

EPIPHANY



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OF THE LORD



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**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
 JANUARY 7, 2018**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Mass of Anticipation for the Epiphany of the Lord
 4:00PM Ben Kwang—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

The Epiphany of the Lord
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Robert Girasole—Memorial
 10:30AM Lillian E. Healey—Birthday Remembrance
 5:00PM Dolores Dolenc—Birthday Remembrance

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

The Baptism of the Lord
 7:30AM Erica Claire Rose—Memorial

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Weekday
 7:30AM Alyssa Wright—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Weekday
 7:30AM William E. Creedon—Memorial

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Weekday
 7:30AM Brian Murtagh—Memorial

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Weekday
 7:30AM Edward Gaumond & Dora Colgan—Memorial

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Weekday/St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church; BVM
 8:30AM Special Intention

Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Michael Alix—1st Anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM James K. Mullaney—Memorial
 10:30AM Alberto Cruz Reyes—Memorial
 5:00PM Holly Borday—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

With this Sunday's celebration of the feast of the Epiphany, the Christmas Season draws to a close. *"The Twelve Days of Christmas"* culminate with the Epiphany of the Lord, referring to the visitation of the Three Kings or Adoration of the Magi, celebrated on January 6. On Monday, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and then it's back to Ordinary Time with its green vestments.

In a homily on the Epiphany, Bishop Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, teaches: *"Jesus is not one philosopher or sage or political figure among many. He's not just another wise religious teacher. Rather, he is the Word made flesh – Logos, in John's language. That means the divine mind; the great pattern; the intelligibility through which all things were created, toward which all minds are tending."*

The beauty of Christmas reflects this profound revelation: the Son of God became a man that all men might become more like God. God became human, and nothing human was alien to him but sin. Even our greatest suffering, darkness, and doubt draws us closer to him through Calvary. There's nothing new under the sun, but by His life, death, and resurrection, the Son made all things new. And our celebration of Epiphany recalls the manifestation of that truth. This manifestation made – and still makes – all the difference in the world.

The star that guided the Magi still shines in the Gospel, which continues to guide us along our pilgrim way. The

Church, and every person of faith, has been entrusted with that same light and we are called to carry that light into the dark places of the world in our prayer, words, and acts of charity.

This past Tuesday I attended the opening of the RI General Assembly as another legislative session begins. This means that I am once again heading to Smith Hill during the week to advocate on behalf of Catholic values and virtues. This requires my presence at the RI Statehouse during afternoons, and sometimes later in the evening for hearings.

We hope and pray that the new legislative session might truly be productive for our state and that nothing contrary to Catholic teaching on human life, human dignity and the common good are able to advance and become law. However, issues such as the wide scale expansion of abortion rights including public financing, and also the legalization of physician assisted suicide, are once again being vigorously supported by anti-life extremists and their many allies in the statehouse. These anti-life forces are well organized and well funded.

Along with these important fundamental issues of human life and dignity. The Church is always vigilant in our advocacy of those issues concerning the rights of Catholic School Families, support for traditional family life, refugee services and immigration reform. With a projected huge state budget deficit the issues of poverty and the social safety net for the vulnerable are also of concern.

So I ask for your prayers

for my lobbying, and advocacy on behalf of the RI Catholic Conference. Also, please pray for all our elected officials that they may truly serve the common good of our state, work to protect all human life and always truly respect human dignity.

If you have visited our candle room then you have seen the new statues. We are deeply grateful to the Manocchia Family for their generous donation of a beautiful statue of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta in memory of their late Mother, Matilda. St. Teresa of Calcutta is the patron saint of the poor and also of doubters.

Also, there are two older statues now in the candle room that are new to OLM. They come to us from the now closed St. Casimir Church in Providence. We were able to get these beautiful statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Sorrows for OLM at no cost. They now have a new home in our Church after decades of inspiring the faithful of St. Casimir's Parish.

So make a visit to the candle room, light a candle and turn to Our Lady and the Saints for their powerful intercession for your needs and intentions. All the candles that light up our candle room and the Our Lady of Mercy Shrine in Church, represent the many prayers we offer to God. It's always better to light a candle than to curse the darkness! Do good. Be well. God Bless! Go Pats!!!

