

PARISH CALENDER

Solemnity of the
Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024

Lord, every nation on
earth will adore you.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

1 Sm:3:3b-10, 19: Samuel thought Eli was calling him but then recognized the Lord. He said, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."
1 Cor:6:13c-15a, 17-20: Paul told his friends that their bodies are "members of Christ. . . a temple of the Holy Spirit within you."
Jn:1:35-42: Andrew sought out his brother Simon to tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (the Christ).

GOSPEL REFLECTION

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Luke 2:39-40 (Gospel Year B)
 Today we honor family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families.

By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of in the Scripture very little. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little.

The line from today's Gospel quoted above does, however, give us some insight worth pondering. First, we see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord..." Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord.

The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives.

Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfill this duty of love?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a model for us all.

Lord, draw me into the life, love and communion that You lived with Your Immaculate Mother and Saint Joseph. I offer You myself, my family and all those to whom I am called to love with a special love. May I imitate Your family love and life in all my relationships. Help me to know how to change and grow so that I may more fully share in Your family life. Jesus, I trust in You. **(My Catholic Life)**

Accept our gifts also, Lord



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARAVANS OF CAMELS



We are called to Love One Another – Aloha Kekahi i Kekahi

Our prayers and presence in the public square can change hearts and minds to believe in the Culture of Life!

Come and Join us:

Friday, January 19, 2024 3 - 6 PM March for Life Rally - State Capitol

Thursday, January 18, 2024 6 PM Mass with Adoration - St. Theresa

Co-Cathedral - Bishop Larry Presider

WORD OF LIFE: "Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them: **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "How To Build a Culture of Life"** (respectlife.org/culture-of-life)

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 7 Sun: The Epiphany of the Lord

Is:60:1-6; Ps:72; Ep:3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt:2:1-12

Jan 08 Mon: The Baptism of the Lord

Is:55:1-11; Is:12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mk:1:7-11

Jan 09 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:1:9-20; 1 Sm:2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk:1:21-28

Jan 10 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:3:1-10, 19-20; Ps:40:2 & 5, 7-8a, 8b-9. 10; Mk:1:29-39

Jan 11 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:4:1-11; Ps:44; 10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk:1:40-45

Jan 12 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps:89: 16-17, 18-19; Mk:2:1-12

Jan 13 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sm:9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps:21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk:2:13-17

About those camels, we are not too sure about them. Yes, every nativity scene shows the Magi seated on stately dromedaries, or leading their beasts of burden by bit and rein. But, quite honestly, the story of the Magi never tells us how they got there. They could have traveled on foot, in chariot, on horseback, on elephants, or by camel—but we just do not know.

The reason we keep putting them on camels in our art is because of Isaiah's prophecy. He predicted that caravans of camels would fill Jerusalem and that people from the East would come bearing gold and frankincense. "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!" he proclaims. "Your light has come."

In Matthew's story, the Magi realize that Jerusalem's light has come. They follow the star and bring their gifts of gold and frankincense. Myrrh, too. By telling about these gifts, Matthew turns our attention back to Isaiah. Reading that prophecy, we realize that the light Isaiah mentioned is the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

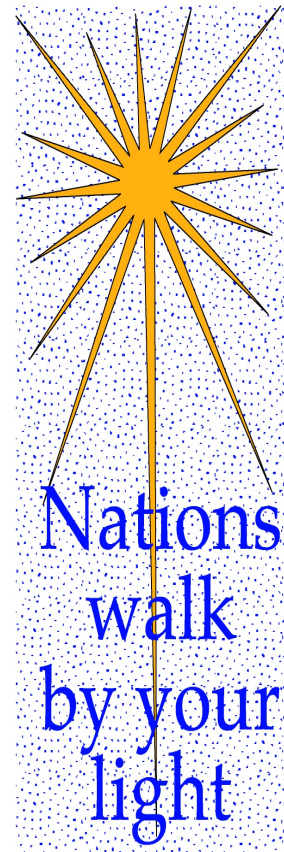
When we see the Magi seated on camels, we are remembering Isaiah. When we remember Isaiah, we remember the light that came to shatter the darkness of our world. Those camels carry hope. *Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year B* © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. *Lectionary for Mass* © 2001, CCD

And you Bethlehem of Judah,
are by no means least
among the princes
since from you shall come forth
a ruler to shepherd Israel

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Enlighten Us

Radiant God,
you are the source of all light and joy.
Illuminate our communities
and show us the way to live in peace
and harmony.
Shower us with knowledge of your
holy will
and grant us courage to manifest
your presence throughout the world.
Help us to bring the Good News
of your life among us
to the ends of the earth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, January 7, 2024
Look Back, Look Forward



Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12. Little is known about the three visitors from the East who paid the Holy Family homage. Still we can't help but marvel at their determination to meet Jesus despite the distance and that their only guide was a star.

