

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 8, 2023

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## STAR OF WONDER

In our day-to-day lives, we can experience epiphanies: new perceptions, unexpected insights, sudden changes in direction. In the liturgical year, Epiphany celebrates the appearance of a star in the heavens, a remarkable star followed by the Magi to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are not so different, our daily epiphanies and the Epiphany celebrated today. The arrival of the Magi certainly changed Mary and Joseph's perceptions of the world, the same way a helpless, tiny baby likely altered the Magi's insights as to what a star in the heavens would reveal. The story of the Magi—and the story of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—is filled with unexpected changes in direction, as God's plan continues to vary when it encounters people who cooperate with it, and others who attempt to thwart it. A deep and long reflection on this day we call Epiphany will uncover numerous epiphanies.

## STAR OF LOVE

Like all of the Christmas season, Epiphany celebrates God's eternal and infinite love. In a special way, this day shows how God's love is truly all-inclusive. The magi were not Jews, not part of the Chosen People who expected that the Messiah was coming to save only them. Early on in his Gospel, Matthew tells us that God's love will not be limited by our human presumptions or boundaries. We still struggle with the fact that God is constantly epiphanizing us to grow beyond the limits of our experience or expectations, to move beyond the boundaries of the world around us. Let us pray that we might be given epiphanies to help us find grace where we didn't believe it existed, to aid us in understanding that God's love is most often shown by who is included, not who is excluded. May we open our eyes and hearts to know that the Christ-light shines everywhere.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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## ESTRELLA DE LA MARAVILLA

En nuestro día a día, podemos experimentar epifanías: nuevas percepciones, visiones inesperadas, cambios de rumbo repentinos. En el año litúrgico, la Epifanía celebra la aparición de una estrella en los cielos, una estrella extraordinaria que los Magos siguieron hasta Jesús, María y José. No son tan diferentes, nuestras epifanías cotidianas y la Epifanía que se celebra hoy. La llegada de los Reyes Magos cambió sin duda la percepción del mundo de María y José, del mismo modo que un bebé indefenso y diminuto probablemente alteró la percepción de los Reyes Magos sobre lo que revelaría una estrella en el cielo. La historia de los Reyes Magos -y la de Jesús, María y José- está llena de cambios de rumbo inesperados, ya que el plan de Dios sigue variando cuando encuentra personas que cooperan con él y otras que intentan frustrarlo. Una profunda y larga reflexión sobre este día que llamamos Epifanía descubrirá numerosas epifanías.

## ESTRELLA DEL AMOR

Como todo el tiempo de Navidad, la Epifanía celebra el amor eterno e infinito de Dios. De manera especial, este día muestra cómo el amor de Dios es verdaderamente inclusivo. Los magos no eran judíos, no formaban parte del Pueblo Elegido que esperaba que el Mesías viniera a salvarlos sólo a ellos. Al principio de su Evangelio, Mateo nos dice que el amor de Dios no estará limitado por nuestras presunciones o fronteras humanas. Seguimos luchando con el hecho de que Dios nos epifaniza constantemente para que crezcamos más allá de los límites de nuestra experiencia o expectativas, para que vayamos más allá de los límites del mundo que nos rodea. Recemos para que se nos concedan epifanías que nos ayuden a encontrar la gracia donde no creíamos que existiera, que nos ayuden a comprender que el amor de Dios se muestra más a menudo por quien está incluido, no por quien está excluido. Que abramos nuestros ojos y corazones para saber que la luz de Cristo brilla en todas partes.

