



THEY WERE OVERJOYED
 AT SEEING THE
STAR.

— MATTHEW 2:10 —

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

PASTOR'S 2025 MESSAGE

Every life, every beginning starts with birth. Birth never happens without a mother. Every time a baby is born, a mother is born as well. It's either you are a new mother or a mother once more. Eight days after Christmas when the Eternal Word of God was made flesh and was born into the poverty of our humanity, we celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

As we begin a new year, the church presents to us Mary, our mother. She was a person in peace because she did the will of God in her life. From the moment of the annunciation to the birth of Christ, the gospel relates that "Mary treasured

all these things and reflected on them in her heart." God didn't make it easy for her to discover the meaning of the life of her son and her own. She, like all of us should do, had to pray and reflect always along the way. She also had her fears like all of us, but it didn't paralyze her, and she submitted herself to God. She was a disciple who trusted completely in God's loving providence. As Elizabeth said to her: "Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled" (Lk 1:45).

Each new year brings us a certain feeling of anxiety for what lies ahead of us this year. Like a dark cloud looming over the horizon, the future is seen with fearful

apprehension. Will it be a better year? Or worst? Or difficult for me and my family?

Amidst the uncertainty and perceived hardships, let us not forget that we have a mother who is no less than the mother of Jesus, our Lord. She is our mother whom we can rely to bring us hope in the face of despair, who brings faith for our doubts, strength in our weakness and trust and assurance in our discouragements. Friends, it will be another year with our heavenly mother. Mary the mother of God and our mother is our assuring companion as we begin the year 2025. HAVE A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. Vivat Jesus! - Fr. Zamora

PARISH INFORMATION

02 | PARISH FAMILY | GOD IS WITH US



OUR MISSION

Emmanuel Catholic Church which means, **God is with us**, is a faithful community of believers dedicated to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Roman Catholic Church through word, sacrament, and service. As a parish family of God, we live by faith, truth, and love as we value the sanctity of life in all its stages and make the Holy Eucharist the center of our lives. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the consultation with our parish ministries, we desire to be witnesses of God's presence as we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with God's Family.

