



# ST. PRISCILLA

CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY 8, 2023

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
**THE WISE  
STILL SEEK HIM**



©LPI

# PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 4:30 PM

Patricia Hegarty by sister, Marilyn Gallagher  
† Frances Kozlowski by Barbara Cunmulaj  
† Larry Miller by Mark & Mary Lou Miller  
† Leona & Michael Baran by Pete & Gloria Arciero  
† Robert Holderith by wife, Beverly

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 9:00 AM

† Rocco Corsi by Corsi Family  
† Giovanna Demela by Silvana Carta  
† Seymour Forbing by Parish  
† Terry Burns by mother, Millie Burns

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 11:00 AM

The People of St. Priscilla  
† Peter Vu by Vu Family  
† Patricia Taddia by Parish  
† Daniel Francis by Francis Family

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1:00 PM

Michael Brumfield by brother, Ron  
† Agnes & Leo Brumfield by son, Ron

### MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 8:00 AM

† Maria Canalis by Silvana Carta

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 8:00 AM

† Concetta Russo by Donna & Bill Fedelem

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 7:00 PM

Deacon Lance Fisher

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 8:00 AM

† Antonio Carta by Silvana Carta

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 4:30 PM

The People of St. Priscilla  
† Kay Kermode by Connie Lark  
† Concetta Russo by Pete & Gloria Arciero  
† Lynn Castrodale by Parish

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 9:00 AM

† Seymour Forbing by Herb & Linda Zinn  
† Roger Burns by wife, Millie Burns  
† Leah Brancheau by Russo Family

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 11:00 AM

† Concetta Russo by Family  
† Rick Allie by Donna & Bill Fedelem  
† Dan Tyrrell by Friends

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1:00 PM

The People of St. Priscilla  
Monsignor Timothy Hogan by Choraszewski Family  
† John Denton by grandmother, Eleanor

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Steve Lee	Chuck Stimac	Mary St. Jean
Irene Zabowski	Mary Gigante	Steve Moskal
Paul Vu	Carol Camilleri	Judy Pyrkosz
Rosemary Krawccke	Ryan Patrick	Joe Marino
Fr. John Wheeler	Mays Family	Sharon Hamilton
Margaret Gehringer	Nathan Stafford	Daniel Himm
Audrey Benzinger	Gideon Graham	Karen Kelley-O'Brien
Bill Schneider	Mary Lou Buechel	Dorothy Pongracz
Peggy Grainer	Jennifer Mattson	Jim Pongracz
Roger Godbey	Ricky Canini	MaryAnn Statetzny
Peggy Gatteri	Pam Pickens	William Statetzny
Vi Hanis	Peggy Nakamura	Pete Arciero
Joe Zeniewicz	Glen Brown	Antonio Gabbana
Magdalena Hang Vu	Chris Gehringer	Kenneth Ricer
Bernadine Buoncompagno		Connie Lark

REMINDER: Names remain on Prayer List for the Sick for 90 days unless the office is notified of continued need or prolonged illness. Please do not ask to add a name to this list without prior permission from the family.



## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Natalie Yurgil	Coast Guard
Benjamin Schmidt	Air Force
Brian Golonka	Army
Kyle Nelson	Marines
Steven Siemieniak	Air Force
Joseph James Prokes	Army

## PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Jeanne Ann Mendrygal



Each Monday following  
Morning Mass  
Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament  
with Adoration All Day  
until Benediction  
at 7:00PM  
with Prayers to  
St. Joseph

You may now schedule an adoration time slot on-line  
through Sign Up Genius. Each Week visit  
[www.saintpriscilla.org/adoration](http://www.saintpriscilla.org/adoration) to sign up.

*"To have Christian hope means to know about evil and yet to go to meet the future with confidence."*

-Pope Benedict XVI

Director of Religious Education  
Alyssa Choraszewski  
dre@saintpriscilla.org

New Year is so interesting to me. Why do we wait until a certain day of the year to begin something new? People seem to be filled with so much hope that old habits will easily change because the date on the calendar begins with 1-1. Why aren't people filled with the same hope each and every Sunday after receiving the Eucharist? Perhaps people aren't filled with hope when leaving Mass because we aren't used to that level of hope. To make things even more confusing, I am actually talking about two different "hopes." The first hope (habits changing) is actually a wish. The second hope (relating to the Eucharist) is a desire for heaven. However, both hopes require change of habits. And both hopes require quite a bit of work.

New Year hopes often fade away by mid to late January and typically when we fail at changing our habits, nothing detrimental happens. However, when we fail to upkeep the habits to bring us to heaven, we are doomed to eternity in purgatory or even hell. But we are wishful that our failings won't doom us for eternity. I mean, not going to the gym 5 days a week doesn't doom us for eternity, so why should skipping Mass a few weeks (or months) doom us? I will tell you why this mode of thinking is incorrect--it is because that is not what our Catholic faith teaches us.

