



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

January 8, 2023 ▪ The Epiphany of the Lord

Blessed Epiphany chalk was used to protect homes against illnesses

By Philip Kosloski



The chalk is blessed by the priest and uses a prayer that asks God for good health and safety in the New Year.

Each year on the feast of Epiphany, chalk is blessed by priests around the world and then distributed to the parish. Parishioners are instructed to **mark their doorposts** in an action clearly **inspired by the book of Exodus**.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt ... "take some of the blood [of the

lamb], and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it ... The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt." (cf. Exodus 12:1-13)

It is an ancient tradition that calls upon God's blessing and protection.

Traditionally a priest blesses chalk on the Feast of the Epiphany by saying the following prayer (from the *Roman Ritual*):

*Bless, + O Lord God, this creature, chalk, and let it be a help to mankind. Grant that those who will **use it with faith** in your most holy name, and with it inscribe on the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Casper, Melchior, and Baltassar, **may through their merits and intercession enjoy health in body and protection of soul; through Christ our Lord.***

Many families would take this seriously and **prayed the blessing with faith**, trusting that God would spare them diseases, plagues and other illnesses.

This is reflected in the prayer typically said by the head of the household when marking the doors with chalk.

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PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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1600 54TH AVE S.
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... Continued from cover

*Bless, + O Lord God almighty, this home, **that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.***

While there is no “guarantee” that a home marked with Epiphany chalk will be protected from all illnesses, **it does remind us that God is the giver of all gifts and he can lead us into good health.**

The spiritual needs of the family should always be in the forefront of our mind, **knowing that God will lead us through every dark valley.**

Even if we aren’t spared a deadly disease, God’s blessing will reign in our house and our soul will be at peace with God.

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Wedding Feast & Epiphany

Question:

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

Answer:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

©LPi

“Rise up in splendor,
Jerusalem!

Your
light has
come.”

(Is 60: 1)



January 8, 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It's easy to stay inside and cozy up on the couch these winter months. Having just gotten through the winter solstice, many of us crave light and warmth. The language of Isaiah may resonate with us even more deeply this time of year: "See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory." In today's Gospel, in the dark of night, the Magi follow a bright star to pay homage to Jesus, whom they recognize as the newborn king of the Jews. On the Epiphany, which means "manifestation," we celebrate this moment when Christ's light shone forth to the world. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*: "The key point is this: The wise men from the east are a new beginning. They represent the journeying of humanity toward Christ."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like the Wise Men who traveled a long distance to pay homage to the Christ Child, each of us journeys every day toward a fuller life in Christ. Just as the Magi followed the light to discover Christ, so does the light of Christ serve as our constant beacon, reorienting us toward God and his holy path. After worshiping the Christ Child at Christmas, let us move forward and pay homage to the Savior through our words and actions. Although Epiphany signifies the official "end" of the Christmas season, it is fitting that it falls at the beginning of a new calendar year because it allows us to reexamine, among our traditional "New Year's resolutions," how we live our lives in the light of Christ. "The wise men from the east are a new beginning," the pope said. May their journey and experience inspire us to "begin anew" however we must, and offer Jesus our gifts of love and devotion, considering how his light may shine through us to others.

PRAY "Dear Jesus, as you led the Wise Men to you by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to you by the light of faith. Help us to desire you as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from you. May we, like them, have something to give you when we appear before you. Amen."



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 7, Vigil for The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 p.m. Betty Alexander (Dec)

Sunday, January 8, The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Betty Alexander (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Byron B. Mays (Dec)

Monday, January 9, The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 a.m. John Dziondziak (Dec)

Tuesday, January 10, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Robert Rendino (Dec)

Wednesday, January 11, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, January 12, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Roberts Family Thanksgiving Wish

Friday, January 13, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Francis Romani (Dec)

Saturday, January 14, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Ann Deakins (Dec)

Saturday, January 14, Vigil for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. James Lawler (Dec) and
Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, January 15, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Theresa Roy (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

Nick Calandra (Dec)

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

01/08 • Alexander Fleming, Seminarian

01/09 • Rev. Gary J. Dowsey

01/10 • Rev. Dermot J. Dunne

01/11 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

01/12 • Rev. Wayne Genereux

01/13 • Rev. Thomas L. Madden

01/14 • Rev. Connor Penn

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Save the Date Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 8 am

"Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes"

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers will present a 1½ - 2 hour Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church on **Saturday, February 11, 2023 following the 8:00 am Mass at the Church. The Virtual Pilgrimage will be in the Parish Hall.**



As part of the Virtual Pilgrimage Experience to draw nearer to God with Our Lady and St. Bernadette you will:

Immerse yourself in the Gospel Message of Lourdes as given by Our Lady to St. Bernadette

Touch the Grotto Rock and experience the healing grace of Lourdes Water

Pray the Rosary

Receive a bottle of Lourdes Water

Prepare a petition to be placed in the Grotto in Lourdes, France

Encounter the healing grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ through His Immaculate Mother. Invite your family, children and friends! Our Lady extends her invitation to all! The next best thing to visiting Lourdes itself is a Pilgrimage journey without the travel! A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful, under the usual conditions, who attend this Experience!