CLERGY

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Gaudioso Zamora

Parish Vicar

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ihedoro

In Residence

Rev. Fr. Joseph Papes

Weekday/Weekend Associates

Rev. Fr. Timothy Canaan

Rev. Fr. David Carr

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

PARISH MINISTRIES

OCIA & Sacramental Preparation

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

Religious Education

Jean Krokus | Ext. 1005

religioueducation@emmanuelcatholic.church

Sandra Gallegos Sgallegos@emmanuelcatholic.church

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Lectors

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Hospitality / Ushers

Bob Bonney & Chuck Dolce

Music

Linda Coz, Ree Joy Baldonado, Clanaven Baldonado & Men's Choir

Altar Flowers

Bella Simbajon & Filipino Community

Altar & Clergy Vestments

Maryann DiBiase, Carol Chapman, Nancy McDonald,

Homebound / Hospital Ministry

PARISH STAFF

Director of Finance

Tanya Kuppamala Ext. 1001 tkuppamala@emmanuelcatholic.church

Secretary

Stella Sadolfo Ext. 1007 secretary@emmanuelcatholic.church

Property Manager

Edward Shannon Ext. 1006 maintenance@emmanuelcatholic.church

Receptionist

Rose Marie Baldonado Ext. 1000 receptionist@emmanuelcatholic.church

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Gift Shop

Josephine Joan | Ext. 1009

Blood Drive

Patti Gomez | 561-293-9761

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Guild

President Nancy McDonald

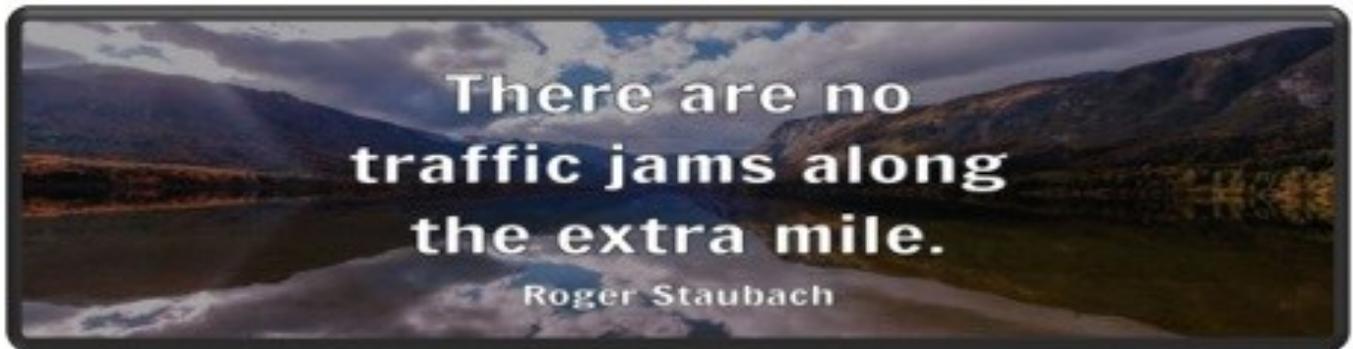
Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight Bob Budd

Legion of Mary

President Maude Cassagnol





Our Rosary path is a great place for us to pray, and with the passing of time comes the need to Refresh or replace the elements that have become tired or end of life.

With your donations We are going to Refresh the fading images of the stations of cross with Brass images that will stand up to the brutal Florida sun

**Donation \$1,000.00 Per station
(14 Available)**

***Includes a Leaf on our Tree**

Our existing Wooden Benches have served us well , but are now so deteriorated they must be replaced.

We will be installing **6' Aluminium Benches**. Constructed entirely with lightweight, corrosion resistant aluminum materials and protected in a resilient powder-coating finish, these popular imported benches are long lasting and tough as nails



Sometimes when things are falling apart, they may actually be falling into place. Stay positive.

**Donation \$2,000.00 Per Bench
(18 Available)**

***Includes a Leaf on our Tree**

Get both the Bench & Station of the cross for a \$2,500.00 Donation.
Donations received before the new year will enable work to be complete for Lent 2025

Contact Jerome Plummer 561-247-5448 or email at jp@bcs1.net

PARISH REGULAR SCHEDULE

TAIZÉ PRAYER

Every Friday at 6:30pm–7:30pm (after 6:00pm Mass) except for First Fridays.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Every Thursday after the 8:30am mass or call the parish office

BAPTISMS

Sundays at 1:00pm. Schedule one month in advance. Contact Parish Office.

WEDDINGS

Contact Deacon Tony at least 6 months in advance

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

5:00pm Vigil Mass
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm

GIFT SHOP

Monday & Wednesday 8am-1:00pm

Tuesday Closed

Thursday & Friday 8am-1pm

Saturday Closed

4th Sunday of the Month 10:00AM- 1:30PM

NOTE: Gift shop will be closed when the parish office is closed

ROSARY GROUP

Monday–Friday after the 7:30am Daily Mass

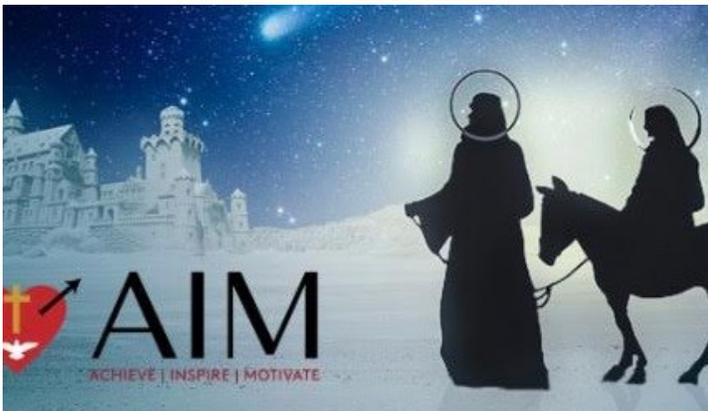
RECONCILIATION

Saturday after the 8:30am Mass

SCHEDULE CHANGES?

Do you want to make sure there have been no sudden time changes to any event or activity you want to join this week? Call the parish office during business hours.