When you come to Mass and receive Jesus in the Eucharist, you are telling God and the Church that you believe Jesus is fully present in that little host--body, blood, soul, and divinity. If you receive the Eucharist without confidently believing this Truth, that is by definition, a sacrilege. It is Jesus himself that provides the bridge to get us from this earthly dwelling to the eternal dwelling in heaven. We have the privilege to receive him at every Mass. We have the privilege to allow him to physically dwell within us--to provide us the strength to make the habitual changes needed to get us to heaven. That is true hope!

A few weeks ago I mentioned the two studies/podcasts provided by Ascension Press. The Bible in a Year program was first offered on Jan. 1, 2021. However, the faithful can begin their journey through the program at anytime of the year. This year, Ascension Press began

the Catechism in a Year program. At the time of this article writing, we are only a few days into the study. I would love to share a few take-aways about the program. The length of each "episode" varies. Some episodes are only about 15 minutes while others are about 45 minutes. Any Catechism of the Catholic Church can be used--you don't have to purchase Ascension Press's expensive version. Actually, you don't need a Catechism at all! You can just listen. Fr. Mike Schmitz gives helpful reflections on each paragraph. This can be very helpful because some paragraphs of the Catechism can be difficult to digest.

The reference to the Catechism in a Year is not a random plug in this article! If you truly want the hope we aspire to achieve at the start of a New Year, you will need to learn and understand our faith. That is the key to making habitual changes that will impact every aspect of your life and get you closer to reaching heaven after death.

Not only should we read/listen to the Catechism of the Catholic Church to better ourselves; we should do this to honor the late Pope Benedict XVI. As I am sure you have heard, Pope Benedict XVI passed away on the last day of 2021. We tend to think of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as one of the many successes of St. Pope John Paul II and it is! But did you know that Pope Benedict XVI was one of the men in charge of its creation?

At the time, Pope Benedict XVI was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. There is an article in the Vatican News written by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn titled Benedict XVI: 'Father of Catechism of the Catholic Church. I encourage you to find it online and read it in its entirety. Cardinal Ratzinger was the head of the commission of cardinals and bishops that formed the Catechism as we know it. It was Cardinal Ratzinger that firmly believed in the four pillars of the Catholic faith and it is those four pillars that provide the structure of the Catechism. The Catechism provides a firm explanation of our faith. The paragraphs are supported by Scripture, liturgy, theologians, and saints to give its readers a solid understanding of each teaching of Catholic faith and it achieves this brilliantly. The Catholic faith is beautiful and we can thank the late Pope Benedict XVI for displaying its beauty in text. Let us also thank Pope Benedict XVI for helping us understand the teachings of Christ so that we can change our habits to provide us True Hope!

## FAITH AND FEAR

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

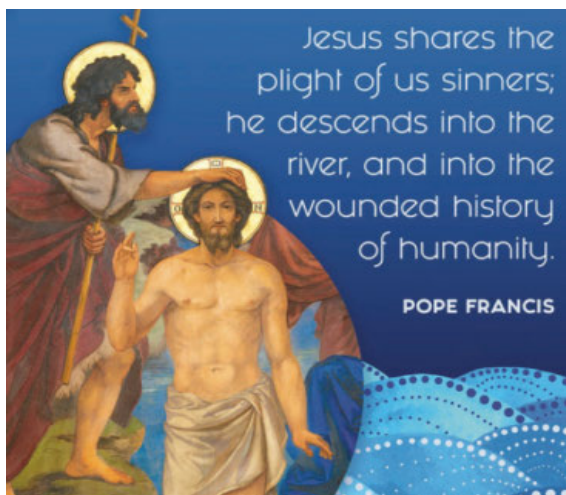
When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know). You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear.

But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed. But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense - awe, reverence, and wonder? "All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him." — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action. So, then, it should move us all.



Baptism of the Lord - January 9

## READINGS OF THE WEEK

### MONDAY, JANUARY 9 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38 Ps 29:1-4, 9-11b  
Mt 3:13-17

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2ab,5-9 Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6, 2:5-12  
Mk 1:14-20, 1:21-2

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-9 Mk 1:29-39

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-11 Mk 1:40-45

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 13 ST HILARY, BP/DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3, 4, 6-8 Mk 2:1-12

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Is 49:3, 5-6 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

## GOSPEL MEDITATIONS

A friend of mine is a young priest who teaches high school physics at a Catholic boys' prep school. Like many today, the boys often think science and religion are enemies. So, he delights in their raised eyebrows when he reminds them his first full-time job as a priest was to be an astrophysicist. He cataloged the size, shape, and matter of distant stars. He tells them, "Science gave me more love for God, not less."