For more information, call the Parish Office at 727 867 3663.

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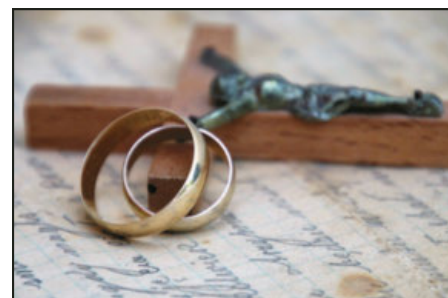
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or drop in the offertory basket.*

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Marriage Jubilee

The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 pm. This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate their 25th anniversary as well as those celebrating 50 or more years of marriage during the 2023 calendar year.

Please RSVP to our parish office at 727-867-3663 no later than **Tuesday, January 17**, if you will be attending.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The story of the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus, the newborn King, is a great one, isn't it? They had a great big star in the sky to lead the way. I am no Boy Scout, so I am not sure how well I would do following a star like that. But the important point here is that God led them to the manger. The manger was a place that unless God specifically showed you this was where the Christ Child was born you wouldn't have believed it. You would have passed on by.

In our lives, there are no big stars in the sky leading us where we need to go. It isn't so easy sometimes discerning where God is leading us. We may seek to use our gifts wisely, but in what manner and to what end is not always clear.

This is where prayer can make a huge difference. If we seek to cultivate a prayer life where we are mindful of the presence of God throughout our day, then the call is easier to discern. We can help the process by intentionally offering to God in the morning the entirety of the day to come: all our actions, all our time, and all our decisions. In the evening, we can examine the past hours of the day and reflect on when we responded well to Christ's call and when we fell short. Then we resolve to begin again tomorrow, inviting Christ to be with us every step of the way. God may not offer a star in the sky to lead us, but if we invite us on our journey each day, the path will be much clearer.

Marriage Troubles?



If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it, Retrouvaille can help, as it has helped tens of thousands of others.

Our next program begins **February 10-12, 2023**. For information, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com, or call 813 212-4553. *Not counseling or group therapy.* All contacts and names held in strictest confidence.

Messa in Italiano

Our Lady's Chapel,
Cathedral of St. Jude
5815 - 5th Avenue N.

January 29, 2022 at 4:00pm

Please come to pray and sing in
ITALIANO

Celebrant:

Fr. Anthony M. Fortunato, OdeM.

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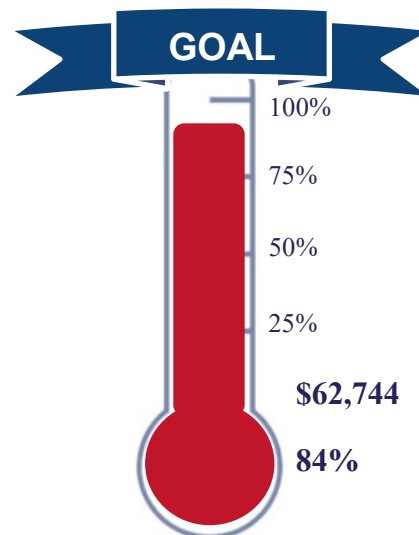
- Join our Scripture Reflection community!
- Receive a personal message each day via email, or text.
- Includes a prayer intention and question of the day.
- Written by people you probably know, including priests, sisters, deacons, and parishioners.

SIGN UP:
BeCourageousEachDay.org
or text REFLECTION to 84576

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Our Goal \$74,741



Thank you for your prayerful giving!

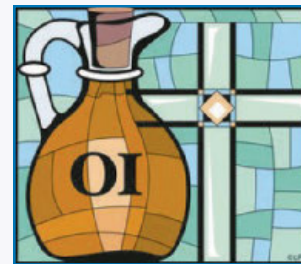
Need a tax break?

Congress has permanently enacted qualified charitable distributions from your traditional IRA accounts for those 70 1/2 or older. These distributions can be used to satisfy all or a portion of your *Required Minimum Distribution* and are free of federal income tax. Also, these gifts help you avoid the Medicare high income surcharge and can help reduce your income taxes on your social security benefits. Distributions must be made *directly* from your IRA account to your parish, or *directly* from your IRA account to the Diocese of St. Petersburg for the benefit of your parish.

For questions, contact the Diocese of St. Petersburg Campaign Office at stock-iradonations@dosp.org or 727.341.6841.

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Fitzgerald, Dan
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Theissen, Robert
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Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Wanize, Tom
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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