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Catholic Church**

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PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA

January 3, 2021

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Website: stlukealderman.org

**Mon– Thur 8am Daily Mass
Fri Live Stream Mass at 6pm
4 pm Vigil Mass in the Church**

**Fri–Church Closed–
Sat–3 pm Confession
Sunday- 8am , 10am, 4pm**



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

St. Luke Early Childhood Center Ph: (727) 787-2914 StLukeECC.com

School Of Faith– Religious Education for Children Ph: (727)-787-2845

Email: sofreceptionist.stluke@gmail.com Classes: K-8 Sunday 10:20am

RCIA: Jim Moss Ph: 727-786-3648 Bulletin: Ph: (813) 230-6412 bulletin@stlukealderman.org

Youth Ministry: Ph(813) 230-6412 YouthDirector@stlukealderman.org

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Pastor: Fr. Paul Kochu Assisting Priest: Fr. Kevin Tortorelli Deacons: Rev. Joe Reid, Jim Moss



COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*
Vivir VALIENTEMENTE el Evangelio

January 3, 2021 Epiphany of Our Lord **Being like the Magi**

“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. 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: 9-11

This weekend we remember and celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord. It is the time when the newborn king of the Jews is revealed to the nations as was foretold by the prophets. The Jews had been awaiting a messiah for many generations. But now, Christ the Lord is recognized as king by gentiles who are non-believers. Yet they came to know and understand the significance of this miraculous birth.

The magi, or “wise men”, as we have come to know them, recognized the signs that something significant was taking place. They were astronomers who looked to the stars for signs about what was happening. They saw a new star rising in the sky such as they had never seen before. The ruler, King Herod, was jealous and troubled by this revelation of a newborn king in his territory. He felt threatened that someone else – let alone an infant – might challenge his power. Meanwhile the magi, upon finding the child, paid homage by offering precious and meaningful gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As we move through the Christmas narrative, it’s interesting to note that that the people who were considered most important in society at that time were not the ones to receive the revelation of the birth of this child. The chief priests, temple officials, the secular king, and other authorities were all outside characters. It was the humble and lowly shepherds, and the magi that were the first to receive the good news of the Savior’s birth and found their way to the child. Christ was in their presence, but the local authorities failed to recognize Him, and would always be threatened by Him until the time of His death.

Is it still that way in our world today? Do we recognize the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our lives that are calling us to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ? While you may not have gold, frankincense and myrrh to offer, the best gift you can give Jesus in this new year is your heart and soul. Make a resolution this year for Jesus Christ to be the king of your life.

Bishop Gregory Parkes



While we are at home, we can participate in Mass on your TV, radio, smart phone, or online. Please remember to mail your contributions . It may be convenient for you to contribute for the whole month with one check. For APA and building fund please send separate checks in the same envelope. One envelope but separate checks.

**Direct Mailing of Your Contributions:
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The Epiphany of the Lord

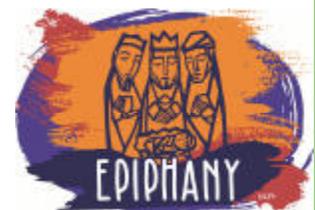
Reading I Is 60:1-6 Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 **R.(cf. 11) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.** O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. **R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.** Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. **R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.** The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. **R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.** For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. **R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Reading II Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's race that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia Mt 2:2 **R. Alleluia, alleluia.** We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage. **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel Mt 2:1-12 When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. 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. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

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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SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer:

The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.

KIDS CORNER

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

WISE MEN
STAR
HEROD

MESSIAH
WORSHIP
EXCITED

GIFTS
WARNED
DREAM

U W A R N E D E K O E
J I N E G A J W I N G
A S U T O F I O S A I
N E X C I T E D U D F
O M I Y U B A U W E T
H E R O D E N Y O G S
W N A H R T Y H R S F
S O Y I E O M A S T U
T I B V A H U D H Y M

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Jigsaw puzzles are fun. Solve a puzzle with your whole family, and it comes together even faster. God helped the wise men solve a puzzle. They wanted to find the newborn king. Together the wise men read God's promises, did their homework, and followed the star. When all of their answers fit, they found baby Jesus.

PRAYER

God, thank you for all the people who helped me find Jesus.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Intentions</i>	<i>Office</i>
Sat, 1/2	4:00pm	For the Parish Family	Closed
Sun, 1/3	8:00am	Terri Smith	Closed
		† Lucia Fasone	
	10:00am	† Elizabeth M. Madison	
		† Patricia Field	
	4:00pm	For the Parish Family	
Mon, 1/4	8:00am	† Francis Weiss	8:30am-12pm
		† Janet de Lorimier	
Tues, 1/5	8:00am	Kathy Foster	8:30am-12pm
		Rita Purdy	
Wed, 1/6	8:00am	† Almindo Feijoo	8:30am-12pm
		† Thomas J. Burke & Family	
Thurs, 1/7	8:00am	† The Damiano Family	8:30am-12pm
		† Edward & Marriellorraine O'Leary	
Fri, 1/8			8:30am-12pm
Sat, 1/9	4:00pm	Betty Ann Cantanzaro	Closed
		† Raymond Ardolino	

Estate planning mistakes

Misconceptions that you may want to understand and address.

1.) "I already have a will" A will doesn't improve with age. The passage of time presents unanticipated circumstances, such as changes in marital status, new children or grandchildren, revised tax laws, a move or fluctuations in assets. Revisit your will after major milestones or at least every couple of years.

2.) "Everything is joint" Joint ownership seems ideal because it avoids probate and expedites the survivor's access. But joint title may also inflict unnecessary tax burdens and upset your estate plan. To sidestep title traps, consult with an estate planning attorney.

3.) "I'm single, so I don't need an estate plan" But you may have siblings, children, grandchildren, other family members or good friends to consider. You may also want to remember St. Luke in your plan. An organized estate plan is a gift to those you leave behind.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MOBILE ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE *YOU CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN!*

The Knights of Columbus of Region 4 (Diocese of St. Petersburg) are raising \$60,000 to purchase a mobile ultrasound van for **Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center**. When 100% of the cost of the vehicle has been raised, then the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council will provide 100% of the funds for an ultrasound machine to be used in the vehicle. **Foundations of Life**, a ministry of Catholic Charities Diocese of St. Petersburg will use its custom designed Medical Mobile Unit to provide FREE on-site Ultrasound and Pregnancy Tests with Life Options counseling. The Mobile Unit will assist reaching into the community to offer help and hope to those experiencing the difficulties of pregnancy and those who may be considering abortion. Outreach to colleges, schools, churches, and community fairs will also be provided.

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Checks should be made payable to "Knights of Columbus Council #13525" - note "Ultrasound Fund" in the memo line. **Mail to:** Gilbert Ortiz Council #13525,
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For more information go to: <https://foundationsoflife.org/events-2/>

While Attending Mass During this Difficult time

- * Wear a Mask while in the church
- * Please sanitize your hands
- * If you are a family please occupy a pew
- * Be kind and considerate
- * Please keep distance
- * Don't congregate in the Church or parking lot before or after Mass
- * If you are one person please occupy one seat/ chair

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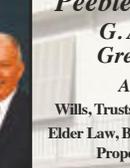
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Attorney Tim Ingram Jr.
 Graduated from the UF Levin College of Law and Passed the Florida Bar Exam in July, 2019.

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