

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church

12001 69th Street East, Parrish, FL 34219

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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941.776.9097

OFFICE HOURS

M,T, Th, F 7:00am-3:00pm

Closed Wednesday



Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see:
heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in
man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now
enclosed in a tiny body.

As they look, they believe and do not question, as their
symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a
king, myrrh for one who is to die.

—St. Peter Chrysologus

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Daily Mass: T, W, TH, F - 8:30 AM

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM

Music Director and Rel. Ed. Coordinator:
David Collins

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Joseph Gates
Operations Manager: Richard Lind
Sacramental Coordinator: Chris Malone
Liturgy Coordinator: Lydia Herrera
Maintenance & IT: Ernie Nolder
Maintenance: Roger Rodriguez
Data Entry: Tom Moline

JANUARY 2, 2022



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday
8:30am
Req. By:
Wednesday
8:30am
Req. By:
Thursday
8:30am
Req. By:
Friday
8:30AM
Req. By:
Saturday
4:00pm
Req. By:
Sunday
8:00am
Req. By:
10:15am
2ns Int.
Req. By:

JANUARY 4
+POOR SOULS
Kay

JANUARY 5
+ CARMEN RODRIGUEZ
Loving Family

JANUARY 6
+WAYNE BICKLE
Wife, Jeanette

JANUARY 7
+KATHLEEN E. RAYMOND
Elaine Kemp

JANUARY 8
+FRANCIS & EILEEN BURNS
Loving Family

JANUARY 9
+ED FAIRCHILD
Healy Family
PARISHIONERS
+BENJAMIN, ROLANDO SABIO
&TERESITA ESCABAR
Sabio Family

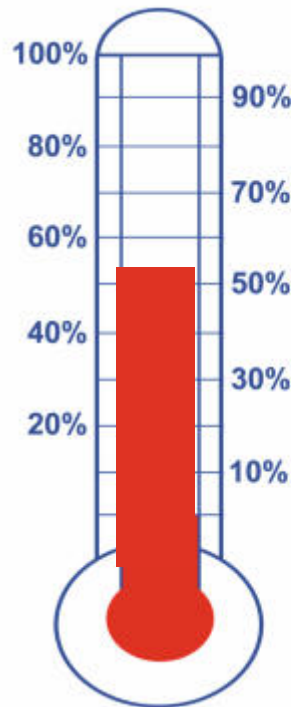


TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: 20:1s 60:1-6
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Second Reading Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel Mt 2:1-12



Catholic Faith Appeal



Our Goal

\$164,000.00

Thank You!

\$89,374.76

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

212: 1Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8,10-12a Mt4:12-17,23-25

TUESDAY ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

213: 1Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4,7-8 Mk 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY ST. JOHN NEUMANN

214: 1Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72: 1-2,10,12-13 Mk 6:45-52

THURSDAY ST. ANDRE BESSETTE

215: 1Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2,14,15bc,17 Lk 4:14-22a

FRIDAY ST. RAYMOND PENYAFORT

216: 1Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Lk5:12-16



January Parish Potluck

**Tuesday, January 13 @5:30
in the Parish Hall**

Please call the parish office at 776.9097 to RSVP with the number of people who will be attending and the entrée, side dish, or dessert you would like to bring.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism: For registered and active parishioners: Please contact the Church Office. Baptism instruction is required for Parents.

Reconciliation (Confessions)
Saturdays 2:00-3:00 PM in Adoration Chapel
Or by Appointment

Weddings:

For registered and active parishioners: must be arranged with the pastor at least 6 months before the date desired. Please contact the Church Office for more details.



Reflections on Divine Mercy **and the Eucharist**

Saturday, January 15, 2022
9:00-2:00pm

Guest Speaker Bryan S. Thatcher, MD, of Tampa, Florida, is a retired medical doctor who travels the world speaking on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, the message of Divine Mercy, and his personal conversion. He and his wife, Susan have seven children, ages 34 to 11.

In 1996 he founded Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), now a lay apostolate of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. EADM is now active in more than 45 countries, and the ministry has received three special apostolic blessings for its work from the late Holy Father, St. John Paul II.

Lunch will be provided.

To register, contact Diane Creel at 941-981-5136 or dicreel@aol.com. Registration closes January 10, 2022 There is no fee, but a **Free Will** donation is appreciated.

JANUARY 2, 2022



Save the Date

Event: Women's Emmaus Retreat
Hosted by Epiphany Cathedral Parish

Date: March 11-13, 2022

Location: Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Retreat Center, Venice Florida

More Information will be published
closer to the retreat.

THIS RETREAT WEEKEND
WOULD MAKE A WONDERFUL
CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THAT
SPECIAL WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE.