561.496.2480



PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Jan. 06

6:30A..... Adoration
1:00P.....Movie Mondays
6:00P.....Legion of Mary Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 07

6:30A.....Adoration
10:00A.....Faith Sharing
6:30P.....Ladies Guild Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 08

6:30A.....Adoration
2:00P.....School of Christian Formation
4:00P.....SoulCore

Thursday, Jan. 09

6:30A..... Adoration
9:00A.....Anointing of the Sick
3:00P.....Holy Hour
6:30P.....AA Meeting

Friday, Jan. 10

6:30A.....Adoration
6:30P.....Taize

Saturday, Jan. 11

9:00A..... Confession
9:00A.....Lay Cistercians Meeting
9:00A.....Morning of Reflection

Sunday, Jan. 12

9:00A.....Ladies Guild Mass
1:00P..... OCIA Class
1:00P.....Per-Baptism Class

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY Star For All Seasons

The word MAGI comes from the original Greek text which calls them magoi. Most likely they were from Persia or Babylon and were priests of the Zoroastrian religion known for their wisdom and their ability to interpret dreams and astrological phenomena.

In our gospel reading today, God used a special and unusual star which twinkled across the heavens, drawing the magi from the east, all the way to Jerusalem.

The perseverance of the magi inspires us on our long journey from this life to the kingdom. We can easily see God's presence in our good fortune and successes, but we feel abandoned by him in our times of trials and failures. On this feast of Epiphany, we are reminded that even in the trying moments of our existence, God's love is beaming.

Like a star, though seemingly absent during storms and cloudy nights, it remains firm and shining. Like a star, though invisible during the day, it comes visibly bright in the dark times of our life.

The magi reacted with joy and adoration when the star finally led them to the presence of the child Jesus. These people of knowledge and stature were filled with reverent worship as they prostrated themselves before the king of kings. They were people who sought faithfully the light of truth and once they found it, they humbly submitted themselves to it.

We are the modern day magi following the light of the gospel that will eventually bring us to the fullness of Jesus. We look with the eyes of faith, sustained with hope, that on our pilgrimage in this life, God's love endures until the end. Let us also pray that we too may become stars to other people, that through our word and example, we can animate them to follow Jesus - Fr. Zamora

Saint of the Week - Saint André Bessett (August 9, 1845 - January 6, 1937)

Brother André expressed a saint's faith by a lifelong devotion to Saint Joseph. Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War. At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!" When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread.

When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick peo-

ple to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and planted medals of Saint Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying Saint Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92.

He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."

Reflection. Rubbing ailing limbs with oil or a medal? Planting a medal to buy land? Isn't this superstition? Aren't we long past that superstitious people rely only on the "magic" of a word or action. Brother André's oil and medals were authentic sacramentals of a simple, total faith in the Father who lets his saints help him bless his children.

CLERGY & MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan. 06

7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Carr

Tuesday, Jan. 07

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Timothy

Wednesday, Jan. 08

7:30A Fr. Carr 8:30A Fr. Leone

Thursday, Jan. 09

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Timothy

Friday, Jan. 10

7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Timothy
6:00P Fr. Theo

Saturday, Jan. 11

8:30A Fr. Zamora
4:00P Fr. Timothy 5:30P Fr. Timothy

Sunday, Jan. 12

7:30A Fr. Carr 9:00A Fr. Carr
10:00A Fr. Zamora 10:30A Fr. Leone
12:00P Fr. Theo 6:00P Fr. Theo

