

St. Joseph Parish

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021



*Behold, the star that they had seen
at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over
the place where the child was.*

Matthew 2:9

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Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

Suspended till further notice

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

8:30 a.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 am

Come Join Us

Reconciliation

Saturdays

4:00-4:45pm

By the East Church Door
parking lot

Eucharistic Adoration

No Adoration till
further notice due to
Covid-19





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IN A NUTSHELL

When I tell a story, I have a friend who prefers the “nutshell version” first. After that she’ll listen to me ramble, but she wants to know the main point right off the bat. When reading and hearing Sunday scriptures one may often find the nutshell by looking at the responsorial psalm or the Gospel acclamation. From Psalm 72 we hear “Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” The verse for the Gospel acclamation is Matthew 2:2 “We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” As a weary world, we need to see the light, to follow with our actions and our words. This is the same hope that is echoed in Isaiah 60:2 “See, darkness covers the earth, / and thick clouds cover the peoples; / but upon you the LORD shines, / and over you appears his glory.” Don’t give up, friends. You must shine!

SEARCHING

In Matthew’s Gospel today we see two extremely different perspectives, two different reasons for searching for Jesus. In some ways, this resembles the polarization of our nation in today’s time. What one group sees as good for the nation, those with opposing views think will wreck the country. The Magi were astrologers who saw a vision in the sky and were trying to find a way to follow it and discover the new king of the Jews. Herod heard about this king, and his reaction was dark and negative. He saw the birth of such a king as a threat to his power as the Roman leader of the country and wanted the Magi to pass on to him what they knew about this Christ child. Similarly, on a more personal level, we can either feel threatened or excited by changes that may come, depending on our perspective.

GIVING HOMAGE

In our minds, it is easy to mix up bits and pieces from Luke’s account of the shepherds coming to see Jesus in the stable and the story of the magi. Clearly, it has taken the magi time to get here, and the reading speaks of them coming to the house where the star led them. Nevertheless, they “prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures . . .”

How do we do this? Do we continue looking for Jesus, even if it takes a while and he is not where we expect to see him? Are we paying attention to the signs showing us the way? What gifts do we have with which to pay him homage? After seeing him, the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back the way they came. But if we have seen the Christ child, how can we go back to where we were? We must continue to respond to God’s call to move forward and grow in our lives. We must seek the right and just path and turn away from the “Herods” and inherent evils in our life.

Nutshell: Seek God. Pay homage. Amen.

TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 60:1–6
Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13
Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6
Matthew 2:1–12

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Dear Parish Family:

Happy New Year!! As we welcome 2021, may this New Year be filled with light, hope and peace. As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, we meet the Magi, the three wise men who went on an arduous journey. Following the star, they met and adored the Christ child lying in a manger. After presenting their gifts to the Lord they returned home by another route. After the Magi encountered Christ, their lives were changed forever. Like all of the characters in the Bethlehem story, the Magi went home, the Angels returned to Heaven and the Shepherds went back to tending their flocks. They carried with them the Christ, and they were all moved to go forward and do the work of Christmas.

May our mission in this New Year be to do the work of Christmas: to make room for Jesus Christ in our lives and to live His command to love God and love neighbor!

Epiphany Blessings,
Msgr. Kevin



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The Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 2021

All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.

— *Psalm 72:11*

Ministries

Did you know?

How the ADLA can help victim-survivors heal

When the Vatican released the McCarrick Report late last year, many victim-survivors of sexual abuse may have been triggered by the revelations in the report and the repeated mention of it in the news and on social media. In the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Office of Victims Assistance Ministry was created to provide a safe and compassionate environment for victim-survivors who need to report abuse to be able to do so, and to receive assistance for healing. For more information about these resources, visit <https://lacatholics.org/departments-ministries/protecting-children/>.

Meditation Group

St. Joseph's Meditation Group now meets as a Zoom meeting every Tuesday at 7:00PM. No prior experience is necessary and newcomers are welcome to experience both the prayerful and calming benefits of this ancient Christian practice.

For more information and to receive the Zoom log on information, please contact group leader, Frank McKown, at frmckown@gmail.com or 310-633-1744.

Movement for a Better World

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." 1 John 3:18.

Holiday Food and Gift Distribution:

Our heartfelt gratitude to the parish, especially those who directly assisted in serving 79 families, including 225 children for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Over \$11,000 in Skip-a-Meal donations contributed to the food and grocery gift cards provided. Please be especially mindful of Skip-a-Meal donations during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

March: Children's Book Drive: Collecting new and gently used reading books for the children of our supported families for Easter. Details are forthcoming.

March 27: Easter Food & Reading Book

Distribution: We will support 79 families in need! We are assessing our COVID-prudent options for inviting parishioner assistance.

Special Needs Ministry: We have an active ministry of providing essential living needs (refrigerators, stoves, beds, etc.) to families in need. May we add you to our e-mail distribution for news about items needed? Can you help (time or vehicle) to transfer items to families in need?

Please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385

Social Ministry



Esther Ministry

Save the date!
for the
2021 Walk for Freedom to End Human Trafficking!
Saturday, January 9 (9-10:30am). Sign up today
and
receive updates and reminders
2021LAwalkforfreedom.eventbrite.com.



Amazon Smile – is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. Joseph Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to St. Joseph Church as your favorite charitable organization.

All you have to do is designate us -
St. Joseph Catholic Church of Long Beach
- Please remember to shop at
smile.amazon.com

Book Club



Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday,
January 13, 2021 at 7pm.

We will discuss [Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The book is about plants and botany as seen through Native American traditions and Western scientific traditions; a journey that is every bit as mystical as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical. All are welcome.



Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, Theophany, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of “chalking the doors.”

The formula for the ritual adapted for 2021 is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home:
20 + C + M + B + 21.

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, **Christus mansionem benedicat**: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “21” at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein