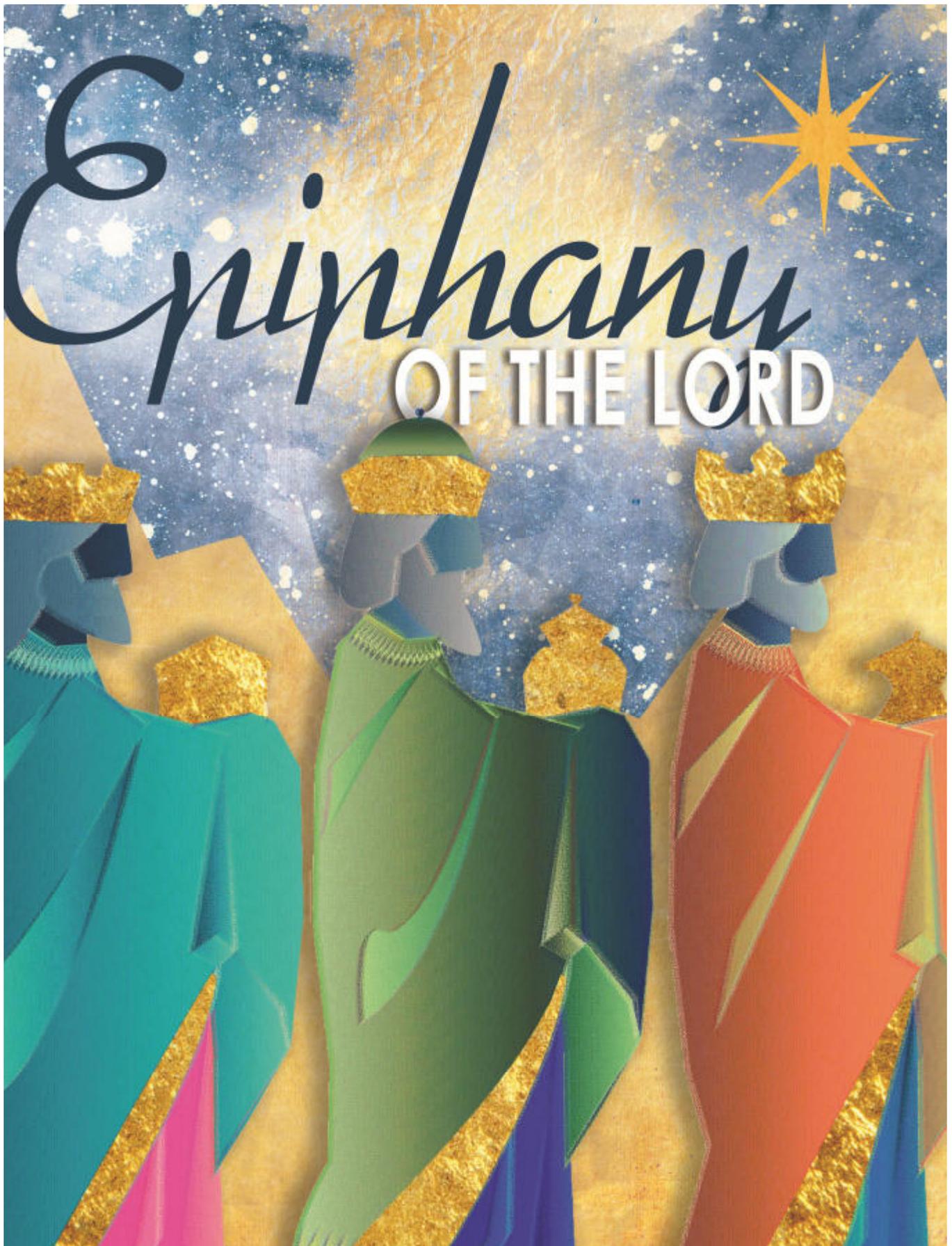


PRINCE OF PEACE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



JANUARY 3, 2021

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4300 Walnut Lake Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
 Phone 248-681-9424 - Fax 248-681-5543  
 Website: [www.princeofpeacecatholic.church](http://www.princeofpeacecatholic.church)

