

DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

www.bnspcatholic.org

Mission Statement : Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5TH, 2025

St John Church (SJ) - 415 37th St, Bellaire, OH 43906

St. Mary Church (SM) - 240 E 40th St, Shadyside, OH 43947

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM - SM Saturday 5:30 PM - SJ

Sunday 11:00 AM - SM Sunday 9:30 AM - SJ

WEEKDAY MASS

6:00 p.m. (Mon.) SJ 8:00 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) – SJ 8:00 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) - SM 8:00 a.m.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - SM

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - SJ

Monday: 5:00p.m. - 5:45p.m. - SJ

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 -7:45a.m. - SM

Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:45a.m. - SJ

CENTRAL OFFICE

3745 Tallman Ave., Bellaire, OH 43906

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Email: office@bnspcatholic.org

Office Hours: M,W,F -

8:00am- 12:00pm / 1:00pm-4:00pm

Fr. Daniel Heusel, Pastor (SJ), Pastor (SM)

Cell: (740) 298-4158

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Mrs. Tonya Grimm, Secretary

(740) 676-0051

Email: stjohns3745@comcast.net

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal



We use Flocknote to connect with you!

1. Text MISSION2LOVE to 84576 or 2.Go to StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com and sign up there! Receive updates, including the weekly bulletin, via email and text message!



www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs

www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LH

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of the Epiphany of the Lord



The secrets of every happy family

MESSAGE SERIES

All of us come from families that are diversified by size and other factors, but share many commonalities, including our strong emotions when it comes

to different familial relationships and experiences. In this series, we will look at our family relationships – both in the past, present, and future - and will explore three principles of every happy family: successful families accept the messiness of family life with grace and flexibility; are marked by mutual respect; and are committed to a larger purpose beyond themselves.

Week Two: The Focus of the Family

Scripture: Matthew 2:12

Where is the “North star” of our family life? What light shines through the darkness, the noise, and the busyness of life? Where are we going? How do we get there? It’s Jesus. *The Good News* (gospel). It’s the light that the magi followed, it’s the light of faith. We celebrate Epiphany (the word means “manifestation”, “becoming known”). We reflect on where the focus of our family life can be— wherever at home or in the life of our spiritual family, the Church—and what a difference Jesus makes in our personal lives, our family life, as a Church. The wise men saw the star, and they were “overjoyed.” Does your family experience this kind of joy? Follow Jesus together.

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 4th, Epiphany of the Lord
 4:00p.m. (SM) + "Ricky" St. John (MaryAnn Kiss)
 5:30p.m. (SJ) + John Sharpe Jr. (Florence Timko)
Sunday, January 5th, Epiphany of the Lord
 9:30a.m. (SJ) + Mary Catherine Nixon (Bob & Andrea Koteles)
 11:00a.m.(SM) + For the People of St. John's & St. Mary's
Monday, January 6th, St. André Bessette
 6:00p.m. (SJ) + Mary Catherine Nixon (Jason & Maria Garczyk)
Tuesday, January 7th, St. Raymond of Penafort
 8:00a.m.(SM) + Patricia Matthews (Earl Matthews)
Wednesday, January 8th
 8:00a.m. (SJ) + Gilda Koshenka 5yr. anniversary deceased (Ray & Family)
Thursday, January 9th
 8:00a.m. (SM) + Deceased Curtis & Kahl Families (Michael Curtis)
Friday, January 10th
 8:00a.m. (SJ) + Paul & Anna Marie Malek (Family)
Saturday, January 11th, Baptism of the Lord
 4:00p.m. (SM) + Nancy Sheeketski (Bob & Andrea Koteles)
 5:30p.m. (SJ) + Steve & Verna Kiss & Steve Kiss Jr. (Mary Ann)
Sunday, January 12th, Baptism of the Lord
 9:30a.m. (SJ) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's
 11:00a.m.(SM) + Paul Paolucci (Mom, Dad & Sister)



Lord, bless and protect those serving our country, especially: Lt.

Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzell, Lance Corporal Zachary Knowlton, Staff Sgt. Wm. Kayne Melko, HTF Kory Melko, Sgt.

