

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## JANUARY 2, 2022

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### WHAT KIND OF GOD IS THIS?

Christmas is a season of abundance. Christmas cookies and carols. Parties and presents. Mangers and mistletoe. The same is true in our church. Within a period of nine days we celebrate Christmas, the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, and today the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Truly an embarrassment of liturgical riches. (And we are not finished yet!)

However, for many people, Christmas is already over. Trees litter the curbside or make their way back to the attic. Presents are put away or returned. We prepare to go back to school or work. But as Christians we have barely dipped our toes into the profound mystery of a God who walks among us. What kind of a God is this whose kingdom is not limited by our borders, fears, expectations, or imaginations? Today's psalm reminds us, "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." Diversity and inclusion are not new to God's agenda.

### TRADITIONS UNCOVER MEANING

Two traditional rituals, one liturgical and one domestic, help underline the meaning of the Epiphany. The Proclamation of the Date of Easter is an option for inclusion at Mass today. This text which formally announces the dates of the upcoming major feast days reminds us that Christmas is best honored in the context of the whole story of salvation that culminates in Easter. Or as writer Nathan Mitchell reflects, the wood of the crib becomes the wood of the cross.

The second tradition connected to Epiphany is the blessing of the door of one's home with chalk. It includes a prayer for protection for all who enter therein. One explanation of this tradition ties it to the Passover in the Book of Exodus: the marking of the doorposts with the blood of the lamb kept the Israelites safe. This tradition too offers a connection between Christmas and Easter.

As we continue to mine the richness of this season we hum along with the angels, *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-13; Eph 3:2-6; Mt 2:1-12

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### ¿QUÉ CLASE DE DIOS ES ESTE?

La Navidad es una temporada de abundancia. Galletas navideñas y villancicos. Fiestas y regalos. Pesebres y muérdago. Lo mismo ocurre en nuestra iglesia. En un período de nueve días celebramos la Navidad, la Sagrada Familia, María Madre de Dios, y hoy la Solemnidad de la Epifanía. Un verdadero cúmulo de riquezas litúrgicas. (¡Y aún no hemos terminado!)

Sin embargo, para mucha gente, la Navidad ya ha terminado. Los árboles están en la acera o vuelven al desván. Los regalos se guardan o se devuelven. Nos preparamos para volver a la escuela o al trabajo. Pero, como cristianos, apenas nos hemos sumergido en el profundo misterio de un Dios que camina entre nosotros. ¿Qué clase de Dios es este cuyo reino no está limitado por nuestras fronteras, miedos, expectativas o imaginations? El salmo de hoy nos recuerda: "Señor, todas las naciones de la tierra te adorarán". La diversidad y la inclusión no son nuevas en la agenda de Dios.

### LAS TRADICIONES DESCUBREN EL SIGNIFICADO

Dos rituales tradicionales, uno litúrgico y otro doméstico, ayudan a subrayar el significado de la Epifanía. La Proclamación de la fecha de la Pascua es una opción para incluir en la Misa de hoy. Este texto que anuncia formalmente las fechas de las próximas fiestas mayores nos recuerda que la Navidad se honra mejor en el contexto de toda la historia de la salvación que culmina en la Pascua. O como reflexiona el escritor Nathan Mitchell, la madera del pesebre se convierte en la madera de la cruz.

La segunda tradición relacionada con la Epifanía es la bendición de la puerta de la casa con tiza o gis. Incluye una oración de protección para todos los que entran en ella. Una de las explicaciones de esta tradición la relaciona con la Pascua en el libro del Éxodo: marcar los postes de la puerta con la sangre del cordero mantenía a salvo a los israelitas. Esta tradición también ofrece una conexión entre la Navidad y la Pascua.

Mientras continuamos extrayendo la riqueza de esta temporada, tarareamos junto con los ángeles: *¡Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**LECTURAS DE HOY:** Is 60:1-6; Sal 72:1-13; Ef 3:2-6; Mt 2:1-12

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### Please Pray for the Sick

#### Prayer List Updates




Lilly Ruiz  
 Maria Langley  
 Suzanne Gutierrez  
 Sylvester Vasquez, Jr.  
 Sarah Contreras  
 Marty Carrera Tobias  
 Frances Lozano  
 Rudy Delgado  
 Irma Urias  
 Muñoz Family  
 Isaiah Vasquez  
 Mary Martinez  
 Gina Gonzales  
 Mike Mandujano  
 Galilea Romero  
 Flora Torres  
 Jesus Lopez  
 Tomas Diaz  
 Sandra Carreon

John Garlitz  
 Iris Luna Sullivan  
 Jerry Ramirez  
 Sandy Guerra  
 Abraham Guerra  
 Emma O. Velasquez  
 Leticia Lopez Barrera  
 Rosa Castorena  
 Jesus Mario Castorena  
 Melida Segovia  
 Joyce Ochoa  
 Alfredo Peña  
 Sara Peña  
 Sariah Peña  
 Marissa Gallegos  
 Leticia Martinez  
 Kenny De La Rosa  
 Ismael Flores  
 Yolanda Bordelon