**LECTURAS DE HOY:** Is 60:1-6; Sal 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ef 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates




Suzanne Gutierrez	Frank Rodriguez	Vanessa Quintero
Syl Vasquez, Jr.	Julissa Rodriguez	Mary Alice Vasquez
Sarah Contreras	Miliana Bullock	Heath Herring
Marty Carrera Tobias	Hope Esquivel	Joe Cevallos
Frances Lozano	Lydia Soriano	Jennifer Olivarez
Irma Urias	Celia Garcia	Juanita Martinez
Mary S. Martinez	Bobby Rollins	Maria Rios
Gina Gonzales	Darlene Lopez	Virginia R. Lucio
Galilea Romero	George Garnica	Teresa Moreno
Flora Torres	Adam Alonzo, Jr.	Guadalupe Rodriguez
Iris Luna Sullivan	Raymond Serna	Gayle Beaver
Sandy Guerra	Mary Martinez	Lori Bañuelos
Abraham Guerra	Mark Martinez	Joe Villanueva
Emma O. Velasquez	Cecilia Rodriguez	
Leticia Lopez Barrera	Albert Rodriguez	
Leticia Martinez	Albert Casillas	
Kenny De La Rosa	Robert Sanchez	
Virginia Moralez	Santos Tello	
Raymond Sarabia	Fred Guerra	

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.

## STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WEEK

### ENDING JANUARY 1, 2023

5 PM Mass - \$	775.00	
9 AM Mass - \$	481.00	
11 AM Mass - \$	1,373.00	
Solemnity of Mary - \$	272.00	
Capital Fund - \$	507.00 2nd Collection	
Mail In - \$	490.00	
Gift of Giving - \$	175.55	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,073.55</b>	

## SECOND COLLECTION

January 8, 2023 - Good Samaritans of SJB

## 2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Jan. 1, 2023	\$	175.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,055.30</b>

# Announcements



## Saturday, January 7

5:00 p.m. † Tomas Diaz - Olga Diaz  
† Roland Martinez - Family  
† Beatrice Barron - Children  
† Maria Elena Martinez - Family  
**For Health** Mary Martinez - Family  
**For Health** Elida Garcia - Children  
**For Health** Jose & Jesus Castillo Families

## Sunday, January 8

9:00 a.m. † Lori Carrera - Tia Rose & Tio Emilio  
† Joann Medina - Family  
† Lionel Medina - Family  
† Daniel & Maria Arzola - Familia  
**For Health** Edith Flores  
**For Health** Joe Villanueva

11:00 a.m. † Isidro Mata - Kim & Khloe Mata  
† Paul Salinas - Family  
† Justin Rey Martinez - Family

## Monday, January 9

### Tuesday, January 10

12:00 p.m. † Joe Martinez - Family  
**For Health** Teresa Martinez - Sisters in Christ

### Wednesday, January 11

8:15 a.m. † Elvira & † Joe Moreno - Friends  
† Vicky Valdez - Friends  
**For Health** Edith Flores - Family

### Thursday, January 12

12:00 p.m. † Marie Weaver - Friends  
**For Health** Valverde Family

### Friday, January 13

12:00 p.m. † Pete Saucedo - Family  
† Valentin Campos  
**For Health** Salinas Family - Friends



### CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER Prayer at the Manger: With the Magi

Let your light shine on us, O God,  
as the star showed the way  
to those who searched for Christ.  
Fill us with wisdom;  
help us walk in your ways,  
now and forever. Amen.



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

### **Resolutions for 2023!**

We will focus in caring for our body as the temple of Christ in 2023.

I am suggesting five resolutions for you:

- All parishioners are called to participate in a weight loss contest for the entire year of 2023.

There are three categories:

- A. Participants that lose 10 pounds will be awarded a \$50 VISA gift card.
- B. Participants that lose 20 pounds will be awarded a \$100 VISA gift card.
- C. Participants that lose 30 pounds will be awarded a \$150 VISA gift card.

Please make sure you register at the front office for the purpose of weighing in with our Secretary, Stella Rico. All information is strictly confidential and names of the winners will be displayed on our marquee for the entire month of January, 2024.

- You are invited to join me on Saturday, May 13th, 2023 at Woodlawn Lake Park to commemorate all mothers on Mother's Day weekend and to raise money for our school.

The event will be scheduled as follows:

- A. 8:00 am: All 5K runners will start running approximately 35 minutes.
- B. 9:00 am: Students from our SJB school will run one lap, 1.3 miles
- C. 9:30 am: All mothers will walk for one lap, 1.3 miles
- D. 10:00 am: We will end with Mariachi music

Each participant is requested to sponsor my 5K run by donating \$50. All donations and proceeds will help pay for school utilities, property insurance and grant scholarships to each student participating in the run.