DSA UPDATE – Dec 5, 2024

Goal Amount \$ 169,000.00

Current Don Total... \$ 133,706.98

Balance Rem..... \$ 35,293.02

CHURCH OFFERINGS

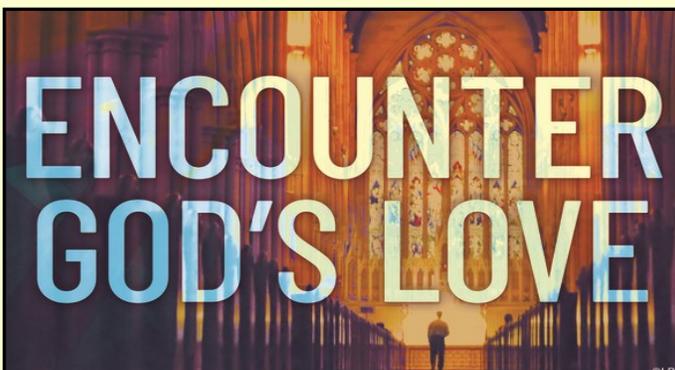
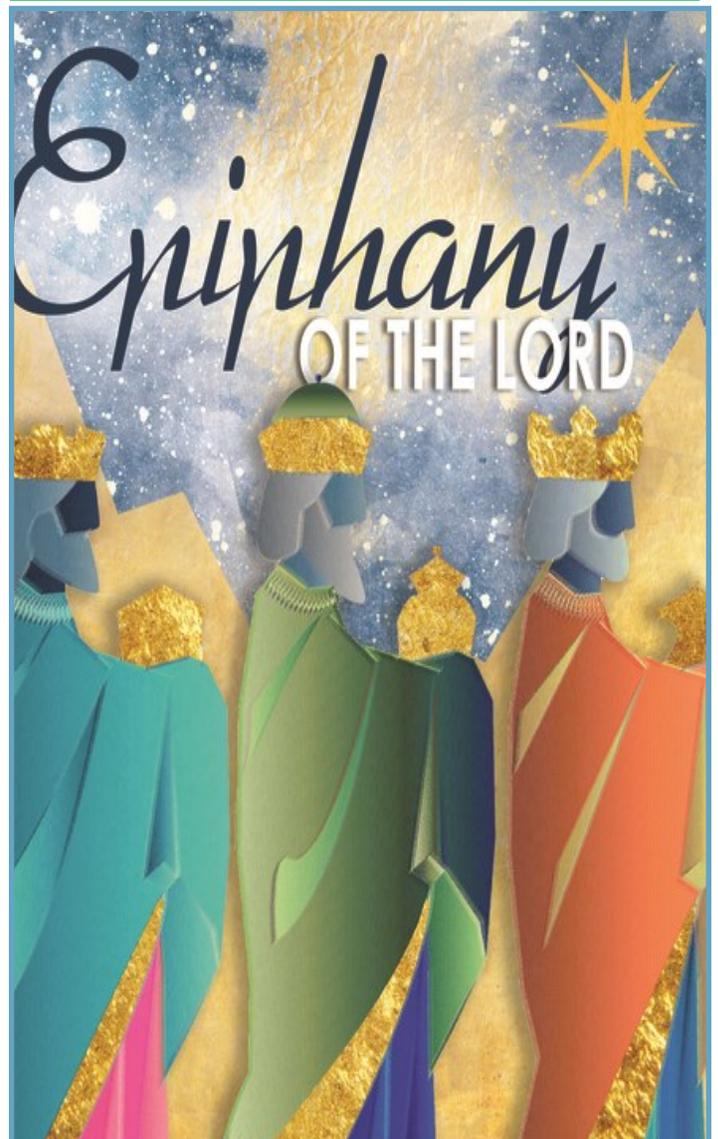
December 22, 2024

First Collection \$ 13,281.00

Second Collection \$ 2,338.00

Subtotal..... \$ 15,619.00

Online (12/21)..... \$ 2,440.08



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

JANUARY 6--JANUARY 12, 2025 | 07

SCHEDULED INTENTIONS

Monday, Jan. 06

7:30am †Luz Marina Cuellar by Genesis Cuellar †Samuel Gonzales by Family
8:30am †Marie Olivier by Cassagnol Family *Evelyn Carducci by Son

Tuesday, Jan. 07

7:30am †Evelyn Carducci Capalbi by Son †Francisco Cuevas by Bob Budd
8:30am †Levy Compas by Wife Cecile †Ronnie Celestial by Sister

Wednesday, Jan. 08

7:30am †Arthur Caraccia by Ted & Fran Souza *Richmond Family by Alex Lee
8:30am †Anthony & Frances Ivancich by Eva Marcou †Evelyn Carducci Capalbi by Son

Thursday, Jan. 09

7:30am †John & Mary Mottola by Ted & Fran Souza †James Cassidy by Bob Budd
8:30am †Paul Schugsta by Patricia King †Evelyn Carducci Capalbi by Son

Friday, Jan. 10

7:30am †Concetta Caraccia by Ted & Fran Souza †Jennifer Corey Smith by Mom & Dad
8:30am *Carol Buerkert by Clara Depko †Nancy Hynes by Sr. Barbara
6:00pm **FOR PRIESTS** **FOR PRIESTS**

Saturday, Jan. 11

8:30am †Darlene Harris by Christine & John †Patricia Ann Buchan by Gallegos Family
4:00pm **BOOK OF THE DEAD** **BOOK OF THE DEAD**
5:30pm †Steven Evanicki by Louise Leslie †Diego Messina by Family