Virginia Moralez  
 Andy Trinidad  
 Raymond Sarabia  
 Joe Espinosa  
 Frank Rodriguez  
 Pat Flores  
 Susie Montez  
 Julissa Rodriguez  
 Alex Barron  
 Janie Barron  
 Danny Escobedo  
 Blanca Padilla  
 Miliana Bullock  
 Hope Esquivel  
 Melinda Cazares  
 Ruben Ruiz Torres  
 Robert Treviño  
 David Garcia

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

### DISCIPLESHIP SHARING FOR THE WEEKEND ENDING DECEMBER 26, 2021

Christmas Eve Mass	-\$2,253.40	
Midnight Mass	-\$ 322.00	
Christmas Day	-\$1,136.00	
9 AM Mass	-\$1,311.00	
11 AM Mass	-\$1,401.00	
IGBO Mass	-\$ 76.06	
Assumption Seminary	-\$ 738.00	Second Collection
Religious Education	-\$ 341.00	Second Collection
Mail In	-\$ 25.00	
Gift of Giving	-\$ 314.55	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,918.01</b>	

### SECOND COLLECTION - 1/2/22 Capital Improvements

#### 2022 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 26, 2021	\$ 314.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,573.80</b>

# Announcements

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## Mass Intentions For The Week



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### Saturday, January 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY

11:00 a.m. † Genevieve Cruz - Family  
† Raymundo Cruz - Family  
† Pedro & Leonora Maldonado - Cruz Family  
† Fr. Eddie Bernal - John & Angie Diaz  
† Justin Rey Martinez - Family  
For Health Jose & Jesus Castillo Families- Family

### Sunday, January 2 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:00 a.m. † Jorge Vega - Family  
† Maria T. Leon - Yolanda Gurrola Prieto  
For Health Emma O. Velasquez

11:00 a.m. † Robert Gallegos - Wife & Children  
† Paul Salinas - Grace Salinas  
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family  
† Aurora Perez - Anthony Perez  
† Armando Garza - Family  
For Health Joshua David Perez - Olivia Marin

### Monday, January 3

### Tuesday, January 4 - ST. ELIZABETH SEATON

12:00 p.m. † Marcelino Garanzuay, Jr. - Family

### Wednesday, January 5 - ST. JOHN NEUMANN

8:15 a.m. For All Holy Souls in Purgatory

### Thursday, January 6

12:00 p.m. † Frances Soikowski - Family

### Friday, January 7

12:00 p.m. † Roland Martinez - Wife

### Saturday, January 8

5:00 p.m. For Our Parish Community

### Sunday, January 9

9:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño- Nora Treviño  
11:00 a.m. † Paul Salinas - Grace Salinas  
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family  
† Officer Jay Peña - Family  
† Adela Solis - Family  
† Fred Longoria - Family



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Happy New Year 2022! May 2022 bring us joy, happiness, love, health, peace and faith.

Today, January 2nd, 2022, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the manifestation of our Lord in our lives allow us to feel His presence and share it with many. May God's spirit comfort us and heal our wounds.

I have developed friendly competitions and challenges for the purpose of improving our health and spirituality for the new year. The plan will be unveiled in the next bulletin.

Our Christmas fundraiser was very successful due to all of the volunteers, sponsors and all of you who purchased and sold tickets. **Our net profit was \$31,477.00.** Thank you for your generosity. A complete financial report will be available in the bulletin.

With raging of omicron variant, we urge everyone to get vaccinated. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC already authorized booster doses of the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines and officially given the Go Ahead for mix and match boosters among all three authorized vaccines. We hope and pray that this vigorous process used by the FDA will convince many to consider being vaccinated and receive their booster for public health and for the love of one another especially the most vulnerable in our society and community. Those of you who have underlying medical issues dealing with illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, etc. and 65 years old and older are strongly encouraged to take the booster after six months of your last vaccine shot. As we pray for God to protect us during these uncertain moments, let us also do our part by being vaccinated and wearing a mask in public setting including the church. We require all parishioners and visitors to wear masks in the church premises including the school. We encourage you also to get your flu shot. Thank you for your understanding and your collaboration.

May God Bless you and your family,

Fr. Fidèle Okitembo Dikete, Pastor  
fr.fidèle@stjohnberchmans.com

# Announcements

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The LORD shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

**Psalms** — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

**Second Reading** — The mystery has been made known that the Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-6).

**Gospel** — Magi from the east arrived, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Jn 3:22 - 4:6; Ps 2:7-8,10-12; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
Tue: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44  
Wed: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-13; Mk 6:45-52  
Thu: 1 Jn 4:19 - 5:4; Ps 72:1-2,14 - 17; Lk 4:14-22  
Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16  
Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30  
Sun: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10



Our Christmas Raffle took place Saturday, December 25th. We would like to congratulate the following winners:

1st Prize \$3,000: Terry Boone  
2nd Prize \$1,000: Maria Alcala  
3rd Prize \$500: Elida Rocha  
4th Prize \$500: Denise Gomez  
5th Prize \$500: Louisa Morin  
6th Prize \$250: Grace Salinas  
7th Prize \$250: Diane Osio  
8th Prize \$250: Tynan Bullock  
9th Prize \$100: Maria Garcia  
10th Prize \$100: John Arocha

THANK YOU TO ALL WHOSE SUPPORT MADE THIS RAFFLE A SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE.

GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS, FR. FIDÈLE DIKETE,  
PASTOR

## EVENTS OF THE WEEK ~ January 2 - 8, 2022

### Sunday, January 2

9:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - Church  
11:00 a.m. Mass - Church

### Monday, January 3

### Tuesday, January 4

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church  
6:30 p.m. Guadalupe Meeting-Formation House

### Wednesday, January 5

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Church  
2:00 p.m. Coffee with Fr. Fidèle

### Thursday, January 6

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Friday, January 7

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Saturday, January 8

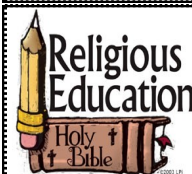
5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Our parish is always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church.

**Ministry Scheduled**  
Saturday, January 8, 2022  
Hospitality

We offer condolences and sympathy to our parishioners who have experienced a death in their family.

† Genoveva A. Reyes



St. John Berchmans Religious Education program will **NOT** conduct classes on Sunday, January 2, 2022. Classes will resume on **Sunday, January 9, 2022**. Thank you!

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR

Gracelynn Stump  
† Destiny Cortinas  
† Aurora Perez



## Announcements!



## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to [osantoyo1104@gmail.com](mailto:osantoyo1104@gmail.com) and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidèle. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.

WELCOME  
TO OUR  
CHURCH

## NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner at St. John Berchmans Church, please contact our Parish Office at 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Solemnity of the Epiphany reminds us of the three mysteries that are encompassed in this solemnity: The adoration for the Christ child, by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast of Cana.

Epiphany focuses on the revelation and manifestation that Jesus' light has dawned for all people. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world: after being made known to the Shepherds. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh portend the manner in which Jesus' light is spread to the whole world. Myrrh, a perfume used for burial, foreshadows his death. Gold is a gift of royalty and frankincense for holiness.

Today's feast brings to fulfillment all the purposes of the Advent Christmas season.

### NEW YEAR, EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME

An ancient Christian custom associated with the Epiphany is the blessing of homes with chalk. Using chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (front porch, step or wall) as follows: **20+C+M+B+22**

#### **While saying:**

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar following the star of God's son who became human two thousand and twenty years ago. May Christ bless our dwelling and remain with us throughout the new year.

#### **Then all the family will say together the following prayer**

Visit, O Lord, our home with the joy of your presence. Bless all who live here, and all who visit us, with the gift of your love. May we show your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and love of you. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in your peace. Amen.

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2022

FOR TRUE HUMAN FRATERNITY - We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



### ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CYO -

Will be hosting a **BROWN BAG HAMBURGER FUNDRAISER** (includes chips, drink and dessert)

**Where:** Church Parking Lot **When:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 **Time:** 11am - 3pm

**Donation:** \$10.00 Please support our organization. Thank you!

### LECTURAS DE HOY

**Primera lectura** — ¡Levántate y brilla, Jerusalén! La gloria del Señor amaneció sobre ti (Isaías 60:1-6).

**Salmo** — Se postrarán ante ti, Señor, todos los pueblos de la tierra (Salmo 72).

**Segunda lectura** — El misterio de que los gentiles son coherederos, socios en la promesa en Jesucristo, se ha dado a conocer a los hombres (Efesios 3:2-3a, 5-6).

**Evangelio** — Vinieron unos Magos de Oriente preguntando: "¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que ha nacido?" (Mateo 2:1-12). Salmo responsorial: *Leccionario Hispanoamericano Dominical* © 1970, Comisión Episcopal Española. Usado con permiso. Todos los derechos reservados.

### CAMINO HACIA DIOS

En nuestra celebración de la Epifanía, dos temas entrelazados están presentes en las lecturas de hoy. Dios está comenzando algo nuevo, y Dios reúne a toda la humanidad a participar. Para Isaías, la luz brillante de Dios, manifestada en el pueblo de Israel, atrae y convoca a personas de muchas naciones a Jerusalén. En la carta a los efesios, la gracia de Dios hace a los gentiles coherederos y en el Evangelio de Mateo los hace coparticipes. Mateo cuenta la historia del cumplimiento de las promesas de Dios a Israel por medio del nacimiento de Jesús, y simultáneamente guiando a los extranjeros a compartir esas mismas promesas. Con el nacimiento de Jesús, Dios eligió a un pueblo determinado, en un tiempo y lugares específicos, para entrar directamente en la historia de la humanidad. Las lecturas de hoy enseñan que Dios lo hizo para reunir a todos los pueblos, a todas las culturas, en la unidad con Dios. Al igual que los magos, estamos siendo llevados a un viaje hacia Dios, convirtiéndonos en coparticipes de la obra de Dios. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿Cómo uso tanto la razón como la fe para encontrar mi camino hacia Jesús?