- I will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from June 12th thru 22nd, 2023. Included in the total cost of \$3,199 per person (double occupancy) are: all airfare, hotels (double occupancy), food, tour guides, private bus. Please call the office (210.434-3247) for more information or request a brochure or application.
- Our Annual Fall Festival will resume and take place on Saturday, September 30th, 2023 from 12:00 noon until midnight in the church parking lot. We will have bands, music, food, children's games, rides, etc. More information forthcoming.
- Children and adult contests:
  - A. An adult who attends daily mass for the entire year 2023 will receive a \$100 VISA gift card.
  - B. A child able to recite all the mysteries of the rosary: Joyful, Luminous, Glorious and Sorrowful will receive a \$50 VISA gift card.

**(PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

# Announcements

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## PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED...

C. A child who will be able to correctly memorize the 10 Commandments and recite them at the Christmas concert will receive a \$50 VISA gift card.

D. Any adult parishioner participating in the cleaning of the church every Saturday in 2023 will receive a \$150 VISA gift card.

I challenge you to take on these resolutions and put them into practice. Invite family and friends to participate and join you.

Let us make New Year 2023 the best ever!



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

## THIS WEEK!

Here's What's On The Calendar!

ShareAFaith

### Sunday, January 8

9:00 a.m. **Guadalupe Mass - Church**  
11:00 a.m. **Mass - Church**

### Monday, January 9

### Tuesday, January 10

12:00 p.m. **Mass - Chapel**

### Wednesday, January 11

8:15 a.m. **School Mass - Church**  
10:00 a.m. **Faith Enrichment Session - Formation**  
2:00 p.m. **Coffee with Fr. Fidèle**  
7:00 p.m. **Faith Enrichment Session - Formation**

### Thursday, January 12

12:00 p.m. **Mass - Chapel**

### Friday, January 13

12:00 p.m. **Mass - Chapel**

### Saturday, January 14

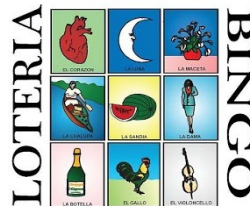
5:00 p.m. **Mass - Church**

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17  
Tue: Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9;  
Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28  
Wed: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39  
Thu: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45  
Fri: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12  
Sat: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17  
Sun: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3;  
Jn 1:29-34



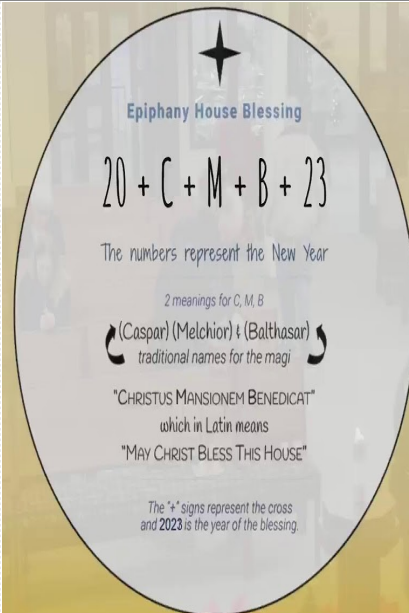
**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
**THURSDAY'S ONLY (CHAPEL)**  
**9:00 AM - 12 Noon & 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.**



## FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** Sunday, January 22  
**TIME:** 12:30 - 4:00 P.M.  
**COST:** \$30/4 Cards  
Over 25 games

Food and Sodas will be sold. Come join us for a fun afternoon and help us to **benefit our Religious Education program**. Thank you!



**Epiphany House Blessing**

20 + C + M + B + 23

The numbers represent the New Year

2 meanings for C, M, B

(Caspar) (Melchior) & (Balthasar)  
traditional names for the magi

"CHRISTUS MANSIONEM BENEDICAT"  
which in Latin means  
"MAY CHRIST BLESS THIS HOUSE"

The "\*" signs represent the cross  
and 2023 is the year of the blessing

**EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING**

It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. The home blessing can be done as follows: Using the blessed chalk, mark the current year & the initials of the Magi above the outside doorways of your home. Place a cross between each of the letters.

