



# Blessed Trinity

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## Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

January 4, 2026 • The Epiphany of the Lord

## Epiphany reminds us that Mary is the Star of Evangelization



By Zvonimir Atletic | SHUTTERSTOCK

Philip Kosloski - published on 01/04/25

While there may have been a miraculous star that led the magi to the Child Jesus, there was another star present on that day, who continually leads us to Jesus.

A star plays a vital role in leading the magi to the location of Jesus, the newborn King.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? **We saw his star** at its rising and have come to do him homage."

The star they followed was either an actual star, or possibly an angelic "star," who led the way for them on their journey.

Another "star" who was present on that day was the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, who continues to this day to bring people from around the world to her son, Jesus.

*Continued on page 2*

... *Continued from cover*

## Mary, Star of the Evangelization

Pope Benedict XVI made this connection on the feast of Epiphany in 2007:

Now we invoke the **Virgin Mary, Star of Evangelization**: through her intercession may Christians in every part of the earth live as sons of the light and lead humanity to Christ, true light of the world.

He also referred to her under this title in a homily in 2006:

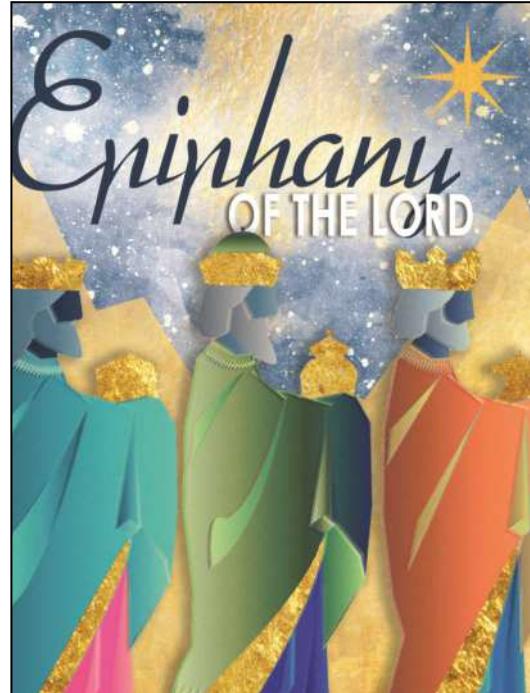
[T]he Gospel finally introduces us into the period in which we live today. It leads us towards Mary, whom we honor as the **Star of Evangelization**.

At a crucial time in history, Mary offered herself, her body and soul, to God as a dwelling place. In her and from her the Son of God took flesh. Through her the Word was made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14).

Thus, it is Mary who tells us what Advent is: **going forth to meet the Lord who comes to meet us; waiting for him, listening to him, looking at him**.

We may not have a miraculous star to lead us to Jesus, but we do have Mary, who shines brightly in our world, pointing the way to her son, Jesus.

**Originally published at Aleteia.org, reprinted with permission**



## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, January 3, Vigil for The Epiphany of the Lord**

4:00 p.m. Helene Logue (dec)

**Sunday, January 4, The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. Angelina Castagna (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Louis Serrano (dec)

**Monday, January 5, Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop**

8:00 a.m. Carmen Forteau (dec)

**Tuesday, January 6, Tuesday after Epiphany**

8:00 a.m. The Bento Family (liv & dec)

**Wednesday, January 7, Wednesday after Epiphany**

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

**Thursday, January 8, Thursday after Epiphany**

8:00 a.m. The Ayers Family (liv & dec)

**Friday, January 9, Friday after Epiphany**

8:00 a.m. Louis and Steve Forteau (liv)