In many cultures, Epiphany is celebrated with as much festivity as Christmas. The day may be marked with parades, parties, gift-giving, the three kings cake, and holiday meals. Create annual traditions to make Epiphany special in your household. The liturgy offers a house blessing on this day. Inscribe 20+C+M+B24 with chalk on the door frame. It stands for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “let Christ bless this house” and the current year. Custom

attributes the letters to the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Bring the figurines of the three Magi closer to the manger, light candles, and sing your favorite Epiphany and Christmas carols.

The Christmas season ends at sundown on the Baptism of the Lord. This weekend invites us to look back upon our journey since the beginning of Advent. From waiting for the coming of Christ, to welcoming him anew into our lives, and then making a permanent home for him in our hearts, we also traveled far. What new insights did you uncover along the way about the in-breaking of God into humanity? How will your faith journey bring you closer to Christ in the coming year?



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, January 8

The Baptism of the Lord

The Scriptures turn from Christ's infancy to his initiation and mission. At his baptism the Holy Spirit anointed and revealed Jesus as the Son of God. We are invited to ponder our baptism, which welcomed us into the community of the children of God. Pull out baptismal pictures, garments, and mementos, and recall the stories of baptisms in your family. Reach out to godparents and godchildren with a note or a call. Remember our baptismal commitment to keep the light of Christ burning brightly in our lives. *Today's readings: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7; Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 3, 9–10; Acts 10:34–38; Mark 1:7–11.*

January 9—February 13

Ordinary Time

Our six-week journey from the First Sunday of Advent to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord has come to an end, and the Church now enters the season of Ordinary Time. There is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. It is named after ordered or counted time. There are five Sundays, thirty-eight days of time before Lent. Change your prayer space colors to green and reflect on how you hope to grow spiritually in the not-so-ordinary weeks ahead.

Wednesday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales served the Church in sixteenth-century Europe with his extraordinary gifts of communication about the spiritual life for the laity. He was tenacious in evangelizing through his humility, wisdom, teaching, and eloquent writing. Some of his letters to the faithful are collected in the book *The Introduction to the Devout Life*. Francis de Sales is the patron saint of writers and journalists. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–17; Psalm 89:4–5, 27–28, 29–30; Mark 4:1–20.*

Thursday, January 25

Conversion of St. Paul

A brilliant, highly educated Jewish Roman during the first century, Paul was converted from a zealous persecutor of the early Christians to the most prolific and compelling disciple of Christ. Without a doubt, Paul accelerated the growth of the Christian community like no other evangelist. He was beheaded in Rome for his tenacious faithfulness. Read Acts, chapters 9–28, to recall his full story. *Today's readings: Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22; Psalm 177:1, 2; Mark 16:15–18.*

Wednesday, January 31

St. John Bosco

St. John Bosco followed his call to minister to poor and neglected youth in Turin during the early nineteenth century. His patience and compassion for children seemed limitless. He opened a church and a home and school for boys who would otherwise have been without care. He founded the Salesian order, named after his favorite saint, St. Francis de Sales, as well as an order of women to do similar ministry for girls. John Bosco is remembered as the patron saint of children. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9–17; Psalm 32:1–2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 6:1–6.*

Friday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord

Today's feast commemorates the purifying of Mary according to Jewish law, forty days after the birth of a male child, as well as the consecration of the child in the temple. This feast is always celebrated with candles (it used to be known as Candlemas) because of Simeon's recognition that in the person of Jesus, God has given us "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people, Israel" (Luke 2:30–32). Prepare a special meal, light candles for the table, and read chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel at prayer time. *Today's readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40.*