Sunday, Jan. 12

7:30am †Agnes Verlander by Donna & Jimmy *Erika Contreras by Luis Prieto
†Regina Scheffer by Barbara Franzese
9:00am *Ladies Guild by Ladies Guild *†Facciuto Family by Theresa Facciuto
10:30am **PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS** **PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS**
12:00pm †Johanna, Gary, Agnes & Herbert Foley by Kevin Foley †Manuel Diego Buriel by Herb
6:00pm †Bob & Carol Gleason by Kathleen Sullivan †Frank Rufa by Wife

UNSCHEDULED

*Kelly Villanti by Maureen Villanti *Maureen Villanti by Maureen Villanti
†Agnes & John Bedner by Maureen Villanti
†Richard Villanti by Maureen Villanti †Souls in Purgatory by Maureen Villanti
†Souls in Purgatory by Maureen Villanti
*Sean & April Villanti by Maureen Villanti †Belgica Rocha by Herb

ALTAR FLOWERS

VIGIL LIGHTS

SHRINE FLOWERS

Please take some time this week to remember the following in your prayers: For all in our parish family who are suffering serious or terminal illness:

For men and women in the Armed Forces, and their families: AND FOR ALL LISTED BELOW

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| David & John
Helen Cruz
Lenore Curatolo
Marilyn Boyle
Andrea Anastasi
Shelly Fiorini
Ed Bush
Bob Oberholzer
John Wilkens
Scott Ellison
<i>Evangeline Ezeilo</i>
Michael Gehres
Karen Sullivan
Sean Zahul
Darren Guzman
Mary Lou
<i>Connie Panepinto</i>
Amalia Mazzolin
Leon Martin
Joe Delagami
<i>Rose Marie Regner</i>
Michael Manuele
Carla Ruiz
Benjamin Robelo
Karen McCarty
T.J. Genzale
Dave Ruiz
Victoria Robelo
Ms. S.
Rose Borsella
Lexie Helgerson
David Smeraldo
Janette Cole
<i>Steven Martin Sikes</i>
Gianna Pagan
Suzanne Puleo
<i>Sr. Frances Vass OSC</i>
Mary Loveland
Sam Falcone
Patricia Golstein
Taylor Dosh
Marilyn Martino
Gulshan Modena
Maggie Dolan
<i>Amelita Coz-Zarraga</i>
Heather Martin
Tailor McGee
Ronald Griffiths
Margie Giaquinto
Maria Fernandez
Raphael Roman
James Ezeilo | Brenda Ezeilo
Cynthia Martin
Francis Martin
Hermoine D'Cruz
Brigitte Knops
Toni Kreamer
Gerry Gerhard
Euclides Cerutti
Grace Cassagnol
Samuel Gonzales
Victorio
Ray Wolff
<i>Patricia Tripi Giraldo</i>
Ida Giannettina
Tom Hickey
Josette Weber
Vincent Rizzo
Louis Perticone
Ann Cavaseno
Charles C. Tufano
Angela Discepola
Anna Halford
Sal Yanello
Victor Rivera
William Lindner
Lisa Della
Femina
<i>Maria E. Quiñones-Mercado</i>
Diane Daniels
Carmen Jones
Bill Hamilton
Ralph Senese
Ramona
Ash Gaballah
Karen Ramey
Tom Tripi
Mary Ann
Lisa Payne
Marilyn Green
<i>Joseph Salamone</i>
Slayder
Salamone
Phyllis Lomitola
Maria Amaro
Aniela Ignaczak
Lillian Campayno
Terry Schwinge
Tom D'Amico
Gabriel Zamora
Vincent Blum
Ricardo Blum
<i>Gina Marie B. Cohen</i>
David Strompf | Sal Hanono
Chris Angotti
Heather Smith
Jason Smith
Ronald Merhige
Roshan
Karen Jensen
Cynthia Martin
Garry Solomon
Ilda Sosa Botero
Carlos Tobon
Jill Forshey
Gerry Santilli
Gail Hill
Chrissie Budrick
Frank Dazzo
Dina Quelch
Stewart Librizzi
Thomas Land
Dorinda Johansson
Agatha Saccio
Robert Albertson
Rafael Botero
Albert Fernandes
Doreen Romano
Britney Closson
Jeanette Gallegos
Adriana Elejalde
<i>Oswaldo Cesar Monasterio</i>
Michael Cecere
Jahaziel Roldan
Abigail Chin-Lenn
<i>Gertrudis Rivera Martinez</i>
Merrill Tucker
Debra Tucker
Maggie Dazzo
Nicholas Cerino
Daisey Gutzman
Noah Altherios
Debra Serritella
Harvey Shackman
Joseph Reategui
Anthony Spirito
Rhea
Raecher
Doug Rodgers
Doris Vourinen
Sister Veronique
DCSO
Noah Lauria
Danny Berciles
<i>Elizabeth Lanza-Hajko</i>
Eleanor Hemmer |
|---|---|---|

