of God for others by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Each day is an opportunity to open our hearts to let the light of God shine through us. Our light shines brightly when we choose to celebrate life and to share goodness, compassion, peace, and love with others.

Epiphany means living in the light of God and bringing the light of God to all the dark places in our families, communities, nation, and world. Epiphany challenges every Christian to be the light of love to unloving people, the light of forgiveness in unforgiving



situations, the light of kindness in a climate of incivility, and the light of understanding in the face of invincible ignorance. We are the glory of God in the world. We are the epiphanies who can make a difference in people's lives.

Ponder: Where do I need to let my light shine?

Prayer: Lord, your light gives us strength and shows us the way to God. Remove my blindness that I may see the light of goodness, peace, and love within myself and others.

Practice: Today, I will have a positive attitude and look for the good in others. †

From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas* by Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney, Liguori Publications (819407). Visit Liguori.org for other books in the series.

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Advent Longing: Day-by-Day Reflections for Personal Growth" by Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Inside the Christmas story are smaller narratives, each one rich. One is the story of the three Wise Men at the beginning of chapter 2 of the Gospel of Matthew, where we read of the powerful contrast that exists between the reaction of the Wise Men and King Herod to the birth of Jesus. What's the lesson for us? Can we bless new life that threatens us? Like the Wise Men, can we lay our gifts at the feet of the young and move toward anonymity and eventual death, content that the world is in good hands, even if they aren't our own? The Wise Men did that for Jesus.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521.



Lord Jesus, so that the dark corners of the world may awaken to your light and love, we pray: Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 6–11

Monday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 3:22–4:6 / Mt 4:12–17, 23–25


Tuesday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 4:7–10 / Mk 6:34–44

Wednesday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 4:11–18 / Mk 6:45–52

Thursday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 4:19–5:4 / Lk 4:14–22a

Friday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 5:5–13 / Lk 5:12–16

Saturday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 5:14–21 / Jn 3:22–30

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 5, 2025

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