The prayer to pray after marking your doorframe:

*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord of all people, forever and ever. Amen.*

The markings over the doors should be left all year round as a sign that yours is a Christian home.

**We welcome anyone to assist us with cleaning our beautiful church every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.**

**Ministry Scheduled**  
**January 14, 2023**  
**St. John Berchmans School**



## 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.



## 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**

“They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his Mother. They prostrated themselves and worshiped him.”

- Matthew 2:10-11a

Epiphany means “to shine upon”, or “to make known.” It reminds us that Jesus is shown to be the promised Messiah for which the Jews had been waiting. The Epiphany honors and recognizes the magi who were likely from Persia and made the 1,000-1,200 mile trip to Jerusalem by camel to bring gifts to the Lord and adore him. Since they traveled desert climate on camel, it is presumed it took them an estimated 60 days. The coming of the

Magi also shows that pagans can indeed come to Jesus and those outside the Jewish religion can come to God the Father through Jesus Christ. He came for the entire world and came to be a light in the darkness of sin. He came to show the world the way to God and eternal life. He came to live so that we might live. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah and Son of God, and is God incarnate.

**LIFE AWARENESS**

Religious Vocation Discernment Weekend

**Don't spend your life wondering if you are called to the Priesthood or Religious Life.**

Thinking about life as a priest, religious sister, or brother? Come to Life Awareness, a weekend retreat of prayer, discussion and discerning with staff and peer about a religious vocation.

Open to SINGLE Catholics between the ages of 18 to 40 on February 3 - 5, 2023 at the Cordi-Marian Retreat Center, 1124 Culebra Rd., 78253.

For more information contact Vocation Office (210) 735-0553 or vocations@archsa.org

Registrations required.

**LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA**

**Oración en el Pesebre: con los Reyes Magos**

Que tu luz nos ilumine, oh, Dios,  
como la estrella mostró el camino  
a quienes buscaban a Cristo.

Llénanos de sabiduría;

ayúdanos a caminar por tus senderos,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.

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**LECTURAS DE HOY**

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

**Salmo** — Todas las naciones te adorarán, Señor (Salmo 72).

**Segunda lectura** — Los gentiles son coherederos, socios en la promesa en Jesucristo (Efesios 3:2-3a, 5-6).

**Evangelio** — “¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que ha nacido?” (Mateo 2:1-12).

**LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA**

Lunes: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 o Hch 10:34-38; Sal 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17

Martes: Heb 2:5-12; Sal 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mc 1:21-28 o Heb 1:1-6 y 2:5-12; Sal 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mc 1:14-20 y 1:21-28

Miércoles: Heb 2:14-18; Sal 105:1-4, 6-9; Mc 1:29-39

Jueves: Heb 3:7-14; Sal 95:6-11; Mc 1:40-45

Viernes: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Sal 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mc 2:1-12

Sábado: Heb 4:12-16; Sal 19:8-10, 15; Mc 2:13-17

Domingo: Is 49:3, 5-6; Sal 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

**TODOS COMPARTEN LA PROMESA**

Imagínate un pesebre en tu mente. Es probable que la escena incluya figuras que llegan en camellos, algunas de ellas muy bien vestidas, con cajas de joyas que contienen preciosos regalos. Estos magos llegaron desde tierras lejanas para rendir homenaje al Niño Jesús. Sabemos poco sobre los magos, pero sí sabemos que estos visitantes no eran judíos. Representan a personas de todas las naciones que serán atraídas por el Señor. “Las naciones caminarán a tu luz, y los reyes a tu resplandor”. La Buena Nueva de Jesús no puede limitarse a un solo pueblo; todos comparten la promesa de la misericordia de Dios por medio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

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**PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA**

¿Cómo me ha cambiado mi encuentro con el Señor durante este tiempo de Navidad? ¿Adónde imagino que mi nuevo camino me llevará?