Joshua Hall, Staff Sgt. Aaron Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, Staff Sgt. Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, Master Sgt. Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster and Pvt William Clegg, Petty Officer Alex Rader, Pvt. Colton T. Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, Staff Sgt. Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beveridge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook

 **Liturgical Ministers**

Weekend of January 11/12

St. John's :
Jan. 11th EM: D. Moscato **Lector :** M. Kosky
Jan. 12th EM: M.A. Kiss **Lector :** L.A. Bennett

St. Mary's :
Jan. 11th EM: J. Ferrelli **Lector:** L. Gates
Jan. 12th EM: M. Brown **Lector:** M. Brown

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of Christmas & December 28/29

St. John's: Adults (92env) \$3,152, Loose \$2,034, Christmas (81env) \$3,278, Imm. Conception (1env) \$5, Solemnity of Mary (9env) \$146, Christmas Flowers (1env) \$5, St. Vincent de Paul (5env) \$85, Grade School (1env) \$7, Building Fund (9env) \$160, Candles \$177.10

St. Mary's: Adults (47env) \$1,400, Loose \$235, Christmas (25env) \$847, Solemnity of Mary (2env) \$15, Christmas Flowers (1env) \$10, St. Vincent de Paul (1env) \$5, Grade School (2env) \$20, Building Fund (2env) \$90, Food Pantry (1env) \$20



Please Note: *This prayer list is an important part of our love for our brothers and sisters in need. Names will be included on this list for four weeks at a time. After four weeks a*

person's name will be removed but can be added again the next week simply by calling the office. Please pray for the following: Vicky Oboy, Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Fr. Sam Saprano, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Baby Everett Sommers, Lucy Kowalski, John Bires Jr., Shannon Koher, Ed and Rose Grammar, Susan Gray, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Joe Boston Jr., Camden Brown, Peggy Kotson, Tom Galinski, Susan Vasey, Bob, Bill & Tom, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Zachary Oboy, Tom & Margie Merryman, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich Beau Boston, Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch, Roger Peters, Mary Siglar, Jerry & Phyllis, Adam Ruskowski, Jeff Doneson, Joe Budrevich, Rudy Bresiger, Cathy Ciulles, Warren Wright, Rich Price, Marlyn Marling, Jay Morgan, Kathy Kavmirski, Sandy (Donahue) Bass, Kyrie Vincent, Janice Arno, Andrew Zaborek, Kim Scott, Joyce Mellott, Gwen Brown, Bobby Roth, Peg Stipetich, Sarah Stipetich, Rhonda Tipton, Rebecca Brown, Mary DeGenova, Anthony De Genova Magan Nichole Sechrest, Megan Kristin Sechrest, Magan Nichole Sechrest, Lori Runyan, Monroe DeLuca, Albert DeBlasis, Mary Jo Garner, Camden Thomas, Julie Sharpe, Jill Brinker, Baby Kennedy Rae, Shelli Macurak



OUR SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE BEGINS
JANUARY 1!

Join us on a 33 Day Spiritual Journey to consecrate ourselves to Jesus in the Eucharist. Pick up a free copy of 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory (our Christmas gift to you) and get ready to start on January 1!



Scan the QR code to sign up for daily encouragement and to join the community of fellow parishioners making the journey together! Our consecration date will be Sunday, February 2 at the Sunday Masses.



Introducing Legacy Sunday
 Legacy Sunday is a new initiative by our Diocese to inspire parishioners to reflect on their blessings and consider how they can leave a lasting impact through legacy giving. The first Legacy Sunday will take place on the weekend of Sunday, January 19th, and will focus on supporting the mission of our Parishes, Catholic School, Catholic cemetery, and Diocese for generations to come. As St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, our gifts come from the same Spirit and are meant for the common good. Legacy giving allows us to continue sharing those blessings beyond our lifetime, ensuring the vibrancy and growth of our faith family.

