

## DISCOVERING AND WORSHIPPING GOD WITH THE MAGI!

What can we learn from the amazing story of the Magi? First, like the Magi we are all on a journey seeking to find God. Like the Magi we all need to discover the Star that can guide us to God. In earlier homilies, I have referred to the need to have a GPS that can provide us a roadmap. While it is easy to get lost as we are distracted by the many events of daily life, wouldn't it be great if we could have a GPS instructing us to find a new road whenever we get away from the path leading to God, our final destination. I called such GPS: God-Provided Star. To keep us on track, this GPS can also guide us to closest locations for confessions; if there is a theme that I like to repeat again and again it is the importance to go regularly to the sacrament of reconciliation, but also to go immediately after having committed a mortal sin.

Another lesson we can learn from the Magi is how to WORSHIP GOD. We hear from Matthew's Gospel (2:1-12) that "*The star came and stopped over the place where the child was. The magi were OVERJOYED at seeing the star, and on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother. THEY PROSTRATED THEMSELVES and DID HOMAGE. Then they OPENED THEIR TREASURES and OFFERED HIM GIFTS of GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, and MYRRH.*" This is a wonderful way of WORSHIPPING GOD. It can inspire us when we come to encounter God at church on any Sunday, not just Epiphany Sunday.

First, any encounter with God should be JOYFUL: to be in the presence of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit should take away any fear or sadness from our hearts, and lead us to peace and joy. It is a CELEBRATION! Let us take away frowns when we enter church and put on smiles. Let us also bring those smiles to the world when we leave church.

Second, we ought to prostrate ourselves. This is why we genuflect when we enter the Church where Jesus, who is God, is present in the tabernacle. This is why we genuflect at the time of the Consecration of the Body and Blood of Christ. Genuflection is an act of adoration and a sign of total humility in front of the all-powerful God.

Let us listen to what Pope Benedict XVI in his book "Jesus of Nazareth" says about Matthew's narration of the Magi: "*The wise men (magi) do a PROSKYNESIS (Greek text of Gospel) before the Royal child, that is to say they THROW THEMSELVES onto the GROUND before him. This is the homage that is offered to a divine King. The gifts brought by the wise men may be explained in similar terms. They are not practical gifts, of a kind that the holy family have had a use for at this moment. They*

*express the same thing as the PROSKYNESIS: they acknowledge the Royal dignity of him to whom they are offered. Gold and incense are mentioned in Isaiah 60:6 gifts of homage that the Gentiles will place before the God of Israel. In the Church's tradition the THREE GIFTS have been thought to represent three aspects of the MYSTERY OF CHRIST: the gold points to Jesus' KINGSHIP, the incense to his DIVINE sonship, the myrrh to the mystery of his PASSION...St John tells us that Nicodemus had prepared myrrh for the anointing of Jesus' body (John 19:39). Through the myrrh, then, the mystery of the Cross is once again associated with Jesus's kingship and mysteriously proclaimed in the worship offered by the wise men."*

Third, what are the gifts that we are supposed to bring to God when we come to worship? The magi OPENED THEIR TREASURES... What are our own treasures? These are the ones "we store in heaven". These are the ones "we store in our hearts". These are our own riches, joys and blessings but also our sacrifices to God, our sufferings, our privations, our fasting, our almsgiving, and any works of mercy (feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the prisoners, bury the dead).

I hope you all have had a wonderful time with your family and friends at Christmas and New Year. If you have not yet begun to read the book we gave you at Christmas, you still have plenty of time. Our book discussion this year will take place on the last day of January: 7 pm THURSDAY JANUARY 30. It is an easy read: only 120 pages easily divided in 25 chapters (about 4 pages each). Each chapter covers one Saint and one question. You can read the chapters in any order. Come to the discussion meeting and share which Saint or which question has touched your heart. We are all called to sainthood. One way to join the saints in heaven is to be inspired by their own lives...

May the magi and all the saints inspire all of us to come and worship God with joy and solemnity!

One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain





CCD Class Schedule

Jan. 5/6- CCD Classes

Jan 12/13- CCD Classes

Jan.19/20- No CCD Classes

Jan. 26/27 – Sacramental Prep & All Youth Night (no regular classes). All Sunday & Monday families are encouraged to attend Sunday's 4 pm Youth Mass and All Youth night activities. (Fiat/Edge/Life team)

## Community Outreach

We wish to thank the ladies of Mary's Helping Hands for the wonderful Christmas dinner they planned, prepared and helped serve at Shepherd's Table on December 19th.

It was a festive occasion complete with a visit from Santa and carolers from the "Madrigals" of the Chesapeake Choral Group. Thank you to all who participated!

A big "thank you" to all those who worked so hard preparing 50 Christmas food baskets and to the generous parishioners who donated food and money and delivered the baskets too! The Christmas spirit again shone at OLHOC !!

Ours thanks also to Safeway and Giant Foods who again supported our efforts--Safeway for the use of their carts to aid in packing and Giant's generosity with the hams. It was greatly appreciated!!

The next Shepherd's Table will be February 20, 2020 at Good Shepherd Church.

The next Outreach meeting will be January 8, 2020 at 7 p.m. In the Fr. Martin Hall. Everyone is welcome!

### **REDISCOVER THE SAINTS**

#### Book Discussion

The book *Rediscover the Saints* by Matthew Kelly was handed out during the Christmas Masses December 24/25.

Join us on Thursday January 30, 2020 at 7 PM for a discussion of the book.

## ~Pre-school News~

Fall 2020 registration opens to parishioners January 6! Children must be confidently potty trained and at least three years old by Dec. 31, 2020, in order to start school in September. We have a half day and a full day program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Please call the office and ask for Nieda, or email [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org).

