

St. Joseph Parish

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022



*They opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Matthew 2:11

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 for lunch)

stjosephlb.org

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Baptism Preparation	Brenda Pineda	(562) 594-4657
Director of Music	Vivian Doughty	(562) 594-4657
Eucharistic Ministry	Michelle Reyes	<i>emohcschedule@gmail.com</i>
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Esther Ministry	Virginia Young	<i>estherministry1@gmail.com</i>
Hospitality Ministry	Deborah Rollinger	(562) 594-4657
Movement For A Better World	Tim Clark	(562) 431-4385
Senior Group	Jan Minter	<i>tchrjan@gmail.com</i>
Knights Of Columbus	Marty Vezzetti	(562) 425-0621
Engaged Encounter	Paciano & Molly Diaz	<i>Ktmr@Sbcglobal.Net</i>
Natural Family Planning	Greg & Beth Gath	(562) 377-5877
Project Achieve	Susie Beeghly	<i>susanbeeghly@yahoo.com</i>
Precious Life Shelter	Cynthia San Jose	<i>csanjoselaw@aol.com</i>
Boy Scouts	Gene Wohlgezogan	(562) 857-3880
Sacristans	Joe Dang	(562) 493-2198

Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Indoor Vigil

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

Outdoors

8:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

10:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

12:30 p.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 a.m. Indoor

Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:45-4:30 p.m.

By the East Church

Door parking lot





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Blessings as we commence a New Year! It was a joy to see so many families come out to celebrate our Christmas Masses. We also prayed with many families on our YouTube Mass. With the surge in coronavirus cases, please be safe and continue to follow all of the safety protocols. May 2022 be the year that this pandemic comes to an end. May the following New Year's prayer fill us with hope for all that the Lord will do for us:

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

*Lord, as a new year begins,
we come to you and ask for your blessing.
We pray that you would give us joy to fill our days,
peace to fill our hearts and love to fill our lives.
Thank you for the plans you have for us in this new year,
we wait in anticipation to see all that you will do.
Bless all of our families,
keep them safe and healthy and
may we trust in your providential care.*

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany this weekend, Epiphany means "Manifestation". May the Lord be manifest in the everyday events in your life during this new year! I'm praying for you and your families that your New Year may be Blessed in every way!

Blessings in this New Year, 2022 Anno Domini,
Msgr. Kevin



The Epiphany of the Lord January 2, 2022

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

— *Isaiah 60:1*



THEY OPENED
THEIR TREASURES
AND OFFERED HIM GIFTS
OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE,
AND MYRRH.

MATTHEW 2:11

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022

GIFTS

Gifts are everywhere at this time of year. Christmas gifts. Hostess gifts. Hidden gifts. Wrong-size gifts. Unexpected gifts. Unwanted gifts. Unreciprocated gifts. And in today's readings we hear about even more gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But we know intuitively (or, one hopes, eventually!) that gifts are symbols of something much deeper and less tangible. The gift of God's Son is, of course, at the heart of our Christmas festivities. We are not—and never—alone, because “God is with us.” (Thus the name Emmanuel.) But wait, that's not all! The liturgy reminds us over and over that this is a “holy exchange.” As Christ came to share in our humanity, we come to share in his divinity. The full significance of that mystery is a gift we have yet to unwrap completely.

WHAT KIND OF GOD IS THIS?

Christmas is a season of abundance. Christmas cookies and carols. Parties and presents. Mangers and mistletoe. The same is true in our church. Within a period of nine days we celebrate Christmas, the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, and today the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Truly an embarrassment of liturgical riches. (And we are not finished yet!)

However, for many people, Christmas is already over. Trees litter the curbside or make their way back to the attic. Presents are put away or returned. We prepare to go back to school or work. But as Christians we have barely dipped our toes into the profound mystery of a God who walks among us. What kind of a God is this whose kingdom is not limited by our borders, fears, expectations, or imaginations? Today's psalm reminds us, “Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” Diversity and inclusion are not new to God's agenda.

TRADITIONS UNCOVER MEANING

Two traditional rituals, one liturgical and one domestic, help underline the meaning of the Epiphany. The Proclamation of the Date of Easter is an option for inclusion at Mass today. This text which formally announces the dates of the upcoming major feast days reminds us that Christmas is best honored in the context of the whole story of salvation that culminates in Easter. Or as writer Nathan Mitchell reflects, the wood of the crib becomes the wood of the cross.