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Thursday and Friday Closed

**Father Ron Jozwiak**  
 pastor@princeofpeacecatholic.church

**Weekend Liturgies:**  
 Saturday: 4:00 p.m.  
 Sundays: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 NOON

**Weekday Liturgies:**  
 Tuesday - Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.  
 Will resume Tuesday, January 5th

**Reconciliation/Penance**  
 By appointment for parishioners.

**Parish Office: 248-681-9424**  
 Amanda Brewer  
 Email bulletin articles to:  
 parishsecretary@princeofpeacecatholic.church

**Bookkeeper: 248-681-9424**  
 Deb Peltier  
 bookkeeper@princeofpeacecatholic.church

**Education Office: 248-681-5070**  
 dre@princeofpeacecatholic.church

**Adult Education/RCIA Office:**  
 248-681-9424  
 Coordinator: Jeanne Martin  
 adulted@princeofpeacecatholic.church

**Worship Office: 248-681-9424**  
 Minister: Linda Plotkowski  
 worship@princeofpeacecatholic.church  
 Baptisms, Weddings, Funeral/Memorial Services

**Youth Ministry: 248-681-9424**  
 youthminister@princeofpeacecatholic.church

**Musicians/Choir: 248-681-9424**  
 Pastoral Musician: David Hansen

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*“Growing in Grace, Gratitude and Giving”*

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

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

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

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/  
 Mk 6:34-44

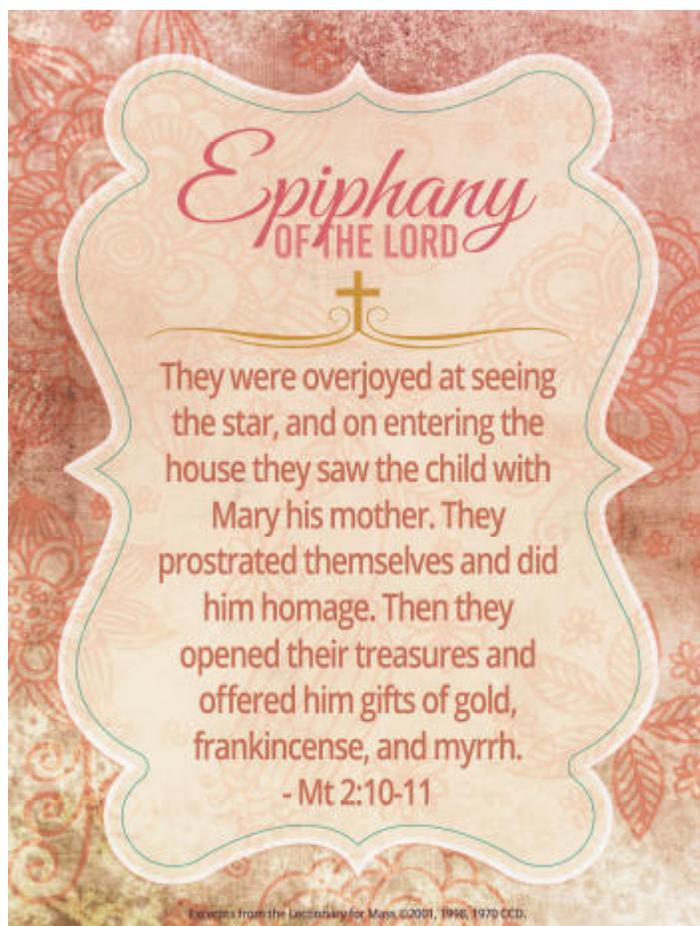
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/  
 Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and  
 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

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

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

**Next Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3,  
 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11



## THE GREAT FEAST OF EPIPHANY

“They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way” Mt. 2:11-12.

On this great feast of Epiphany, God wants us to know that his salvation and justice is for all the people of all the lands, everywhere there is life. He comes in the flesh to exclude no one by including one and all. As Paul communicates to us, this is a revelation granted by the Spirit to the apostles and prophets: “Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” Eph 3:6. And even today, it is an amazing proclamation given in the Scripture that our God is God of all, for all, with all.

On this great feast of the revelation of our Lord as Lord of all, we see, in a real visual manner, how foreigners are brought into the Nativity of Lord in such a wonderful and yet humble manner. We commonly call them Magi, wise men or, better yet, the Three Kings, as befitting their role in the Nativity of our Lord. Without a doubt, they are learned, without a doubt they possess some riches and prestige for they even get an audience with King Herod. But their wisdom and position are nothing compared to the wonder and mystery they will behold. They are searching. They follow a star; they ask questions and continue to seek Him out. Worldly knowledge and worldly riches are of scant importance to them: it has only gotten them so far in life, but not far enough. They seek the one whose star has led them to this place, to the One who is to be our wonder-counselor, God-hero, Prince of Peace. They seek the One who even has the heavens in obedience to him. And they are not disappointed. It is a child who radiates life. It is the child who gives forth love. It is the child who calls all to himself. It is the child who fills them with wonder and mystery. For what power must be emanating from this child when earth and heaven are united in love. What wonder they must have experienced. To know and not yet know all that God has planned and filled with the mystery of how it will unfold. It will take time for all this to sink in.

But being the Magi, the wise men, the Three Kings, they experience a few changes in themselves. They know that God has called them to witness to his great union with the human race. They know they are little compared to the greatness of this little child in the manger. They know they have to give their best to this child. They know, in their hearts, this little one will be great in the eyes of God and his people, so much so, that they change the direction of their journey because of him. Our God not only revealed himself to the world, but sought them out and even talked to them in a dream to make manifest his call to all people to come and worship.

In our day and age, the great Feast of Epiphany garners little enthusiasm. It's after Christmas. More than a few have taken everything down that reminds them of Christmas. Not even a Nativity creche remains in the home. It's as if nothing happens after the Nativity of the Lord. If we allow the Lord, however, to enter into our hearts and homes we may be able to experience the real wonder and mystery that the Magi experienced on that first Christmas. It is still a wonder that God wants to be one with us. It is still a wonder that like the Magi he calls out to us. It is still a wonder that we seek out his mercy, counsel and touch. As God's people we are still called to spend time reflecting on the great union of heaven and earth and the truth that all people are made whole in Christ. It is truly a truth that is readily forgotten.

With the Epiphany of the Lord, God's word has broken into the world and made it whole. He comes to love one and all. Saint and sinner alike. He comes to save and help us change our course for the better. He comes to show us the way of love. And yet, the world is still filled with little “herods”: men and women searching for power, clawing for the top, forgetting those who need help and settling for a little gold instead of salvation. We live in an age and time where hatred and enmity are real forces of oppression. We live in a day and age where the stranger is not welcomed, the poor are not cared for, the hungry are not fed and apathy reigns supreme. It is not much different than that first Christmas, is it? They were oppressed, there was great hatred and enmity between the peoples. They were in need of God's presence as we are today. Power and riches, position and degrees, violence and fear, didn't save the world then and it doesn't save us still.

*Continued on next page*

On this great feast of Epiphany, God, in an instant, brought a new vision of hope and new way of being for one and all. It had to be in God's way so that we might be interested enough to seek him out. How could this union of heaven and earth take place? How would God unite all to himself? How would we seek and find the Lord?

On this Feast we are reminded that God will show us the way to himself. Many a "star" has crossed our path to correct our course, if we are ready to see them. Like the Wise Men, we will look at our lives, reflect on them and find that power and riches only take us so far, they do not touch our souls. Our souls need to be fed with wonder and mystery, love and hope. God will seek us out, but we have to be ready to accept his call and "follow him". Will we be people who are changed into what God wants us to be and ready to hear his "dream" for us, just like the Wise Men? After all, God came into the World that we might know God's love just for us, and in this great love, call us to begin loving one another once again by taking care of the poor, the needy, the stranger and those who have lost their way. The Magi, never lost their way because they knew what journey God had in store for them and they were not afraid to take it.