Father Healey



What is the Symbolism of the Gifts of the Magi ?

The Magi were the learned men, the academics, or scientists of their day. We typically have three in our nativity scenes, but in the early Church the actual number of Magi was up for debate. Today we name three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. A work called the Excerpta et Collectanea attributed to St. Bede wrote: "The magi were the ones who gave gifts to the Lord. The first is said to have been Melchior, an old man with white hair and a long beard... who offered gold to the Lord as to a king. The second, Caspar by name, young and beardless and ruddy complexioned... honored Him as God by his gift of incense, an oblation worthy of divinity. The third, black-skinned and heavily bearded, named Balthasar... by his gift of myrrh testified to the Son of Man who was to die."

From St. Bede we see that the gifts are rich in biblical symbolism. "Frankincense and myrrh" are only mentioned together in the Song of Solomon, where they are nuptial perfumes used by Solomon and his bride to prepare for their marriage. Hence to give them to Christ signifies that he will be the Bridegroom King from his birth. "Gold and frankincense" are only mentioned together in the prophecy of Isaiah 60:6 which speaks of a light coming to Jerusalem. Hence Christ is the light which illumines the world. Taken individually each gift has a prophetic meaning. The gold is a gift for a king, frankincense is a gift for a priest, and myrrh, a burial ointment, is a gift for one who would die. St. Irenaeus in his Adversus haereses offered the following interpretation for the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh respectively: King, God and Suffering Redeemer as well as virtue, prayer and suffering

If you have questions about the Catholic Faith, please send them to Fr. Barrow via email at associate@olmparish.org



Weekly Collection

December 24, 2017

Weekly.....	\$11,540.00
EFT.....	\$1,712.00
Total=\$13,252.00	
Outreach.....	\$412.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$2,836.00

December 31, 2017

Weekly.....	\$11,767.00
EFT.....	\$1,857.00
Total=\$13,624.00	
Outreach.....	\$3,382.50
Christmas Collection.....	\$25,807.00
Annual (Final).....	\$126,461.00

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.

Thank you for your generous support!

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

Second Collections
This Week: Building & Grounds Collection
Next Week: Church in Latin America



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of **Dorothy O’Keefe, Carolyn Perretta, Eileen Maguire, Alexander C. Valicenti, Sharman Noel and Benito Boiardi** who have died.





Upcoming Dates at OLM School

- **Monday, January 8:** Weekly School Mass at 8:15am
- **Monday, January 15:** No School for the MLK Holiday

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



Wise Men Still Seek Him



- **Sunday, January 7, 2018:** All RE Classes meet this weekend
- **Sunday, January 14:** NO Classes next weekend due to the MLK Holiday.

Outreach Update

● **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items especially during the cold winter months. Please leave items in the Food Box in the vestibule. Thank you for your support.

● **For more information about OLM Outreach**, please contact Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

Thank you for your generous support.



OLM Young Families
Thursday, January 11, 2018
5:30pm until 7:00pm
OLM School Cafeteria

Topic of Discussion This Meeting: "*Motivating in our Children an Appetite for the Good and a Distaste for the Bad*"

Presenter: Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, OP
Professor of Biology & Theology at PC

All young families are most welcome to join with us in fellowship and conversation about our Catholic faith. *Babysitting is available for your children and delicious Pizza served for dinner!* For more information or just to learn more about our group contact OLM Young Families Coordinator Kate Jelinek at: Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com

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.

The Blessing of Homes at Epiphany

Prayer of Blessing

Bless, + O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After the prayers of the blessing are recited, the initials of the Magi are inscribed upon the doors of the home with the blessed chalk. (The initials, C, M, B, can also be interpreted as the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house".)

Example: 20 + C + M + B + 18



**OLM Rosary Makers
Monthly Workshop
Tuesday, January 9, 2017
9:30am–11:30am
in OLM Cryroom**

Materials and instruction provided. Join us in making rosaries for the missions.