The Magi were something like scientist-astronomers. Like today's scientists, they employed disciplined methods of discovering dependable patterns in the world. Their rigorous commitment to the truth led them to the joy of discovering Jesus. Their love for knowledge leads them to worship the Source of all knowledge. Luke says of them, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star."

We may see the universe as cold and empty and feel sad. But why should we do that? The Magi, like my priest-friend, show us there is another way to experience the world. We use our intelligence to discover the beautiful patterns in the world - in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology, neuroscience, and so on - and allow this to lead us to greater love for God. So, my fellow Magi: the world needs us to be overjoyed at finding God in science and, finally and fully, in Jesus.

Father John Muir ©LPi

## THE WORD OF GOD AS THE BREATH OF LIFE by Mary Rice

What was your favorite gift on Christmas? Luke gives us the account of the wise men arriving in Bethlehem (we don't know the date) and bringing kingly gifts to Jesus.

These generous gifts spoke of the deep respect that the Magi had for this baby. Then they were visited by angels who told them to go home on a different route, thus avoiding an intervention by Herod.



How surprised and grateful Joseph and Mary must have been. They were unprepared for such elegant gifts. We never hear of the Magi again, but they'll be remembered forever. They knew that this was no ordinary baby.

Jewish scholars

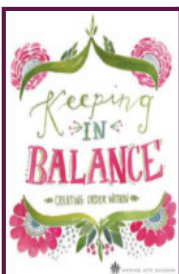
predicted the arrival of a savior, but the Pharisees and scribes who studied the ancient writings did not recognize Jesus because of his humble beginnings. Their own positions of power and status were also threatened by this upstart.

Today Paul speaks of Gentiles as co-heirs and co-partners included in the promise of a redeemer. This was not welcome news for Jews who considered that the Gentiles were not included in the promise of a redeemer.

Consider the words of Simeon who spoke to Mary and Joseph when they presented Jesus in the temple. Simeon called Jesus a light of revelation to the Gentiles. But he also called Jesus the glory of your people, Israel. Note the distinction.

Jews and Gentiles were partners in the promise of Christ. Jews knew that a savior was coming because they heard it from their prophets. But to the Gentile, the good news of Jesus came as quite a surprise. "And the word was God"

(John 1:1).



### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday's at 7:00pm in Room 4  
Order your book from Amazon or the Walking With Purpose website.  
Join us anytime.

## CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

©LPi

**Question:** How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

**Answer:** The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

### THE ST. PRISCILLA PARISH COMMUNITY WELCOMES YOU AT MASS TODAY. LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

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- Add me to your email/text list for upcoming events.
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.saintpriscilla.org](http://www.saintpriscilla.org)

## THE MEANING OF LIFE

January 8 is the Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany reminds us that in their Gospels Matthew and Mark gather stories about the childhood of Jesus, each pointing to different aspects of his significance. They both bring out the unique importance of Jesus in God's plan. He is the Son of God, who comes among us for the salvation of the world.

The feast of Christmas in the Western church picks out Luke's account of Jesus' birth in the stable when shepherds come to honor him. The liturgy and the hymns of the feast focus on the mystery of God's joining us in the vulnerable humanity of Jesus. In the Eastern Church the major feast is that of the Epiphany, which focuses on Matthew's story of the coming of the Wise men to honor Jesus with gifts. The heart of the feast lies in the revelation of Christ to the non-Jewish world represented by the Magi. It recognizes the stages of God's showing himself to the world, first to the Jewish people and then, through them, to all people. It is a feast of light: Jesus is the light of the world and brings light to all who believe in him.

The Feast of the Epiphany is important because it reminds us of the different ways in which God has shown himself in the world and shows that these point to God's greatest gift to us in Jesus. He is our way to God. But the feast also shows us that we do not own God. God speaks to us as he wishes. In the Gospel story God speaks through people whose wisdom came from religious traditions other than those of the Jews, God's chosen people.

Like Christmas the Feast of the Epiphany also points to the way of suffering that the Son of God will take for our salvation. Luke's Gospel alludes to it in the poverty of Jesus' birth and in the forecast of a sword that will pierce Mary's heart. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus is immediately at risk from Herod's murderous designs and must go with his parents to Egypt. Perhaps, too, the gift of myrrh, an opiate as well as a perfume, hints at his crucifixion.

The star that the Magi had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matthew 2: 10-11).

The quest of the Magi reminds us that God is truly with us. Sometimes during our journey, clarity disappears, and we begin to doubt. Let us remember that Jesus is always with us. He is Emmanuel, God with us. Like the shining star, he is present in the tabernacle, just as he was present in the manger of Bethlehem.

