



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

January 7, 2024 ▪ 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.

*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***

Continued next page . . .



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Randall Roberts, 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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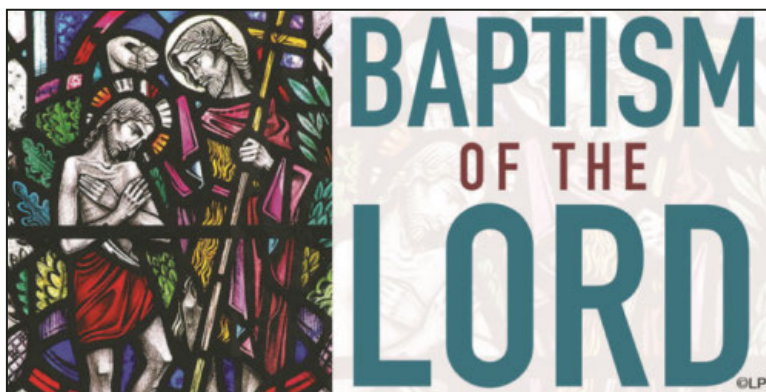
thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

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.

Originated at Aleteia.org, reprinted with permission



Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes

Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 9 from 10:00 am—11:30 am. They will continue with the series from Q Place, "Foundations for Faith."

Classes are held in Courtyard Hall and the books will be \$12. There are nine sessions. Bring a Bible. For further information and to confirm attendance, please call Barbara Townsend (727) 867-3605.

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.

01/07 • Rev. Jose Glenn Diaz
01/08 • Mark De Sio, Seminarian
01/09 • Rev. Gary J. Dowsey
01/10 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
01/11 • Rev. Dermot J. Dunne
01/12 • Rev. Wayne Genereux
01/13 • Rev. Thomas L. Madden



January 7, 2024

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 interesting how an event can be interpreted by different people. God's revelation of himself in the birth of the child Jesus is clearly one such event. The Magi, Gentiles from the east, had heard of this "newborn king of the Jews" and undertook a long and arduous journey to see him and offer him homage. They were edified and eager in their search. Herod, himself a king – of the Jews – did not have the same reaction. The very thought of this "newborn king" threatened him and filled him with rage and suspicion. In this moment in human history, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (i.e., the Epiphany) unveils the truth of God's redemptive work for all of creation to be reconciled to himself. This truth has been accepted and rejected throughout time, and our celebration of this feast gives us an opportunity to give thanks in a focused and particular way for our acceptance of it – to give thanks for the gift of our faith. Perhaps it is even a moment for us to have our own, colloquial epiphany: an "aha moment," where we once again truly understand the depth of God's love for us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Magi, the Gentiles from the east, were changed after their encounter with the Christ Child; they were warned not to return to Herod and they obeyed and took a different route home. In today's second reading, St. Paul says it has been revealed that Gentiles are "coheirs, members of the same body" – the body of Christ. Just as the magi were forever changed by their journey, so must we be. Their journey is a model for us, but we do not have to seek Christ in the world as they did; he is here with us, in Word and in the Eucharist. The Incarnation of Jesus is pure gift to our weary, troubled world. As we heard in Isaiah, "rise up! ... [our] light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon [us]." As the Magi followed the light of the star, let us rise to the occasion and respond to God's light in our world by recognizing the good gifts God gives us each day. And then thank him for his enduring presence in our lives.

PRAY *Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation
by the guidance of a star ...
Fill us with the light of Christ,
that our concern for others may reflect your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*
(from USCCB Epiphany prayer for blessing of home)



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

Journeying Through Grief

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 6, Memorial of Saint André Bessette, Religious
8:00 a.m. Julie Amaral (dec.)

Saturday, January 6, Vigil for The Epiphany of the Lord
4:00 p.m. Gary S. Ayers (liv.)

Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Jack Courtney (dec.)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Nicole Bistany (dec.)

Monday, January 8, Baptism of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Johnny Keefe (dec.)

Tuesday, January 9, First Week in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Edward Zaiko (dec.)

Wednesday, January 10, First Week in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, January 11, First Week in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Nathaniel Kuhlman (dec.)

Friday, January 12, First Week in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Wanda Harley (dec.)

Saturday, January 13, Memorial of Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
8:00 a.m. Robert Landry (liv.)

Saturday, January 13, Vigil for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 p.m. James and Lucy Sovey (dec.)

Sunday, January 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Nathaniel Kuhlman (dec.)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Kiebert Seraphin and Family (dec. & liv.)



**BAPTISM IS THE BEST GIFT WE HAVE RECEIVED.
THROUGH IT, WE BELONG TO GOD AND WE
POSSESS THE JOY OF SALVATION.**

POPE FRANCIS

Parish Finances

Included here is the cash basis financial summary for Blessed Trinity for the first quarter of fiscal 2024, the three months ended 09/31/2023, which reflects a net deficit of \$82,533.

In this report, Operating Revenue - Other, includes items such as Building Fund donations, donations for masses, donations for flowers and interest income. Pastoral Leadership expense includes all clergy wages, stipends and benefits as well as expenses of the rectory. Worship and Music expense includes wages and stipends for music and worship, as well as worship supplies and material, flowers and environment and music supplies and services. Administration includes employee benefits, administration wages, office expense, professional services, dues and subscriptions, telephone and technology expense. Facilities Maintenance includes building and grounds repairs and maintenance, maintenance wages, utilities and property and liability insurance.

