



January 5, 2025

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star.
- Mt 2:10

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

Parochial Administrator,
Fr. Pedro Camilo Simoes SAC
School of Faith (727) 786-3648 x.104
Sof.coordinator.stluke@gmail.com
Early Childhood Center (727) 787-2914
StLukeECC.com
Eucharist Ministry—Homebound & Living Facilities
Sr. Vigy Joseph DSJ, Coordinator
Business Manager, Bert Tottle
businessmgr@stlukealderman.org
Driving Ministry 727-784-4715
Pat Finn, Coordinator
Prayer Chain (727) 460-9540

Masses, Weekend

Saturday Vigil: 4 pm

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm

Masses, Daily

Monday-Saturday 8 am

Divine Mercy

& Rosary : 7:24 am

Adoration, every Friday

Following 8 am Mass until 9 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 pm—3:45 pm

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 5, 2025 The Epiphany of the Lord Matthew 2:1-12

Have you ever wondered *why* the Magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew's Gospel tells us, "**Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh**" (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their "treasures"? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn't that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi's gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with "gold" (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— *Father John Muir*

©LPi

Readings for the week of January 5, 2025

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/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 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

On Mission Podcast Episode 122

Featuring

Father Pedro Camilo Simoes
discussing his book

"Divine Threads:

My Journey of Faith and Blessings"

In this episode of the [On Mission](#) Podcast, Sarah Harrigan Scalfaro, Chris Pierno, and Fr. Frank Donio, S.A.C. are joined by Fr. Pedro Camilo Simoes, S.A.C. to discuss his book, *Divine Threads*, and how God has been quietly present throughout his life.

Episode 122 can be found on all podcast servers or at this web link: <https://catholicapostolatecenterpodcast.com/onmission/divinethreads>.

On Mission is produced by the Catholic Apostolate Center. Also listen to Fr. Frank's weekly reflection and recent blogcasts.

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Intentions</i>	<i>Office</i>
Sat, 1/04 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious	8am	Janet Fitchko—Healing	Closed
	4pm	For the St. Luke Parish Family † Fr. Richard Rosin	
Sun, 1/05 The Epiphany of the Lord	8am	† Donald Waldt	Closed
	10am	Steven Arpaia	
	4pm	For the St. Luke Parish Family † Queteria Simoes	
Mon, 1/06 St. Andre Bes-sette, Religious	8am	Kathy Eickenhorst	8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Tues, 1/07 St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest	8am	Living & Deceased Members of the Conte Family	8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Wed, 1/08	8am	† Nanchine McManus	8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Thurs. 1/09	8am	Sister Briega McKenna	8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Fri, 1/10	8am	† Esperance & Domnic	8:30 am to 12:30 pm
	8:30am	Adoration	
Sat, 1/11	8am	† Antonio Fernandes	Closed
		† Sebastiao Fernandes	
	4pm	Patti & Egan Arenberg	
		† Stephen Weber	

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer of Rejoicing

Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy.

Amen. ©LPi



Epiphany

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? ©LPi

Everyday Stewardship

“The Story of the Other Wise Man” by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to “the least of these” he has actually given to Jesus himself.

If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man’s constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places.

—*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

Coffee & Donuts

Share Christ Fellowship with fellow Parishioners.

Sunday, JANUARY 5th
(and every first Sunday)
IN THE PARISH HALL

Available after **8:00 am**
and **10:00 am Mass**



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KOFC OPEN HOUSE

Building the Domestic Church
Strengthening Our Families, Ministries,
and Parish.



KoFC invites all families and ministries to join us in building the Domestic Church. Together, we can live our faith boldly and bring hope to our community.

When: Saturday, January 18th, 2024.
Time: 9:00 am until 11:30 pm.
Where: St Luke Parish Hall.
Who: Everyone is welcome!

Special Participation
Fr Pedro Camilo
Simoes

There will be refreshments and sweets will be served.

An initiative by St Luke Council 12196



MARRIAGE JUBILEE MASS 2025

The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, February 9th at 3:00pm.

This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate **their 25th or 50th Anniversary as well as those celebrating 51 or more years of marriage during the 2025 calendar year.**

Please RSVP by calling our parish office by Wednesday, January 15th.

Marriage and Family Life

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

Married and engaged couples are invited to the second annual *Together in Holiness* marriage conference on **March 8, 2025 from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm at St. Paul Catholic Church in Tampa, FL.** This one-day conference will help you strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family. Registration: \$64/couple and \$5/child for on-site childcare. An Early Bird discount is available through January 20 as well as scholarships upon request. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

For more info, visit togetherinholiness.org/stpetersburg or email cameron@forlifeandfamily.org.

Parish Life

You Can Make a Difference by Joining a Parish Ministry

You can teach a child about Jesus. You can proclaim God's word, sing in the choir or serve the Eucharist to fellow parishioners at mass or as home. You can drive people to appointments or may-be bring them to mass. You can be the voice and face of the Parish by volunteering in the office. In all of these efforts and others you will not only be serving God our Parish, but will grow closer to other parishioners.

To help introduce you to the various ministries we will have a Ministry Fair on Saturday, January 11th after the 4:00 pm Mass and Sunday, January 12th after the 8:00 am & 10:00 am Masses. Refreshments will be served.

I urge you to read about our ministries on the parish website and pray fully consider how God is asking you to serve Him and *His Church* by joining us.

SCHOOL OF FAITH REGISTRATION OPEN

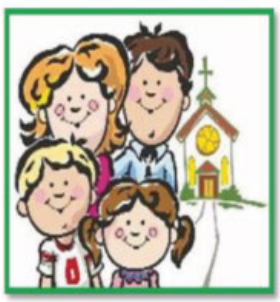
Classes - Sunday 11:15am to 12:30pm immediately after the 10 AM Mass

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or stop by the Parish Office to pick them up.

Once completed please bring to School of Faith Office on Sundays immediately after 10am Mass.



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**The Next Meeting of the
Ladies Auxiliary is**

Tuesday, January 7, 2024

@ 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

All Ladies of the Parish are welcome to
attend

Please join us and bring a friend!

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OUR FACILITY RENOVATION PLAN

The next phase of our renovation plan for the Sanctuary was given the green signal by the Diocese. This will be exclusively about the worship space, social gathering place, store rooms, part of the office space, accessibility to bathrooms on both sides of the church, cry room for our young families, etc. We will do the best with what we have by way of resources.

Unfortunately, we do not have financial resources to tackle the final phase of our project. This phase is about our parking lot and better development of our grounds. We will continue our effort to raise funds keeping in mind this goal. We have to bring this project to completion. Together we have made it so far; by our sacrifices we can bring it to completion. **Building Fund - Second Collection - January 11 & 12, 2025**

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