

**LITURGIES FOR THE FIRST WEEK IN
ORDINARY TIME AND THE SECOND
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

JANUARY 8 - 14, 2024

Monday, 1/8 † The Baptism of the Lord

6pm: Annette

Tuesday, 1/9 † Weekday

8am: Jimmy O'Donell by Darlene Robinson

9am: A.S. The Daly Family by Mary Daly

Wednesday, 1/10 † Weekday

9am: A.S.-

6pm: Jaunita Harris by Jeanne Offerman

Thursday, 1/11 † Weekday

8am: Colette

9am: A.S.

Friday, 1/12 † Weekday

8am: Milo

9am: A.S.

Saturday, 1/13 † Weekday; Saint Hilary, Bishop

8:30am: Nate

**Saturday, 1/13 † Vigil: The Second Sunday in
Ordinary time**

4:30am: Parishioners

**Sunday, 1/14 † The Second Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

7:30am: McKenzie

9am: A. S. Ernie & Clare Herbert by the Herbert
Family

11am: Marriane Soplanda by Family

The Office will be closed Monday, January 15 in
observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This week at SS. C & M & All Saints

Mon., Jan. 8 – 3:30pm – SVDP, Parlor

Wed., Jan 10 – 6:30pm – Parish Council, Rectory

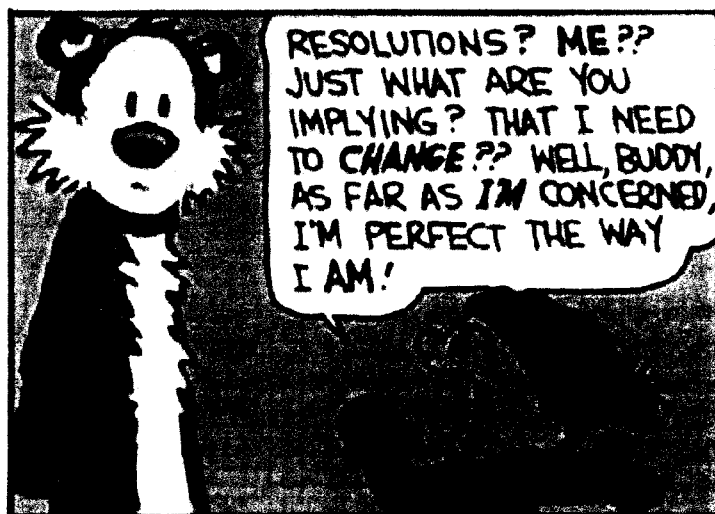
Thurs., Jan. 11 – 2:15pm - Legion of Mary, All Saints

Thurs., Jan 11– 4pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
All Saints

Sun., Jan. 14 – 9:30am – Religious Education

Father Terry would like to thank all those who sent Christmas cards, blessed him with all the delicious goodies, gifts and well wishes this Christmas season.

Our 2023 collection envelopes will not be here for a while according to the company. We have envelopes (without names) from 2023 you are welcome to use until they come in. You will need to either place one of your personal address labels on the envelope or write your name on it.



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift with St. Vincent de Paul so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

Dear Padre

January 7, 2024

On what date was Jesus born? Was it December 25 or some time between December and April, when shepherds watched over their sheep?

Due to the complexity of history's various calendars and ways of calculating time, we cannot be sure of the date. Matthew and Luke, the two Gospels that detail the birth of Jesus, do not give a date.

Early Christians observed an annual feast to remember Jesus' death and resurrection, focusing on the paschal mystery rather than on his birth. As Christianity grew and spread, however, Christians wanted to celebrate more events from Jesus' life. The celebration on December 25 has more to do with an expression of faith in Jesus as Emmanuel, "God with us," than with establishing the exact date of his birth.

December 25 is listed as the date of Jesus' birth in a fourth-century calendar of martyrs, but how this date was chosen is unclear. Some scholars believe Christians in Rome chose December 25 to counteract the celebration of the pagan sun god Emesa. Another theory follows the influences of the seasons: early Christians believed John the Baptist was conceived on the autumnal equinox and born at the summer solstice. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus' conception took place six months after John's. That time line would place Jesus' birth at the winter solstice, December 25 on the Julian calendar. A third theory says Jesus' birth would have occurred on the same date as his death, which we believe to be in the spring at Passover. Regardless of the exact date, we celebrate Jesus as the true Son of God who came to enlighten us and, by his death and resurrection, to give us life. ●

Fr. John Schmidt, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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Good News!

January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Matthew 2:1-12

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I live at a parish in downtown Milwaukee. From my window I watch the world pass by, everyone below in search of one thing or another. Students from the local university seek an education, business folk look for a sale, street people often look for a place to spend the night, teenagers hope to find love. Yet beneath all of those longings, in each one there is a deeper hunger that wonders what life is all about and the hope that they might find it. Hidden amidst it all, the real hunger is for God, a longing sewn into our being, sometimes recognized but too often not.

The story of the *Magi* is a story of seekers making their way from afar in hopes of finding the promised one, a newborn king. Perhaps they knew of this child's divine nature, more likely not, yet it was ultimately that same hunger that exists in all of us that drove them, a deep desire to know God.

Every serious religion seeks to experience God in life and tells the stories of those who have done so. There are Christian mystics like St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila, Jewish mystics of the Kabbalah tradition, the Sufis of Islam, Native Americans who go on vision quests, the Hindus who practice yoga, as well as the Buddhists and Taoists and Confucians. Like the Magi, we all seek to find God. ●

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Epiphany Blessing of the Home with Chalk

We invite you to adopt this custom in your family. The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 16. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2016 is the year.

Blessing the Chalk

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

R. From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 16 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and sixteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer: *Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen*

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

STARS CROSS THE SKY,
WISE MEN JOURNEY
FROM PAGAN LANDS,
EARTH RECEIVES ITS SAVIOR
IN A CAVE.

LET THERE BE NO ONE
WITHOUT A GIFT TO OFFER,
NO ONE WITHOUT GRATITUDE
AS WE CELEBRATE THE SALVATION
OF THE WORLD,
THE BIRTHDAY OF THE HUMAN RACE.
NOW IT IS NO LONGER,
"DUST YOU ARE AND TO DUST
YOU SHALL RETURN", BUT,
"YOU ARE JOINED TO HEAVEN
AND INTO HEAVEN YOU
SHALL BE TAKEN UP".

BASIL THE GREAT
(AD 330 - 379)