**Saturday, January 10, Vigil for the Baptism of the Lord**

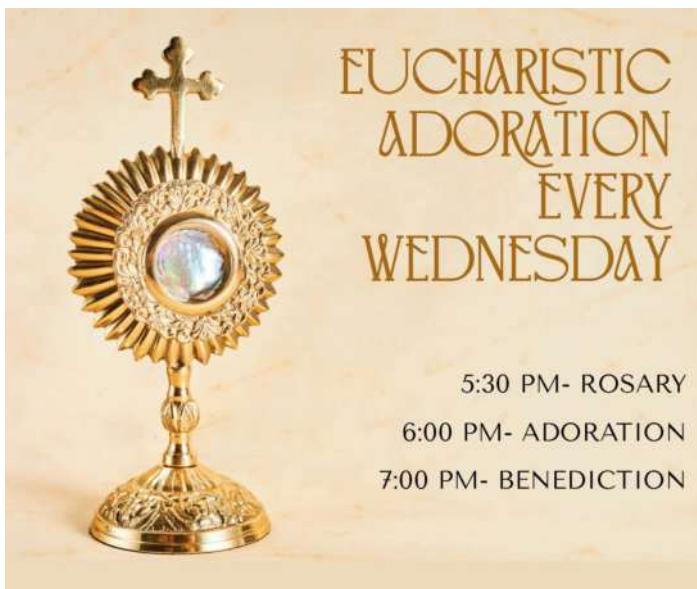
4:00 p.m. Helen Logue (dec)

**Sunday, January 11, The Baptism of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. Stanley and Alice Abstetar (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Cecilia Eke (dec)





January 4, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## The Epiphany of the Lord

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

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

Have you ever had a moment where you've been so joyful that your heart "throbbed and overflowed"? (Is. 60:5) Perhaps this prompt might call to mind moments we have been chosen or noticed, especially when we otherwise felt sidelined or forgotten. (Imagine expecting to be picked last for the team, only to be someone's first choice!) Today's first reading speaks of a moment like that. While the nations of the earth are shrouded in darkness, God shines his light and glory on Jerusalem, and all the nations come streaming to her bearing precious tributes. Similarly, our Gospel speaks about how God chose Bethlehem — a seemingly insignificant town — to be the birthplace of his Son: "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people." Like Jerusalem and Bethlehem, we, too, have been chosen by God. As we continue our celebration of Christmas, our hearts are filled to overflowing when we recall that by taking on our flesh, God has chosen to make his home with us for all eternity.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul reminds us that God has chosen us, not only for ourselves, but for the sake of others: "You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit." God gives Paul a special revelation to know the mystery of God so he could preach the Gospel to the Gentiles and to all peoples. We who know the joy of having been chosen to be God's beloved sons and daughters have the beautiful task of helping others to know that they, too, are chosen by God. Because of this, evangelization is not simply an item on our spiritual to-do list; it is a work of joy — the joy of helping others to discover their own "belovedness" as children of God. And of course, this message is for everyone!

### INVITATION

One of the best presents we can offer to someone is our presence. Make an effort this week to intentionally spend time with someone who may feel lonely or forgotten, setting aside other tasks to focus entirely on them. The goal is to help them feel special and *chosen* as a way of giving a glimpse of God's love that chooses each of us out of the many. May the gift of your presence help them to remember how very loved they are.



## Music Ministry

Advent Concert Photos are now posted on the Music Ministry Website! Please take a moment to view wonderful memories from the Inaugural event of the new *Trinity Presents* Concert Series! Those and other information can be found at [btspmusic.org](http://btspmusic.org)

## New Mass Settings begin Christmas Eve through Lent!

We will sing parts of the vibrant, and upbeat Mass of St. Ann by Ed Bolduc beginning Christmas Eve. Learn this Mass from the YouTube links posted on the Music Ministry Website at [btspmusic.org](http://btspmusic.org)

Also, the Music Ministry is actively recruiting instrumentalists, bell ringers, and singers for current and forming groups to minister at various Masses.

### Including:

Sanctuary Choir  
Blessed Bells  
Cantate Men's Choir  
Auditioned Schola Cantorum  
St. Patrick's Celebration Choir

Please email Lisa at [lss@btsp.org](mailto:lss@btsp.org) with questions or for more information.