-Father Ron

### The Epiphany of the Lord

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"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 light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!

### **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*

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### **The Epiphany of the Lord**

Today, in St. Matthew's Gospel, the evangelist retells the story of the Magi visiting the Christ-child, the newborn King. In this initial meeting, they are overwhelmed, and in response, venerate by prostrating themselves, face down. The Magi open their treasures and offer Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts foreshadow Christ's royalty, divinity, and suffering. The Scripture passages from Isaiah and St. Paul further convey that the Good News of salvation is to be proclaimed to all people. Do we, as faithful stewards strive to follow the Magi's example of offering adoration, praise, and glory to God? Do we, in thanksgiving, embrace the Good News, deepening our personal relationship in Christ? Then, in turn, spread His joy, peace, and message of hope and salvation to all those we meet?

### **Giving to the Parish from Your IRA, Charitable Trust or Donor Advised Fund**

People who have IRA accounts and are over 70 1/2 years old need to take required minimum distributions (RMD) from their IRA each year. In many cases, if you make an RMD directly from your IRA to the parish you can avoid including that distribution in income for tax purposes.

Similarly, many have found that establishing a charitable trust or donor advised fund is an advantageous way to contribute to the church and other charities and obtain a tax benefit.

If you are considering making a charitable RMD to the parish, or establishing a charitable trust or donor advised fund, please contact your tax advisor to see if you can benefit from giving this way.



Saturday, January 2

4:00 p.m. Crisostomo Nazareno  
Francisca Nazareno  
Teresita Orlino  
Cris Nazareno

Sunday, January 3

8:00 a.m. † John & Florence Cassella  
10:00 a.m. Families of Prince of Peace  
12:00 Noon Families of Prince of Peace

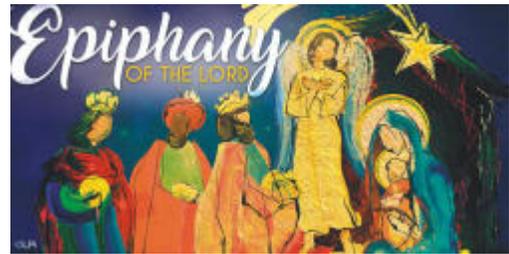
*Gracious Lord,  
Remember in your mercy those who suffer today.  
Give strength and encouragement  
to those who minister to their needs.  
Remember your promise not to let them be tested  
beyond what they are able to bear.  
Above all, give them the reassurance  
that you are with them as they walk through  
this valley of the shadow of death.  
And in your good time send healing of body and spirit.  
In Jesus' name  
Amen*

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- **February 27, 2021 - OPEN HOUSE - 10am - 12pm - Activity Center - Small group** - based on Covid mandates - sign up required - 2 sessions.
- **March 20, 2021 - OPEN HOUSE - 10am - 12pm - Activity Center - Small group** - based on Covid mandates - sign up required - 2 sessions.

**\*Check our website for updates and sign up information at:**

**[stwilliam-school.com/registration-tuition/](http://stwilliam-school.com/registration-tuition/)**



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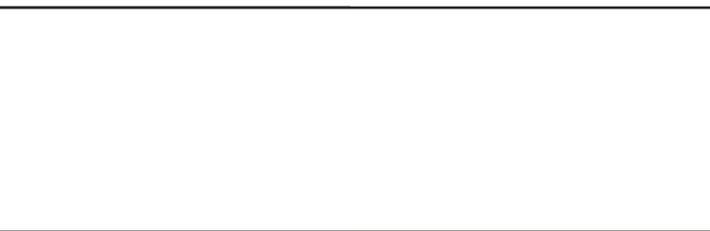
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