Financial Report for the 3 months ended 09/30/2023

| | Income | Expense |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Operating Revenue - Offertory | \$ 84,543 | |
| Operating Revenue - Other | 10,074 | |
| Operating Expense: | | |
| Pastoral Leadership | | \$ 31,680 |
| Worship and Music | | 21,085 |
| Faith Formation | | 25 |
| Charity and Outreach | | 15 |
| Diocesan Support | | 1,092 |
| School support | | 1,638 |
| Administration | | 48,670 |
| Facilities Maintenance | | 75,608 |
| Subtotal | \$ 94,617 | \$ 179,813 |
| Operating Income less Operating Expense | | \$ (85,196) |
| Supplemental Income | Income | Expense |
| Gift shop | 1,448 | 10 |
| Rental Income | 1,225 | |
| Subtotal Supplemental Income | \$ 2,673 | \$ 10 |
| Supplemental Income net of expense | \$ 2,663 | |
| Total income less expense | | \$ (82,533) |

The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude on Sunday, February 11 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 2024 calendar year. To RSVP, please call our parish office by Tuesday January 16.

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"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group

Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in
Courtyard Hall.

All are welcome!

For more information please call
727-867-3663.



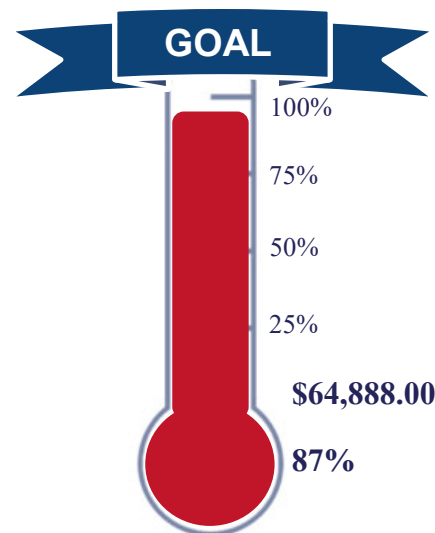
DIocese of ST. PETERSBURG

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Appeal

**Thank you for your
prayerful giving!**

2023 Goal \$74,446.52



Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----|
| Sunday, January 7, Epiphany of the Lord 9:00 and 10:30am | Coffee and Donuts | PH |
| Monday, January 8 7:00 pm | "Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group | CYH |
| Tuesday, January 9 10:00-11:30 am | Scripture Class resumes | CYH |
| Thursday, January 11 6:00 pm | Adult Choir Rehearsal | MR |
| Sunday, January 14 8:30-11:00 am | K.O.C. Pancake Breakfast | PH |
| Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parish office will be closed. 7:00 pm | "Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group | CYH |
| Tuesday, January 16 10:00-11:30 am | Scripture Class | CYH |
| Thursday, January 18 6:00 pm | Adult Choir Rehearsal | MR |
| Monday, January 22 7:00 pm | "Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group | CYH |
| Tuesday, January 23 10:00-11:30 am | Scripture Class | CYH |
| Thursday, January 25 6:00 pm | Adult Choir Rehearsal | MR |
| Friday, January 26 BT Social Group Meets after the 8:00 am Mass@ Kahwa Coffee 400 45th Ave S, St. Petersburg 33705 | | |
| Saturday, January 27 7:00 pm | Knights of Columbus Sock Hop Dance | PH |
| Sunday, January 28 9:00 and 10:30 am | Coffee and Donuts | PH |
| Monday, January 29 7:00 pm | "Life in the Spirit" Prayer group | CYH |
| Tuesday, January 30 10:00-11:30 am | Scripture Class | CYH |
| Thursday, February 1 6:00pm | Adult Choir Rehearsal | MR |
| Saturday, February 2 5:00 pm | K.O.C. event: "Italian Carnival" | PH |

PH= Parish Hall, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church



Social Group

The Blessed Trinity Social Group is meeting regularly now. Please join us at the Kahwa coffee shop @ 400 45th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 after the 8:00 am Mass on the Last Friday of each Month. Bring your ideas!

Please note our next meeting will be Friday, January 26th.

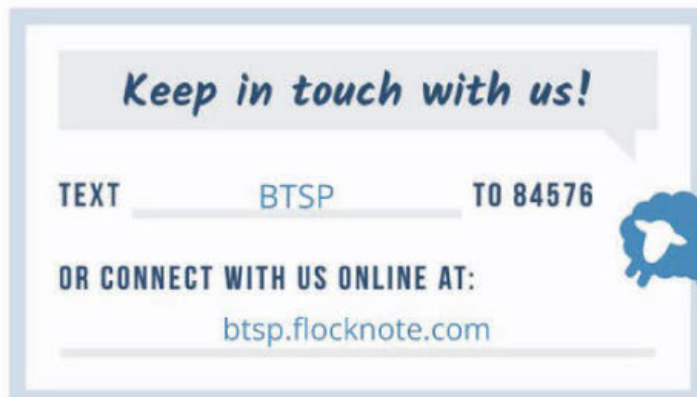
All are welcome!



**GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH**



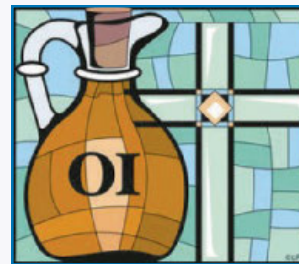
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Arnold, Barbara
Austreng, Dick
Barr, Bill
Becker, Mary
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Christ, Kathryn
Cisek, Marilyn
Comeau, Teresa
Coston, Robert
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Gawlik, Frank
Gawlik, Sofia
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt

Irvin, John
Joyal, Christina
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgeessner, Marie
Klima, Sue
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Matthews, Daniel
Mays, Susan
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Oliphant, Sean
Parmigiani, Valerie
Powers, Jim
Preeper, Helen

Riley, Marie
Roberts,
Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Schulz, Ingrid
Shelby, Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
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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Cecile Maharne



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