THIS WEEK

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
 9:30-10:45 Family Faith Formation (SM)
Monday: 7:00p.m. K of C
Tuesday: 9:00a.m.—5:00p.m. Eucharist Adoration
 11:15a.m. BCF (CC&T)
 1:00p.m. Mass (SCC)
 7:00p.m. CommUNITY Prayer Service (Faith Fellowship Church, Bellaire)
Thursday: 6:00p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society (SJH)
 7:00pm OCIA (SJH)
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
 9:30-10:45 Family Faith Formation (SM)
 6:30p.m. Youth Group (SMRE)

Readings for the week of January 5, 2025

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE
Gospel Question: The visit of the magi teaches us about God’s desire for the whole world know about his Son, Jesus.

When do you first recall hearing about Jesus?
1st Reading Question: Isaiah foresees a time when the people of Jerusalem will be overwhelmed with happiness and prosperity. *What gift could you receive that would bring you great joy?*
2nd Reading Question: Paul informs the Ephesians that he received a revelation of God’s plan to save all people through Christ Jesus. *What do you think makes your friends or relatives open to this idea?* ©LPi



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Have you ever wondered *why* the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew’s Gospel tells us, “**Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh**” (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their “treasures”? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn’t that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi’s gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with “gold” (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— *Father John Muir* . ©LPi



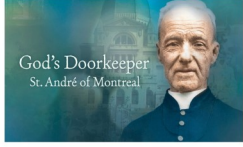
SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

According to the Guttmacher Institute, there were 1,026,700 abortions in 2023, the highest number of abortions in over a decade and the first time there have been over a million abortions in the formal health care system since 2012.

The Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision of 2022, which ruled that there is no constitutional right to abortion, left the decision on regulating abortion to the States. We need to continue praying and educating ourselves and others about the humanity of the unborn child, beginning at conception. Our Spiritual Adoption Program invites each of us to “spiritually adopt” an unborn child who is in danger of abortion, and pray daily for that child and his/her parents over the next nine months. Each month we will post an update about a child’s development in the womb. Spiritual adoption prayer cards will be available in church and also a sign-up for you to make the daily prayer pledge and choose a name for your unborn child. We will celebrate the children’s birthdays in October. Please join us in prayer so that this great tragedy that continues in our nation can be ended, when the right to life from the first moment of conception is fully protected in our laws and in our lives!

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

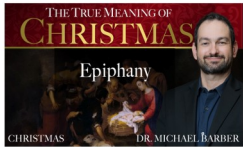
Week of January 05, 2025



God's Doorkeeper
This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



The Three Wise Men
Ms. Kim explains the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts by teaching students how to draw the three magi. She challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus.



Epiphany
What is Epiphany? Join Dr. Michael Barber to find out.

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2. Go to StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com and sign up there! Receive updates,

including the weekly bulletin, and daily reminders via email and text message! It's free for you!



MASSTIMES.ORG

Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to masstimes.org and enter the city, state or zip code of the place you'll be visiting. And bring Fr. Dan back a bulletin!

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Baptism of the Lord / January 12, 2025

First Reading:

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (40:5)

Psalm:

O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)

Second Reading:

He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Ti 3:5)

Gospel:

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. (Lk 3:22)

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BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

Life: An "Epiphany" of God

"Life is always a good. ... Why is life a good? This question is found everywhere in the Bible, and from the very first pages it receives a powerful and amazing answer. The life which God gives man is quite different from the life of all other living creatures, inasmuch as man, although formed from the dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7, 3:19; Job 34:15; Ps 103:14; 104:29), is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory (cf. Gen 1:26-27; Ps 8:6). This is what Saint Irenaeus of Lyons wanted to emphasize in his celebrated definition: 'Man, living man, is the glory of God'. Man has been given a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites him to his Creator: in man there shines forth a reflection of God himself' (St. John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, n. 34)."

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer of Rejoicing

Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy. Amen.



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Answer

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer.

It should be the same for us. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

**LIVE THE LITURGY -
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**



The news of the Messiah unsettled Herod. We see his anxiety clearly in today's Gospel. This is what Christ has come to do, after all. He has come to shake things up. Are we ready to be unsettled? ©LPi

**Eucharistic Adoration,
Hourly Pro-Life Rosary &
Chaplet of Mercy @ 3:00**

**Friday, January 24th
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
St. Michael Church**

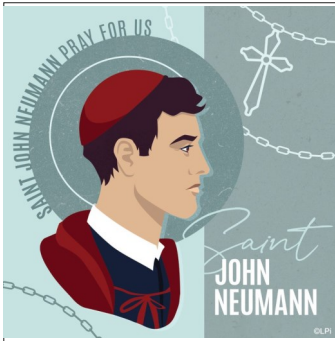
Please join us to pray in conjunction with the March for Life in Washington, D.C. as we pray for the protection of the unborn and healing of those who have had abortions. All are welcome!



