



“ THEY PROSTRATED
THEMSELVES AND
DID HIM HOMAGE.
THEN THEY OPENED
THEIR TREASURES
AND OFFERED HIM
GIFTS OF GOLD,
FRANKINCENSE,
AND MYRRH. ”

MATTHEW 2:11



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Mass Intentions
 for the Week
©JFPC

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
 JANUARY 6, 2019**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

The Mass of Anticipation for the Epiphany
 4:00PM Paul Cienki—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

The Epiphany of the Lord
 7:30 AM Dorothy Van Fechtmann—Memorial
 9:00 AM Thomas Cavanagh—8th Anniversary
 10:30AM Louis Pelletier & Nelson Silva, Sr. —Memorial
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

Christmas Weekday; St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest
 7:30AM Lillian E. Healey—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

Christmas Weekday
 7:30AM Erica Claire Rose—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Christmas Weekday
 7:30AM Robert Esposito—Memorial

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Christmas Weekday
 7:30AM Dina Coelho—Memorial

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
 7:30AM Paul Cienki—Memorial

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Christmas Weekday
 8:30AM Special Intention

The Mass of Anticipation for the Baptism of the Lord
 4:00PM Ellen Simms—8th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

The Baptism of the Lord
 7:30 AM Carole A Estabrooks—Memorial
 9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 10:30AM Bernard St. Jean—Memorial
 5:00PM Eric Bruce Peterson—Birthday Remembrance





Dear Parishioners:

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany this weekend. We commemorate the arrival of the Magi, who came from the East to worship the newborn King of the Jews and universal Savior, and to offer him symbolic gifts.

With their act of adoration, the Magi testify that Jesus came to earth to save not just one people, but all peoples. Therefore, in today's feast our gaze widens to the horizon of the whole world to celebrate the "manifestation" of the Lord to all people, that is, the manifestation of God's love and universal salvation.

The word epiphany etymologically comes from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning "manifestation." It has come to refer to the feast celebrating the visit of the "wise men from the East" to the Christ Child, recounted in Matthew's Gospel.

And yet, what a mystery that the epiphany of God — his manifestation — is hidden behind the tiny fingers and toes of an infant, who was born in a stable on Christmas Day. From the beginnings of Christianity, saints and scholars have considered the richness of this mystery.

Saint Peter Chrysologus wrote in the 5th Century: "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."

On the Epiphany there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of the moveable feasts of the coming year. The proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts on Epiphany dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date.

Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, the Epiphany proclamation still has value. It is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith which are celebrated each year. It is often sung in proclamation at the Masses on Epiphany Sunday.

For the year 2019 it reads: "Know, dear brothers and sisters, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the Sixth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the Twenty-first day of April you will celebrate with Joy Easter Day, the feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the Thirtieth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the Ninth day of June, the feast of Pentecost. On the Twenty-third day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the First Day of December, the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is

honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

This year Lent begins in March and Easter is in late April! So be sure to mark your calendars accordingly. Last weekend we distributed our beautiful parish calendar. I hope its placed in a prominent place in your home or office.

We are most grateful to Betsy Caparco Harris and Deborah Caparco Runshe of the Hill Funeral Home for once again donating the calendars to OLM. If you did not get one yet please look in the Church vestibule for them. Feel free to take one for a friend, family member or neighbor who is shut-in and cannot get to Mass.

Pope Francis speaks of this Feast of the Epiphany as the journey of a soul toward an encounter with Christ. The Magi, the Pontiff tells us, "are attentive to the signs that point to his presence; untiring in facing the difficulties of the search; courageous in dealing with the consequences that come from their encounter with the Lord. This is what Christian life is, a journey, but also being attentive, untiring and courageous."

On this Epiphany may we continue to follow the Magi. May we too always be attentive to Christ in our lives, untiring in spreading the Good News of Christ and courageous in bearing witness to Christ. A Blessed Epiphany! Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey



How long does Christmas Last?

When it comes to celebration, festivity, holiday, and the like, the Church always wants us to know that there is more. For instance, Christmas day is not really one day of joy, celebration, and leisure, but eight days. This means that December 25th is Christmas day; December 26th is Christmas day, and so on. In Her liturgy, during the octave, every day is treated the same as on December 25th. This means that all the prayers are repeated. I am sure kids would love to know this, since in their minds that would mean Santa would come eight times! The “octave” of Christmas ends on the eighth day after Christmas, which is January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The end of the octave is the capstone which ties together all the different aspects of the mystery of the Incarnation. Interestingly in the older tradition Christmas season (or Christmastide) lasted until the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.

The Church has octaves for several historical, liturgical, philosophical, and spiritual reasons. Historically the eight days can be traced to Jewish festival customs (e.g. the circumcision of the Jewish boy was on the eighth day and this was our Gospel for January 1st). God is said to have created the universe in six days, rested on the seventh, and then redeemed the world on the eighth day.

I am fairly sure that all of us would agree that part of being human is having celebrations, holidays and leisure. Josef Pieper in his Leisure: the Basis of Culture agrees and for him “the most festive festival it is possible to celebrate is divine worship.” The Church understands human nature. So the reason why the Church has us celebrate Christmas for at least eight days is to give us plenty of time to celebrate and to feast. One day is not enough to celebrate and take in the great mystery of the Incarnation. It would be like walking into St. Peter’s Basilica and walking right out. We need to be like Mary who pondered all these things in her heart. Of course if we view the liturgy and the Mass more as an obligation than as a festive celebration in which we truly engage in celebration, then the Christmas Octave will seem inconsequential to us. This idea of the liturgy is changed both by trying to understand what the Mass truly is (changing what our mind knows) and also by removing attachment to sin (changing what our will desires so that we desire rightly). I hope that all of us can reorient our minds and desires and live liturgical lives.