## Marriage Jubilee Mass



The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 pm.

This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate their 25th or 50th anniversary as well as those celebrating 51 or more years of marriage during the 2026 calendar year.

Please RSVP by calling our parish office by Thursday January 15th.

## Pray for God's Decision

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.

### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Penances and Prayers

*God's glory, now, is kindled gentler than candlelight under the rafters of a barn:  
Eternal Peace is sleeping in the hay,  
And Wisdom's born in secret in a straw-roofed stable.\**

When I was younger, I wrote music to and recorded Thomas Merton's poem, "Epiphany Carol." If you have never read it, search it out on the internet. Merton's words are profound and paint a picture of the awesomeness of Jesus, the newborn King of Kings, lying in a simple straw bed. The shepherds and Wise Men are drawn to pay homage to the One who has been born above all others and brings with him hope for a broken world.

As Merton correctly points out, the gifts we are called to bring to this baby and lay at his feet are our prayers and penances, next to those gifts of worldly wealth. What is it that you have to bring to the stable on this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord? Unless those prayers and penances lead to a new way of living, our gifts will be void of meaning. What we lay before him speaks to the change in us that he has given to us by his birth. Our daily stewardship is resembled in those gifts. If we are to truly echo the kingdom of God in our lives and actions, what we ultimately offer to him is no less than our entire selves. This baby will give his entire self for us, and his work must continue through our hands and feet.

*While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries  
Come after with our penances and prayers,  
And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay  
Beside the wise men's golden jars.\**

\*Excerpts from "Epiphany Carol" by Thomas Merton  
– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



### Weekly Offering

#### Weekly Giving 12/14/25

Offertory	\$ 8,026
Other Donations	\$ 6,923
Restoring the Sacred	\$ 1,400
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 130
Catholic Ministry Appeal	\$ 30
National Collections	\$ 1,527

#### Weekly Giving 12/14/25

Offertory	\$ 11,927
Other Donations	\$ 1,076
Restoring the Sacred	\$ 10,425
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 105
Catholic Ministry Appeal	\$ 577
National Collections	\$ 205

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Scripture Classes

Blessed Trinity Scripture classes will resume on Tuesday, January 13 from 10:00-11:30 am. We will study "The Sacred Heart of Jesus." The books are \$12. Classes are held in Courtyard Hall.

For further information call Barbara Townsend 727.867.3605"

### Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Following 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 to schedule an appointment.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, January 4

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

### Monday, January 5

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

### Tuesday, January 6

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting PC

### Wednesday, January 7

#### Adoration

5:30 pm	Rosary	CH
6:00 pm	Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation	CH
7:00 pm	Benediction	CH

### Thursday, January 8

4:00 pm	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	CYH-1
5:00 pm	Handbell practice	MR
6:30 pm	Choir Practice	MR

### Sunday, January 11

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

### Monday, January 12

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

### Tuesday, January 13

10:00 am	Scripture Class resumes	CYH
7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting	PC

### Wednesday, January 14

#### Adoration

5:30 pm	Rosary	CH
6:00 pm	Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation	CH
7:00 pm	Benediction	CH

### Thursday, January 15

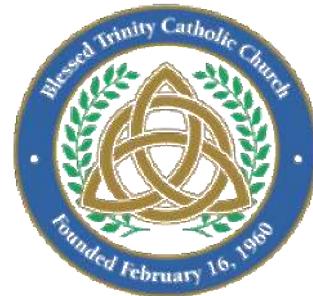
5:00 pm	Handbell practice	MR
6:30 pm	Choir Practice	MR

### Sunday, January 18

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

#### Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church,  
 CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1, CR=Choir Room, FF=Faith Formation Room,  
 PL=Parking Lot



#### Pastor

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

#### Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM

Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM

Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM

Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM

Fr. Victor Bartolotta

Fr. Eric Peters

#### Mass Schedule

##### Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 am

##### Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm

##### Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, [btsp.org](http://btsp.org)

