
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

EPIPHANY

Reading I: Isaiah 60: 1-6

God radiates light inside the city, so darkness surrenders, so to speak, in Jerusalem. All the nations come together to rebuild the city, including people associated with Abraham from the Arabian Peninsula.

Reading II: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Paul's great insight into the mystery of Christ is that He wills the Gentile nations to be full participants in the Church. Its very foundation is based on Christ and the prophets and especially the Apostles.

The Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-2

The Magi were a group who did things like interpret dreams - or work in astrology and magic. Later tradition made them kings. Above all, they represent the Gentile world coming to Christ. Their gifts have meaning: Gold represents kingship, incense divinity and myrrh suffering. Or they can be interpreted Virtue, Prayer and Suffering.

MASS INTENTIONS

Solemnity of Mary

5 p.m. Dec. 31: Jack Hoag, Fr. Pat McGuigan,
Ray Davis and Tom Fay

10 a.m. Jan. 1: Asumpta Clara Vulaj, Jon Van Tassel
and the Ryan, Borst & Costello Families

First Weekend of 2021

5 p.m.: Yvonne Ramos, Eugenia Kania,
Eamon Walsh and Raymond Foos

10 a.m.: Bernie Laurenzi, Chuck Saleski, Luka Vulaj
and Carolyn Bender

THIS WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24: **52**

8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24: **34**

10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 25: **17**

5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26: **36**

10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27: **56** in the church;
12 in the hall

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dec. 20-27: Totaled \$ 6,750.08

Envelopes: \$ 4,390.00 – Online: \$ 2,360.08

Christmas to date: \$7,643.00

Envelopes: \$6,808.00 – Online: \$ 835.00

THANK YOU!

GIFTS FIT FOR A KING

The word Epiphany means an illuminating discovery, realization or disclosure, and this is exactly what the Magi encountered when they journeyed to Bethlehem. The Epiphany completes the Christmas story; for without the Magi coming from distant lands, the birth of Christ might have only been known to the locals of Judea.



The Magi made the Epiphany a universal event. When they arrived, they saw an ordinary baby but "they prostrated themselves and did Him homage." This event was foretold in Psalm 72: "May all kings bow before Him, all nations serve Him."

The Three Wise Men, as the Magi are commonly called, brought three gifts for Jesus: Gold, frankincense (perfume) and myrrh (anointing oil). These are gifts fit for a king, and these three men are acknowledging that the baby in the manger is, indeed, a King.

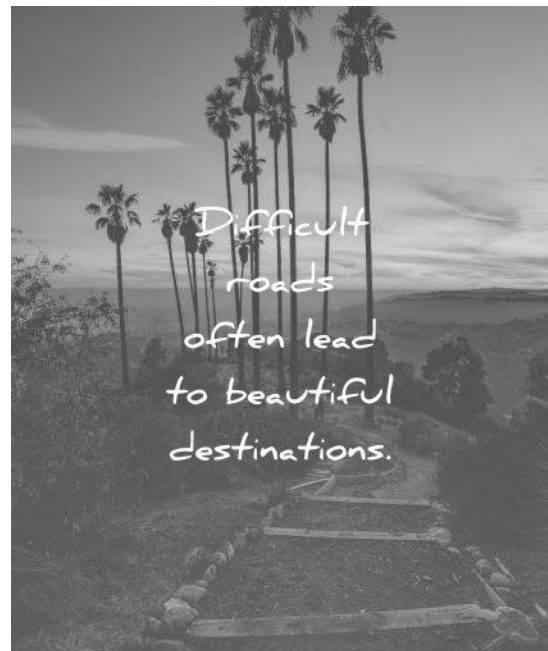
I recently watched a Cary Grant movie titled "The Bishop's Wife" - this is obviously not a Catholic bishop - and something the bishop said struck a chord. His Christmastime homily began with him talking about one empty stocking. He continued that at Christmas, everyone gets gifts; however, there is one empty stocking, the one belonging to Jesus.