**ST. JOHN'S AND ST. MARY'S
DISCOVERY TOOL**

**POWERED BY MINISTRY ARCHITECTS
VOLUNTEER ACCELERATOR**

We offer to all our parishioners a short but powerful survey— what are calling our Discovery Tool! In just a few minutes, you'll have your results and a better sense of how your interests and gifts align with the service opportunities and ministries of our church. When we understand more about our God-given talents and what brings us joy and a sense of purpose, we are better equipped to walk in love -- serving God, our parish, and our community as Jesus calls us to do. Scan the QR code to find the link to the survey, or on our website - bnspcatholic.org



**SAINT OF THE WEEK –
EXAMPLES OF OUR
FAITH**

**St. John Neumann |
January 5**

Biography

St. John Neumann is the patron saint of educators, immigrants, and, due to the

miracles that secured his canonization, sick children. This is a fitting patronage as he was a lover of education and learning from a very young age. In fact, when he was a child, his mother called him “my little bibliomaniac” due to his preoccupation with reading. Born in 1811 Bohemia, in what is now the Czech Republic, he attended the university in Prague preparing for ordination. However, his local bishops were not ordaining new priests at the time because Bohemia was overstocked with priests. He inquired about ordination all over Europe but received the same answer everywhere. Not one to be deterred, John then applied to several United States dioceses. Receiving no immediate responses, the saint took a leap of faith and decided to just immigrate to the United States in 1836, during his 25th year, with only \$40 in his pocket. This risk paid off when he was ordained in New York a month later.

Early in his priesthood he worked primarily as a missionary to German immigrants in Buffalo. His missionary work also created an opportunity for him to spend time in Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, and Ohio. When he was 29, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned. He was their first member to profess vows in the United States.

In 1852, at the age of 41, Neumann became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. During this time, he organized the individual parochial schools in his region into a diocesan system. This change allowed Catholic schools to quickly increase the number of pupils enrolled by almost twentyfold. Over the course of his ministry, St. John expanded the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from 2 to 100! His passion for education extended to immigrants, like himself, and his love for learning languages made it possible for him to hear confessions in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, and Gaelic!

A man of the people, he could often be found outside the church walls visiting people who were sick, staying in taverns and public houses to teach, and celebrating Mass in people’s homes at their kitchen tables. ————— Continued

He was canonized on June 19, 1977, following three miracles, two of which regarded the healing of youth from grave illnesses. St. John Neumann was the first American man to be canonized a saint.

Prayer

Prayer for St. John Neumann’s intercession

O St. John Neumann, your ardent desire of bringing all souls to Christ impelled you to leave home and country; teach us to live worthily in the spirit of our baptism which makes us all children of the one Heavenly Father and brothers of Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the family of God.

Obtain for us that complete dedication in the service of the needy, the weak, the afflicted, and the abandoned which so characterized your life. Help us to walk perseveringly in the difficult and at times painful paths of duty, strengthened by the Body and Blood of our Redeemer and under the watchful protection of Mary our Mother. May death still find us on the sure road to our Father’s house, with the light of living faith in our hearts.

(Prayer Source: <https://stjohnneumann.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Prayers-to-St.-John-Neumann.pdf>)

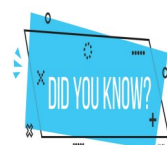


“**A**nd you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

— Mt 2:6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN



Question: What is Christ often depicted pointing to when portrayed in Christian artwork?

Answer: The Sacred Heart of Jesus. ©LPi



Epiphany of the Lord

The song "We Three Kings" details the gifts of the Magi, but do you know what you're singing? "Born a king on Bethlehem's plan, gold I bring to crown Him again." This one is the most straightforward - gold symbolizes the Kingship of Christ. "Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life

of gathering gloom." Myrrh is an embalming spice. Already at Christ's birth, we have the symbolic reminder of his death. "Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a deity nigh." In many religious traditions, incense symbolizes prayers rising to heaven. In some pagan traditions, it is thought to help "call down" the deity. The gift of frankincense symbolizes Jesus' role as the Great High Priest, sanctifying the world through his sacrifice.