For questions, contact Donna Vodraska at donnavodraska@aol.com
941.496.4464 or 9630.336.0918

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JANUARY 2, 2022

Symbolism of the Gifts of the Magi

St Irenaeus wrote that the gifts of the Magi were given to Christ for his offices associated with redemption. The gold was for Christ as King, the frankincense as a symbol of His Deity and the myrrh burial ointment as a symbol of death for the Suffering Redeemer. On another level, St. Irenaeus said the gold signifies virtue; the frankincense, prayer; and the myrrh, suffering.

Church Father Origen wrote of the gifts: “gold, as to a king; myrrh, as to one who was mortal; and incense, as to a God.”

In the ancient world it was protocol to bring gifts to a king or to the object of worship. In 243 BC, a Syrian king offered gold, frankincense and myrrh to the god Apollo. The queen of Sheba brought Solomon gold, spices and precious stones in I Kings 10:2, and Ps. 72 and Is. 60 also speak of bringing gifts to a king.

The gifts were appropriate not just for a king but for God, wrote St. John Chrysostom, comparing them to the traditional Jewish animal offerings. For this reason, the saint believed that the wise men worshiped Jesus as God.

Others assert that the gifts were just Oriental custom and may not have had special meaning. While some say there were three gifts because there were three Magi, Dr. Peter Kreeft finds significance in the number three:

Three wise men, three gifts, three offices (prophet, priest and king), three parts of the human soul (intellect, heart and will) because the Inventor and Designer of man is three. The medieval mind saw Trinitarian echoes everywhere, for a very good reason: Everything is made by the Trinity, and what is made must reflect its Maker.

It is the season for gift-giving, so I considered what gifts I’m bringing to the Baby Jesus. Gold is pretty much out of the question, although I can offer a little cash. Frankincense apparently is in short supply worldwide as the trees the resin is derived from are dying in Ethiopia. I don’t think myrrh would be very easy to come by, either.

A Russian Orthodox church offered some ideas for preparing our own gifts of “gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

While gold is the most precious metal, King David said that God’s Word is more precious and desirable. So if we study the bible and meditate on it, we give God a gift more precious than gold. The fragrance of frankincense rises to God, serving as a gift of thanksgiving pleasing to God. If we bring God our gift of thanksgiving, as it says in the Psalms, it would please God more than Frankincense. Myrrh is oil containing the aromatic sap of a tree with which kings and high priests were anointed. The word myrrh means bitterness or sorrow. We can bring our own myrrh—sorrow and remorse for our sins—to the Lord.

St. Basil the Great also suggested following the Magi’s lead by offering gifts to God: “Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race.”



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The legend of Befana began thousands of years ago and remains to this day a tradition practised by Italian children and their families. As the story goes, one day, the three Magi left their country bearing special gifts of gold, incense and myrrh for the new-born Jesus Christ. They were guided by a star across many countries. At every village that they passed, people ran to meet them and accompany them in their journey.

But there was one old woman who did not join the Magi. She claimed to be too busy with her housework and promised to join them later when she had time. The next day, she realized her mistake and frantically ran after the Magi with gifts for the child, still clutching her broom. But it was too late – the Magi were long gone.

Ever since then the old woman has been known as “La Befana” or simply “Befana.” On the eve of January 6th, Befana flies from house to house on her old broomstick and delivers all the gifts she didn’t give to the Holy Child to good girls and boys.



In fact, Befana’s name is the Greek word “epifania” or “epiphany,” and is significant because the religious feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th. This Christian celebration, in remembrance of the Magi’s visit to Jesus, can include purifying rites and benedictions with water. Water prepared on the eve of the Epiphany (the night that Befana flies the skies) is said to have sacred properties that can ward off evil spirits and is used in critical moments of a family’s life. Celebration of the Epiphany can be traced as far back as the 13th century and is one of the most popular Italian feasts.

In the time when our grandparents were children, Befana was tremendously popular and was awaited with a mixture of joy and anxiety. Children hung hand-knitted stockings on the fireplace and wrote long letters to her expressing their wishes. Often they were disappointed as their families had little money to spend on gifts; however, sometimes they found little hand-sewn dolls and puppets in their stocking. If they had been bad, their stockings were filled with onions, garlic and coal. Although there were no traditional dishes to celebrate this

day, people would gather together and eat chestnuts, nuts and fruit pancakes.

Children of today know Befana as an old woman who flies a broom and wears a black shawl over a dress dirty with soot from the chimneys she climbs down to deliver her gifts. For the good children she brings sweets, toys and books. And, as in the past, she brings onions, garlic and coal for the bad children. In modern-day Italy some shops sell carbone or black rock candy that actually looks like pieces of coal.

Many people believe in La Befana’s existence, while others believe it is a fanciful story created for children. But Befana’s question of existence is irrelevant. Either way she still fulfils her function, which is to reaffirm the bond between family and ancestors through an exchange of gifts.



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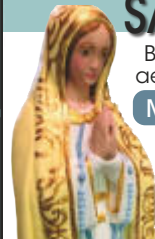
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