#### Confessions

Saturdays 2:45-3:45 pm

#### Parish Office

Monday-Friday

9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm

1600 54th Ave S

St. Petersburg, FL 33712

**Phone**, (727) 867-3663

**FAX**, (727) 864-2679

**Website**, <http://btsp.org>

Like us on FaceBook

*We have come to worship Him.*



Text BTSP to 84576 or online at [btsp.flocknote.com](http://btsp.flocknote.com)

## **Please Pray for Our Sick and Homebound**

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Argo, Becky  
Arnold, Barbara  
Baker Family  
Barhorst, Brady  
Becker, Mary  
Brown, Bob & Beverly  
Calamita, John  
Christ, Kathryn  
Connor, Kathryn  
Cisek, Marilyn  
Clark, Christine and  
Henry  
Clark, Brittany Noel  
Comeau, Teresa  
Cortez, Patrick  
Coughlin, Bernadette  
Curcio, Louis  
Daniels, Joshua  
D'Azzo, Lina  
DeLong, Judy  
DeLong, Todd  
Feltes, Lauren  
Fitzgerald, Dan  
Gawlik, Frank and Sofi

Genereux, Carol  
Grace, Kelly  
Grimberg, Carol  
Gueli, Connie  
Gutske, Karl  
Hanafee, Michael  
Hawkins, Ashlyn  
Hawkins, Barbara  
Helbig, Len  
Hoffman, Bette  
Hoskins, Kevin  
Huff, Walt  
Hunnefeld, Sarah  
Joyal, Christina  
Kartsaklis, Michael  
Kehoe, Jonna and Michael  
Kirchgessner, Marie  
Klima, Sue  
Kraynak, Gary  
Lague, Norbert  
Lashley, Diana  
LeVan, George  
Lewis, Cynthia  
Mattingly, Pamela

Mays, Hank  
Membreno, Mary & Gus  
Narinelly, Sarah  
Newcomb, Jeff  
O'Connor, Mary  
Parillo, Ceil  
Parillo, Dave  
Parmigiani, Valerie  
Pilcher, Joel  
Preepher, Helen  
Riley, Marie  
Riordan, Donald  
Romani, Angelo  
Sacks, Laura  
Sanderson, Jack  
Shelby, Montez  
Smith, Elizabeth  
Stankiewicz, Cy  
Vanderbeck, Cindy  
Vanderbeck, Jay  
Walsh, Thomas  
Watson, Linda  
Youngman, Ruth  
Zajac, Leslie

## 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.

## Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office. Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed. For more information call 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.

A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a grey t-shirt and a dark apron, is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is leaning over a white laptop computer which is resting on a dark surface. In the background, there are several potted plants, including a yellow flower in a pink pot and a green plant in a black pot. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a shop or a workshop environment. In the bottom left corner of the image, there is a white QR code. To the right of the QR code, the text "4ipi.com/adcreator" is written in a white, sans-serif font. The overall composition is a professional photograph used for an advertisement.

A collage of various local businesses including a florist, a restaurant, a clothing store, and a service truck, all featuring the '4ipi.com/adcreator' logo.

The image is a composite of several elements. On the left, there is a logo for "FLORIDA MORTUARY Funeral & Cremation Services". The logo features a stylized yellow bird in flight above the word "FLORIDA". Below "FLORIDA" are the words "MORTUARY", "Funeral", and "Cremation Services" stacked vertically. To the right of the logo is a large, professional portrait of a woman with blonde hair, smiling. Below the logo and portrait, the text "Quality, Compassion, & Personalized Care Since 1987" is displayed in a serif font. Below this text is a large, bold, gold-colored phone number "727.748.1580". At the bottom of the image, there is a dark blue banner with white text that reads "ASPEN N. DONOHUE Licensed Funeral Director, Managing Director".

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