The second tradition connected to Epiphany is the blessing of the door of one's home with chalk. It includes a prayer for protection for all who enter therein. One explanation of this tradition ties it to the Passover in the Book of Exodus: the marking of the doorposts with the blood of the lamb kept the Israelites safe. This tradition too offers a connection between Christmas and Easter.

As we continue to mine the richness of this season we hum along with the angels, *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

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



Safeguard The Children



Online safety review for the new year

Take some time this month to review your family’s online safety. Make sure you have strong passwords in place, and that your security settings are updated. Check where you have passwords stored as well — children who are tech savvy can easily access inappropriate materials on smart TVs and devices where passwords do not have to be entered. Consider installing accountability software on any devices that your children access. Software like Covenant Eyes or other options can keep your child from visiting any inappropriate or forbidden sites. For more tips, request a copy of the VIRTUS® article “Revisit Online Safety Practices” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.

★

Epiphany House Blessing

C+M+B+2022

The numbers represent the New Year
2 meanings for C, M, B

↻ (Caspar) (Melchior) & (Balthasar) ↻
traditional names for the magi

"CHRISTUS MANSIONEM BENEDICAT"
which in Latin means
"MAY CHRIST BLESS THIS HOUSE"

*The "+" signs represent the cross
and 2022 is the year of the blessing.*



Movement For A Better World

“True charity requires courage: let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help those in need.” Pope Francis

Christmas Food and Gift Distribution: Our most sincere THANK YOU to everyone that helped with, and contributed blessings and hope to families in need: deliveries to 103 families, 2 or more gifts to over 200 children, \$6,700 Skip-a-Meal purchases and transportation of over 4,000 lbs. of food, School food drive. It was an awesome display of the will and blessings of our parish to make a difference in the lives of so many Long Beach families!

Home Furnishing Special Needs: Our Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution angels provided feedback of almost 100 basic home furnishing items in need by our supported families; refrigerator repairs, beds, tables, dressers, immanent loss of utility service, etc. We have begun to fulfill these needs as a parish. Are you able to help us in this urgent ministry? Please call Tim Clark to learn about the types of opportunities, (562) 431-4385.

Skip-a-Meal Donations: Please be especially mindful during the holiday season when our needs are greatest. For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call Tim Clark.

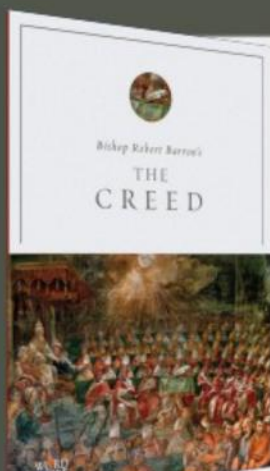
EPIPHANY PRAYER

"Breathe upon us gracious God, I pray, and show us this day Your Star which you did once show to the Magi, that as it formerly guided them to Christ, so, it may lead us to the Mysteries of Christ."



Bishop Robert Barron's newest study program

THE CREED



Recent decades have witnessed a surge of the religiously unaffiliated, especially among young people. Many former believers have simply turned their backs on Christianity and no longer accept its teachings. But what are those teachings?

In *The Creed*, a new film series blending documentary conversations and dynamic talks, Bishop Robert Barron guides viewers into the depths of the Nicene Creed, a fourth-century statement of faith that has profoundly influenced Christian spirituality, theology, and liturgy in both the East and West.

Explore the meaning of “belief” and whether it contradicts reason; the creative love of God the Father; the shocking mystery of his Son’s Incarnation, and the great drama of his Crucifixion and Resurrection; the life-giving power of the *Spiritus Sanctus*, or “holy breath,” shared between them; and the mystical reality of the Church, which calls all of humanity out of the world of sin to receive forgiveness and participate in Christ’s divinity—not only in the next world but here and now.

The keys that unlock the beliefs of the Christian Faith are stated succinctly in the Nicene Creed, which we pray at every Sunday Mass. Born at the Council of Nicaea in the Fourth Century after intense debates, this formal statement of faith is the foundation of both eastern and western Christianity. And to this day, most Christians around the world would subscribe to it.

Please join us as we explore the Creed with Bishop Robert Barron in a new study beginning Thursday, January 13 at 7:00pm. To register, please email mike@stjosephlb.org or text 562-370-0769 to reserve your materials. The cost for the study materials is \$15. Registration is open until Friday, January 7th so please reserve your seat and materials as soon as possible. Sessions will be held using Zoom and the details will be provided to those registered prior to starting.

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