

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 8, 2023



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

FOCUS: *The Lord shines his light on each of us for the good of all.*

Today's feast illuminates God's particular revelations for the good of all. God chose one nation, the people of Israel, to be a light for all people. God revealed Jesus as king to the Magi in a feast we celebrate today. As God continues to touch and bless each of us, let us consider how his light may shine through us to others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The prophet Isaiah shares a vision of God's light shining upon Jerusalem and drawing nations toward it. Saint Paul writes of God's revelation to the Gentiles as co-heirs of the Gospel. In the Gospel, the Magi seek the king of the Jews and pay homage to the child Jesus.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Laurence O'Brien, George Shuback and Anna Regino

10 a.m.: Jon Van Tassel, Kathleen Francis and the Carrion & Del Pilar families

LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m.: 75
10 a.m.: 110

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE



... for the multitude of gifts – wrapped and spiritual – for Father Sean, Deacon Carl and Deacon Michael. They are overwhelmed by your kindness, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.



... for the now fine-tuned, conductor-like skills of Pam Vogt that pull together our symphony known as "Holiday Baskets." With her deliberate orchestration – and 17 new volunteers who signed up during the recent Ministry Fair – more than 150 holiday food baskets were distributed. Not only do the Christian Services elves fill the boxes, but they assist with shopping for the hundreds and hundreds of pounds of food. And all that food could not be purchased without the assistance of your generous contributions!



...for your memorial flower donations, which cover the cost of the poinsettias, wreaths, lights and whatever else our Art & Environment team envisions to help the church sparkle. That team, by the way, is comprised of Jessica Carpino and Kim Porpora, who trade in their Religious Education hats – and a couple of days off – to decorate our worship space. Also, although under different ownership, the live trees in the vestibules were once again from Manza Family Farms.



...for the gift of music at the Christmas Masses, including the Christmas Eve Youth Choir, all under the direction of Debbe Garry. A round of applause as well for Rebecca Suchy, who had to navigate some tricky scheduling obstacles but still produced another inspirational Christmas Pageant!



... for another successful Virtual Giving Tree that brightened Christmas morning for 101 children, half of whom were referred by local agencies, the other half from our sister parish of St. Simon Stock in the Bronx. Therese Quinn and Mary McCabe make it look easy, but it's an exacting process to keep track of all those angels and gifts – and resolve the inevitable hiccups along the way. And you played your role perfectly, too, by not missing deadline!



... for all of you. St. Paul's would not be the church that people drive past other churches to attend if not for the compassionate people who fill its pews. OK, so maybe the pews aren't quite as filled as they were before the pandemic – but that's not a bad goal to work toward in 2023.

May the New Year be filled with good health, kindness and God's choicest blessings!

EXERCISES FOR SPIRITUAL FITNESS

To mark the Solemnity of Mary and a New Year, in his homily last weekend Deacon Carl asked: "How can we follow Mary's example and prayerfully ponder our past, present and future with God?"

He then referenced the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, who suggested a short daily practice of self-examination as a way to recognize God's handiwork in our lives. The Prayer Card that follows serves as a guide, with the core of the reflection being Steps 3 and 4. We recall, perhaps even hour-by-hour, the many gifts from God, particularly the small ones, that appear throughout the day. We recall, too, and with remorse, the reactions and words that reveal our flaws – and need for God's grace.

For more information, visit:

(<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com>)

the
EXAMEN

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1** Ask God for light.
I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.
- 2** Give thanks.
The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.
- 3** Review the day.
I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.
- 4** Face your shortcomings.
I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.
- 5** Look toward the day to come.
I ask where I need God in the day to come.

Version of the Examen from *A Simple Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Marney © Loyola Press

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TREASURER'S REPORT

December 25-January 1 (Regular Sunday):

Totalled \$ 5,021.53

Envelopes: \$ 2,828.00 – Online: \$ 2,193.53

Solemnity of Mary: \$243

Christmas to date: \$ 12,810.00

THANK YOU!

PARISH MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

With the Financial Report accompanying this bulletin now in hand, you have a clear understanding of the importance of next Sunday's meeting. It will take place in Deacon John Hall right after the 10 o'clock Mass. You will also have the opportunity to get information about WeShare.

*“Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder
at what they see:
heaven on earth,
earth in heaven,
man in God,
God in man,*

*one whom the whole universe cannot contain
now enclosed in a tiny body.*

*As they look, they believe and do not question,
as their symbolic gifts bear witness:*

*incense for God,
gold for a king,
myrrh for one who is to die.”*

-St. Peter Chrysologus (406-450)



BOOK CLUB'S NEXT GOOD READ

Kat Armas, a second-generation Cuban American and author of “**Abuelita Faith**,” grew up on the outskirts of Miami's Little Havana neighborhood. Her earliest theological formation came from her grandmother, her abuelita, who fled Cuba during the height of political unrest and raised three children alone after her husband died – thus illuminating the book's subtitle: "What women on the margins teach us about wisdom, persistence and strength."

The author combines personal storytelling with biblical reflection, weaving her own journey of faith and resistance with unsung female characters from the Bible. By exploring this intersection of women, Scripture and Cuban identity, Armas illustrates how those often dismissed and oppressed because of gender, socioeconomic status or lack of education have invaluable lessons about following God.

The book can be purchased from Amazon (\$15.29) and other book sellers. The first session will take place from 10-11:15 a.m. this Tuesday, **January 10** at which time Chapters 1-3 will be discussed.