Weekly Collection

December 23, 2018

Weekly.....	\$14,794.00
EFT.....	\$1,448.00
	Total=\$16,242
Outreach.....	\$1,230.00
Christmas Collection.....	\$25,044.00
Christmas Flowers	\$2,807.00
Annual (to date).....	\$110,884.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.



Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

Second Collections
This Week: Building & Grounds Collection



CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions at OLM
Saturdays, 3:00—3:45pm
Mondays, 6:00—6:45pm



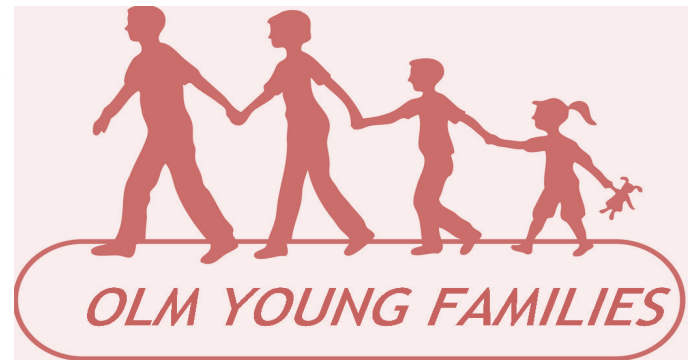
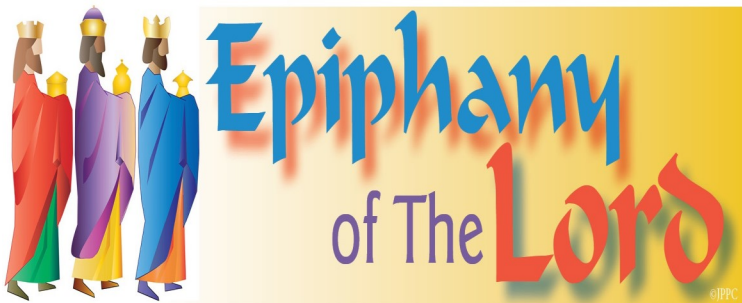
- **Tuesday, January 8, 2019:** School Mass at 8:15AM. All are invited to attend.
- **Wednesday, January 9, 2019:** OLM School Band Concert at 8:25am & 7pm
- **Friday, January 18, 2019:** OLM School Dance

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



January 6 & 13, 2019

- RE Classes for Grades 1-5:
10:00am—11:00am
- RE Classes for Grades 6-8:
6:00pm—7:00pm



OLM Young Families Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2019
 5:30—7:00PM, OLM School Cafeteria
 Pizza served for dinner! Babysitting provided.
 Join with other OLM Young Families

Topic: Contemporary Moral Issues
Fr. Ryan Connors, STD

For more information or just to learn more about our group contact Coordinator Kate Jelinek at: Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com

- **OLM Food Pantry** is always in great need of non-perishable food items. Please leave items in the Food Box in the vestibule.
- **OLM Bereavement Group Meeting:** Thursday, January 17th at 4pm in Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loneliness are invited to join us for support, prayer and discussion.
- **For more information about OLM Outreach**, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org



Epiphany of the Lord



The solemnity of the Epiphany which celebrates the manifestation of God to humanity began in the Eastern Church in the third century.

Called *Theophany*, it was primarily a feast of the baptism of the Lord, but it also incorporated themes of his nativity, the visit of the magi, and the marriage feast at Cana.

The church of Rome adopted this celebration in the fourth century and focused it on the adoration of the magi since it already had a feast of the Lord's nativity in place.

In the United States, we observe the Epiphany on the Sunday between January 2 and 8, but there are places where it is celebrated as a holy day of obligation on the traditional date of January 6.



This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Providence from January 10-February 4, 2019. All are invited to attend the various Masses, Holy Hours, presentations and veneration opportunities at the parishes that are participating in the special and prayerful events. A schedule with all of the parishes and dates, times and veneration plans is available by calling the diocesan Office of Life and Family at 401-278-2518, or by emailing Carol Owens at cowens@dioceseofprovidence.org

Annual Human Life Guild

Respect for Life Mass

The annual Human Life Guild Respect for Life Mass, an invitation to prayer for all human life, will be celebrated at the Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul on Saturday, January 12 at 9 a.m. Bishop Thomas J. Tobin will be the main celebrant, with Father Nicholas Fleming, Human Life Guild chaplain, as the homilist. There will be a reception following the Mass in the Cathedral hall. For more information and to R.S.V.P., contact the Office of Life and Family at 401-278-2518, or email cowens@dioceseofprovidence.org

Annual diocesan Pilgrimage to 2019 March for Life in D.C.

The diocesan Office of Life and Family is sponsoring two buses to travel to the 2019 March for Life in Washington, D.C., to mark the 46th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion. Buses will depart from Rhode Island on Thursday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m., for an overnight ride and arrive at the Verizon Center for the Youth Rally and Mass at approximately 6 a.m. the next morning. There will be opportunities for confession, to pray the rosary, enjoy music by popular Catholic recording artists, hear presentations and participate in a Mass for Life. Buses will leave the nation's capital at about 5 p.m. on Friday, arriving in Rhode Island at about 2 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 19. For more information and to register, call Carol Owens, director of the diocesan Office of Life and Family at 401-278-2518 or email her at cowens@dioceseofprovidence.org