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION . Lord, I believe and profess that You are truly Christ, Son of the Living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Accept me this day as I partake of your mystical supper, O Son of God. May the partaking of your holy mysteries, O Lord be not for judgment or condemnation, but for the healing of body and soul. I also believe and profess that this, which I am about to receive, is truly your most precious Body and Blood, which, I pray, make me worthy to receive for the remission of all my sins and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS. Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come follow Me! Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to your voice. Support our bishops, priests and consecrated people in their apostolic labor. Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to your service. Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness. Lord, send your workers to your harvest and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors, missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel. Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen.

**SATURDAY
11 JANUARY
8 AM - 1:30 PM**

**REGISTRATION OPEN
MEN'S
RALLY**

**TICKETS
\$50**

**FR. MICHAEL
SCHMITZ**

**NATHAN
CRANKFIELD**

**BISHOP
GERALD
BARBARITO**

**Register
Now!**

CATHOLICMENFORJESUSFLORIDA.COM

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

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 copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the
gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The news of the Messiah unsettled Herod.
We see his anxiety clearly in today's
Gospel. This is what Christ has come to
do, after all. He has come to shake things
up. Are we ready to be unsettled?

Observances for the week of January 5, 2025

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Tuesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:
Saturday:
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

REGISTER FOR THE EMMANUEL

OCIA PROGRAM

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a year-long process of prayer, learning, and reflection designed for those seeking to become Catholic, those seeking the sacrament of Confirmation, and for those simply exploring the Catholic faith. It is open to all adults ages 18+.

Classes are held on Sunday
afternoons and starts at 1:00
PM

Registration information will
be provided through the parish
office: P561.496.2480

Answers to specific questions will be given
once we have your contact info.

Deacon Anthony Cuseo is the OCIA Program
Director - P561.496.2480.

Emmanuel Catholic Church
15700 S. Military Trail, Delray Beach, FL 33484
P561.496.2480 F561.496.5755

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.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The journey of the magi would have been treacherous and uncomfortable. Imagine the peace in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them. It can be the same for us.

The Answer

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer.

It should be the same for us.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

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?

Worship & Meditation

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:

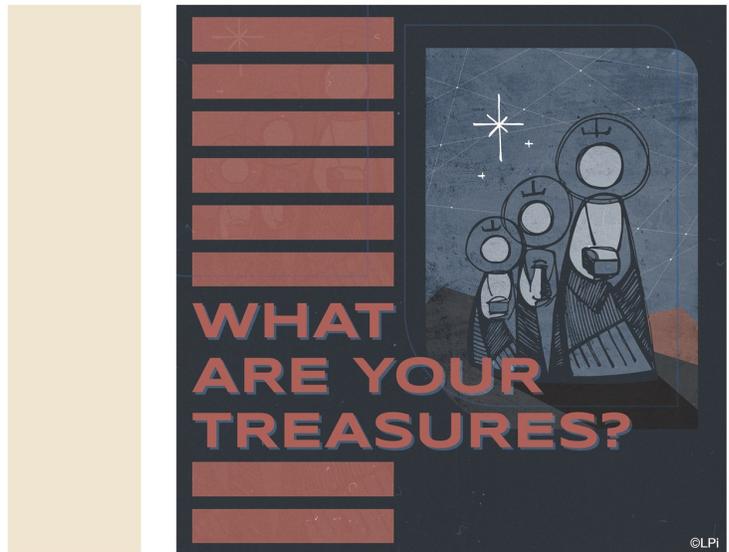
1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 5:12-16