Do you still have 2019 RMD (required minimum distribution) from your IRA or savings plan? Consider a tax exempt gift to OLHOC. Leverage your donation by gifting before tax money. Contact the office for the easy process.



## Feast Day of the HOLY CHILD JESUS (SANTO NIÑO)

Sunday, January 19 at 4 PM

Tridium Masses

January 15, 16 and 17

At 7 pm.

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Join Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in following the footsteps of Jesus Christ on a

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

June 21– July 1, 2020 9 days/8 nights

Spiritual Director:

**Father Alain Colliou**

Spaces still available for securing a seat,

**apply by Janaury 5, 2020**

Information can be found in the Narthex, or email

**MAY@AMICABANTRAVEL.COM**

**We are asked to pray for:**

Sandra Barrientos  
 Brandon Mack  
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar  
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina  
 Doris Chesley  
 James Thompson  
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch  
 Vicky Welch  
 Naomi Lilly  
 Sterling Greene  
 Aleli Puzon  
 Patricia Delgado  
 Rosano Wheeler  
 Larry McGraw  
 Ilene Custer  
 Derrick Webster  
 Pat Fisher  
 Christ Goldhammer

Julie Davis  
 David DeMarr  
 Dinnie Proctor  
 Amelia Vinceguerra  
 K.D. Dillard  
 Tabitha Barton  
 Maria Townsend  
 Chrystal Beauregard  
 Sheryl Carter  
 Alex Leon  
 Sharketer Butler  
 Steven Bowling  
 Edna Yarngo  
 Kathy Grimes  
 Sheny Padilla  
 Richard White  
 Mary Dooley  
 Victor Cordero  
 Georgiana Norgren

Marie Marie Bottorf  
 Joy Cooper  
 Dorian Webster  
 Dionne Gause  
 Patricia Sutton  
 Trena Price  
 Michael Sofield Jr.  
 Norm Green  
 Mary A. Dyson  
 Jim Lavish  
 The Dixons

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.  
*Please let us know if any names should be removed from the list.*



**Mass Intentions this Week**

**Saturday, January 4, 9:00AM: Jim Lavish**  
**Saturday, January 4, 5:00 PM: Joe Nikolai**  
**Sunday, January 5, 8:30 AM: John Carolino (+)**  
**Sunday, January 5, 10:00 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners**  
**Sunday, January 5, 11:30 AM: Dennis Hook (+)**  
**Sunday, January 5, 1:00 PM: Souls in Purgatory**  
**Sunday, January 5, 7:00 PM: Manuel Lam**  
**Monday, January 6, 9:00 AM: Cathy Maier (+)**  
**Tuesday, January 7, 5:00 PM: Father Benjamin Garcia**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 9:00 AM: Clarissa Marie Tellechea**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 7:00 AM: Babies in danger of abortion**  
**Thursday, January 9, 9:00 AM: Father Alain Colliou**  
**Friday, January 10, 9:00 AM: Jeannie Jacobs**

If you would like to have a Mass said for yourself or a loved one, for intentions or in memory, please call the office.

**Tuesday Scripture Study** - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

**Wednesday Scripture Study** - The Friday night scripture study has been changed to Wednesdays. They will be begin at 7:30, following the 7 pm Mass

**First Friday** - The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is said in Latin. This Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood.

**First Saturday** - Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

**Divine Mercy** - Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

**Mass Readings for January 12, 2020**

***The Baptism of the Lord***

**\*First Reading**

**Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

**\*Second Reading**

**Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38**

**\*Gospel**

**Matthew 3:13-17**





## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

**Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation Year 1 & Year 2 - Sunday, January 26th from 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm.** This is the parish sacramental preparation for Confirmation for students( who are in catholic school, public school or homeschooled), parent(s), and mentors, (sponsors are always welcome). This includes the 4 pm Mass followed by dinner and All Youth Night activities. Questions, visit [www.olhoc.com/faq](http://www.olhoc.com/faq) or contact Marlen Coles [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)

### YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

**Youth Ministry: Questions, please contact Marlen** [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)

**Life Teen:** high school youth ministry (meets most Sundays 5-6:30 pm, check website for dates)

**Edge:** middle school youth ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

**FIAT:** Faith in Action Team elementary school ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

For more info and an updated list of our events please visit [www.olhoc.org/ymevents](http://www.olhoc.org/ymevents)

### Tickets Available for the Youth Rally & March for Life - Friday, January 24th

Join thousands of youth from all over the USA in the nation's capital as we Stand for Life. We will take a bus from OLHOC to the Youth Rally and Mass at the Capital One Arena and then join the March down Constitution Ave to the Supreme Court. Limited tickets available, more info./register please visit [www.olhoc.org/ym](http://www.olhoc.org/ym)

### Next All Youth Night - Sunday, January 26th

Join us for 4 pm Mass followed by pizza, faith, fellowship & fun for children in Elementary (FIAT), youth in Middle School (EDGE) & youth in High School (Life Teen) from 5-6:30 pm. Bring some friends, ALL are welcome!

### Time to Request Spots for Camp Covecrest - August 2-8, 2020 in Tiger, Georgia

For more details and a video on this transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith visit [www.olhoc.org/camp2020](http://www.olhoc.org/camp2020) Questions, please contact Marlen Coles [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)

**To Join Our Youth Core & Support Team,** please visit our website or talk to Marlen Coles. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ!

## Youth Rally & March for Life - Friday, January 24th

Join thousands of youth from all over the USA in the nation's capital as we Stand for Life. We will take a bus from OLHOC to the Youth Rally and Mass at the Capital One Arena and then join the March down Constitution Ave to the Supreme Court. Tickets are limited!

*Wise Men still  
follow him!*

Join us on Sunday, January 5 at 6:30 PM, before Mass.

We will **bring to life** the three men who followed a star