That made me think: Here we have Jesus' birthday, and we are all giving each other gifts, which is not a bad thing, but what do we give Jesus? Obviously, He doesn't need any worldly things, so how can we fill His "stocking?"

We can fill it with a love-filled life. We can fill it with our humility and with kindness toward our fellow man. These are the gifts that the Lord would want from us.

Next year, during the hustle and bustle in the weeks leading up to Christmas, try to remember to "purchase" gifts to fill Jesus' stocking. And you won't even have to take out your credit card.

God bless, Deacon Michael



SUNDAY MASS NOW LIVE-STREAMED

Given the success of the live-streaming of the Christmas Masses, which had hundreds of viewers, Fr. Sean and the Parish Council have decided that the 10 a.m. Mass every Sunday will be live-streamed into the safety of your home via the following link, which can be copied into your browser:

<https://www.twitch.tv/10915spmb>

Additionally, it would be really helpful if a few more streaming volunteers could be trained. The more people to rotate into a schedule, the less of a burden it will be. Also, the plan is to eventually stream the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday as well.

The streaming setup is simple and does not require more than a few minutes of training – and no professional background is necessary!

Interested? Let Deb in the office know at 361-3107.

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE

thank you

... for the plethora of presents and gastronomic delights for Fr. Sean, Deacon Carl and Deacon Michael. They are so appreciative of your kindness, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.

thank you

... for your memorial flower donations through which St. Paul's was transformed into a serene place to worship – whether experienced in person this year or via live-stream. As always, we appreciate the

holiday assistance from Tom and Maryann Manza of Manza Family Farms.

thank you

... for all the behind-the-scenes pandemic-planning efforts of the Christian Services Ministry – as well as the donation of all the hams and turkeys by Dom Zigrossi of Heritage Feed. About 160 food baskets were carefully distributed during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

thank you

... to the many volunteers and Reopening Committee responsible for the safe return to Mass following the lockdown that began in March. While practices and procedures continue to evolve, the safety and well-being of our parishioners will always be paramount.

thank you

... again for your generosity. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, the re-imagined Giving Tree brightened Christmas morning for 100 children from St. Simon Stock in the Bronx. Your toy donations filled two boxes in the Marines' Toys for Tots campaign, and our self-funded Prayer Blanket Ministry, which could not hold its bake sales this fall, has been buoyed by your contributions.

thank you

... for you. While it has been a year that defies definition, St. Paul's parishioners are clearly defined by their dedication and compassion. Let's pray that 2021 will come to be defined by a return to more "normal" times with a heightened appreciation for what's truly important.

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE ...

- Who could have anticipated this holiday stall in some of the sorting offices of the U.S. Postal Service? As of bulletin "presstime," we learned that some of you had not received your box of envelopes, which were mailed December 13 and 14. Never fear. They will get to you eventually. In the meantime, a plain envelope will do. Note your envelope number, if you know it. If not, we'll make sure you get proper credit using your last name.
- Speaking of envelopes, there are large white envelopes in the church vestibules as well as on a table outside the kitchen in Deacon John Hall. Inside are the **2021 Catholic Calendars**, donated by Rich Lalli of Gagan Funeral Home.



LOVE IS STRONGER THAN DEATH

God is Spirit and the Source of all love. Our spiritual journey calls us to seek and find this living God of love in prayer, worship, spiritual reading, spiritual mentoring, compassionate service to the poor and good friends. Let us claim the truth that we are loved and open our hearts to receive God's overflowing love poured out for us. And living fully each day, let us share that love in all our wonderful and difficult relationships, responsibilities and passages.

The seeds of death are at work in us, but love is stronger than death. Your death and mine are our final passage, our exodus to the full realization of our identity as God's beloved children and to full communion with the God of Love. Jesus walked the path ahead of us and invites us to choose the same path during our lifetime. He calls to us, "Follow me." He assures us, "Do not be afraid." This is our faith.

-Henri Nouwen Society

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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Larry's Chinese Restaurant & Bar
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Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm; Fri.-Sat. 11am-11pm; Sun. 12 noon-9pm