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



Gospel Meditation

Seek a deeper understanding of Scripture

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

PRACTICING CHRISTIAN

FIND GOD IN ORDINARY MOMENTS

THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure – but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals – Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

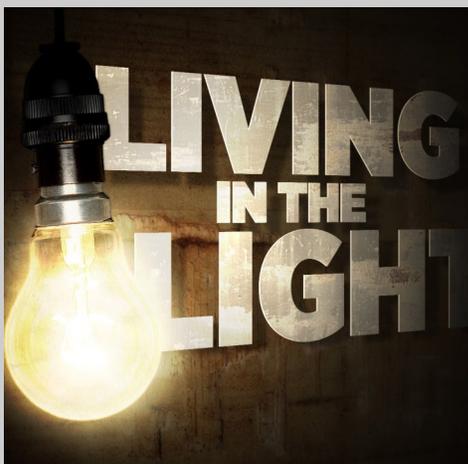
That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

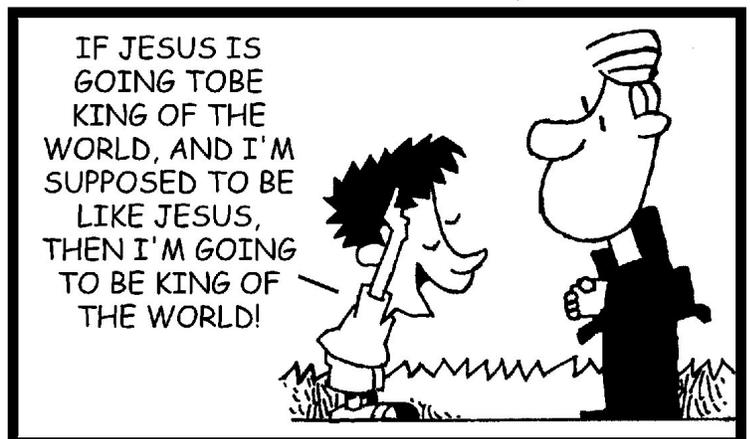
Remember – the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star. – *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

©LPI



A registration poster for a "MEN'S RALLY" event. At the top left is a large black cross. In the top right corner, a dark blue box contains the text "SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 8 AM - 1:30 PM". Below this is the logo for "JESUS CHRIST Florida" featuring a cross and a blue banner. The main text reads "REGISTRATION OPEN MEN'S RALLY" with "RALLY" in a large, stylized, orange font. A blue starburst graphic contains the text "TICKETS \$50". Below this are three circular portraits of speakers: Fr. Michael Schmitz, Nathan Crankfield, and Bishop Gerald Barbarito. At the bottom, it says "Register Now!" and "CATHOLICMENFORJESUSFLORIDA.COM" next to a QR code.

EPIPHANY



If GOD will put this much detail into a snowflake, what makes you think YOUR LIFE is any less important?



THANK YOU!

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." PROVERBS 11:25
Many families were blessed this Christmas by your generosity of gifts and gift cards for our **Giving Tree**. We received heartfelt messages of great thanks and gratitude from our families which we extend on to you.



**FAMILY SUNDAY JAN. 12TH
INCLUDING SOCCER & BASKETBALL
CHALLENGE SPONSORED BY THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Inviting all families to save the date for our annual Holy Family celebration **January 12th 2025**. The Knights of Columbus will host their annual Soccer and Basketball challenge. Registration forms to participate in the challenge can be obtained in the office. The family day festivities will begin after CCD Classes as follows: **Grades K-5th challenge will begin at 11:30am. Grades 6th-12th 1:00-2:30pm**

Food and family games will be provided throughout the event in the pavilion.



**BELIEVE *like* MARY
TRUST *like* JOSEPH
HOPE *like* SHEPHERDS
SEEK *like* WISE MEN
WORSHIP *like* ANGELS
LOVE *like* JESUS**





Join Us for a
Communion Breakfast...

Meditations on the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Join us at the 8:30AM Mass followed by a breakfast of eggs, sausage, hash browns, assorted danish and more in Columbus Hall. Fr. Timothy Canaan will offer a meditation on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There is no charge. Please sign up at the church office or the back of church. — **All Are Welcome!**

**Sponsored by Emmanuel Church and
The Knights of Columbus**

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