Christmas and the Epiphany dwell on two different aspects of the coming of Christ into the world. That they form part of one story is shown visually in the presence of both the shepherds and the Magi in the cribs of our churches.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is not only about three wise men that visited the manger, but a biblical event that speaks to us about the plan of God for humanity.

Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ/catholicoutlook.org & Fr James Farfaglia/catholic.org

## St. VINCENT de PAUL

### PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED THIS WEEK

Cream of Wheat, Jelly  
Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Chili  
Raman Noodles

**Thank you for supporting our pantry.**

DATE	LECTOR	EMHC
JAN 14 4:30PM	J GATELEY	Please Continue To Volunteer
JAN 15 9:00AM	R HOMINGA	
JAN 15 11:00AM	B HARGAN	

### USHER SCHEDULE JANUARY 2023

Saturday Team **A** Sunday Team **C**

### MARY'S HELPERS JANUARY 2023

17th L CURTIS & D McLEAN  
31st B HARGAN

## 2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

It's that time of year...we are working on processing your 2022 contribution statements. If you need one from St. Priscilla please complete the form below and place it in the offertory basket next weekend. Or you may call the parish office with your request.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Online Giving participants should be able to pull the tax document directly from the website.

Online Giving can be as easy as logging on to [saintpriscilla.org](http://saintpriscilla.org).



You can determine when to contribute and how much. Do you need Tech Assistance? Contact Our Sunday Visitor at 800-348-2886 (Option 2)

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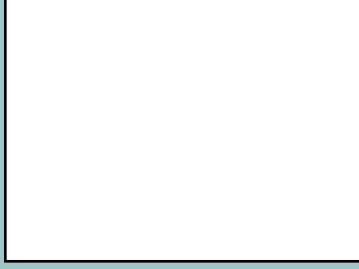
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## ST. PRISCILLA DIRECTORY

### FR. JOSEPH TUSKIEWICZ

*Priest in Solidum*  
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### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Barb Hargan (Chair)  
Jo Gateley (Secretary)

#### Members At-Large

Bill Fedelem  
Ralph Fernley  
Monika Kus  
Larry Choraszewski

### FINANCE COUNCIL

John Sullivan

### CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION

Randy & Laurie Dalziel

### STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

248-476-4700 X102

#### •EMHC

#### •LECTORS

Lou Barrett

#### •USHER COORDINATOR

Bud Flemming

#### •ART & ENVIRONMENT

Judy Fowler

#### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Lee Curtis

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Joe McCallion (GK)

Due to increased "SCAMS" we no longer print personal phone numbers. Call the parish office if you need a number to one of the above members.

## PENANCES AND PRAYERS

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

God's glory, now, is kindled gentler than candlelight under the rafters of a barn: Eternal Peace is sleeping in the hay, And Wisdom's born in secret in a straw-roofed stable.\*

When I was younger, I wrote music to and recorded Thomas Merton's poem, "Epiphany Carol." If you have never read it, search it out on the internet. Merton's words are profound and paint a picture of the awesomeness of Jesus, the newborn King of Kings, lying in a simple straw bed. The shepherds and Wise Men are drawn to pay homage to the One who has been born above all others and brings with him hope for a broken world.

As Merton correctly points out, the gifts we are called to bring to this baby and lay at his feet are our prayers and penances, next to those gifts of worldly wealth. What is it that you have to bring to the stable on this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord? Unless those prayers and penances lead to a new way of living, our gifts will be void of meaning. What we lay before him speaks to the change in us that he has given to us by his birth. Our daily stewardship is resembled in those gifts. If we are to truly echo the kingdom of God in our lives and actions, what we ultimately offer to him is no less than our entire selves. This baby will give his entire self for us, and his work must continue through our hands and feet.

*While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries Come after with our penances and prayers, And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay Beside the wise men's golden jars.\**      \*Excerpts from "Epiphany Carol" by Thomas Merton

## 2023 MEETING SPACE REQUESTS

### WE ARE UPDATING THE PARISH RESERVATION CALENDAR

We are experiencing increased requests for meeting space and times.

All Commissions, Committees, Fellowship and Prayer Groups are asked to provide their January through June schedule to either Rose Powers or John Gallagher.

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday, Tuesday, Friday** 8:00 AM

**Thursday** - 7:00 PM

**Holy Days** - 8:00 AM & 7:00 PM

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Thursday** 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

**Friday** 8:30 AM - Noon

### RECONCILIATION

**Saturday** - 3:30 PM

### EXPOSITION OF THE

#### BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Monday** - Immediately following

8:00 AM Holy Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration - All day

Benediction & Repose - 7:00 PM

### SICK CALLS, WEDDINGS &

**BAPTISMS** Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.