Everyday Stewardship

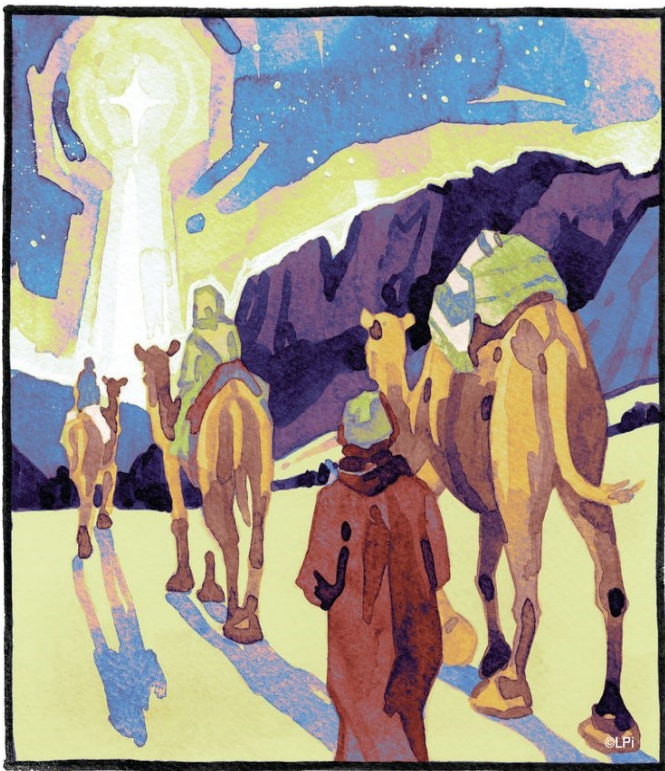
Detours Lead to Purpose

"The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to "the least of these" he has actually given to Jesus himself.

If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man's constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



"What was the favorite dessert of the king who brought gold?"

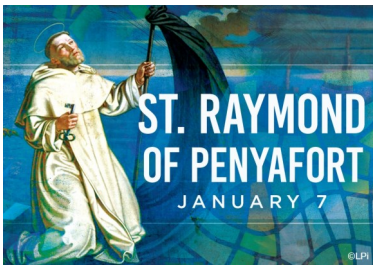


"Karat cake!"



The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Baby Jesus. We remember them on Epiphany!

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Mt 2:10-11



**SAINT OF THE WEEK –
EXAMPLES OF OUR
FAITH**

St. Raymond Penyafort

Most Famous Miracle

Raymond of Penyafort served as the confessor for King James I of Aragon. While on the island of Majorca to initiate a campaign to help convert the Moors living there, the king brought his mistress with him. Raymond reproved the king and asked him repeatedly to dismiss his concubine. The king refused to do so. Finally, the saint told the king that he could remain with him no longer and made plans to leave for Barcelona. But the king forbade Raymond to leave the island, and threatened punishment to any ship captain who dared to take him.

Raymond and his Dominican companion went down to the seashore where Raymond took off his *cappa* (the long black cloak worn by Dominicans over the white tunic and scapular), and spread one end of it on the water while rigging the other end to his walking staff. Having thus formed a miniature mast, Raymond bid the other Dominican to hop on, but his companion, lacking the saint's faith, refused to do so. Then Raymond bid him farewell, and with the sign of the cross he pushed away from the shore and sailed away on his cloak. Skirting around the very boats that had forbidden him passage, the saint was seen by scores of sailors who shouted in astonishment and urged him on. Raymond sailed the 160 miles to Barcelona in the space of six hours, where his landing was witnessed by a crowd of amazed spectators. In awe of this miracle, King James I mended his ways.



**Devotions, *Explained!*
Epiphany Blessing, *Explained***

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home. All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk. The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." ©LPI

EPIPHANY



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Sons of Italy



**Pasta Night
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