

The Epiphany of the Lord

INVEST JUST FIVE MINUTES A DAY, AND YOUR FAITH WILL DEEPEN AND GROW, A DAY AT A TIME."

SUNDAY, JAN 03, 2021 SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD BLESS THIS NEW YEAR OF GRACE

Some things are worth taking the time to do. After enduring the manifold burdens of this past year, few of us will need persuading that the annual Epiphany Blessing of the Home is a ritual worth investing in. Gather your housemates if living with others. Download a home blessing ritual or create one yourself, using symbols especially meaningful to your participants. Which household items became especially significant during the pandemic and call for a special blessing? A cloth mask, a bar of soap, and Netflix may be featured as items of peculiar yet holy purpose in this year's rites everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

MONDAY, JAN 04, 2021 MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS PRESERVE THE LEGACY

Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first U.S.-born saint, started the country's first Catholic girls' school in Maryland, where she also founded the first American women's religious community, the Sisters of Charity. All those "firsts" multiplied into an incredible legacy of parochial education and religious life benefiting women that ripples to today. At Seton's beatification, Pope John XXIII said, "she sowed a seed in America which by Divine Grace grew into a tree." Perhaps you yourself are a beneficiary of her legacy. In the words of Pope Paul VI at her canonization, "Rejoice for your glorious daughter. Be proud of her. And know how to preserve her fruitful heritage."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 3:22—4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). "He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom."*

TUESDAY, JAN 05, 2021 MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP PARISHES FOR THE PEOPLE

What would U.S. parishes look like without John Neumann, the first naturalized U.S. citizen and bishop who was canonized? As a seminarian in his native Bohemia, John cherished Saint Paul's missionary epistles from the Bible and longed to serve the United States as a missionary. His wish was granted. After John's 1835

ordination he began to set up parishes and a network of parochial schools in New York. He served Germans and Native Americans and also learned Gaelic and Italian to better serve parishioners in Baltimore and Philadelphia. He introduced the Forty Hours devotion and set up parish missions for Lent. Ask John to pray for your parish today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). "They were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things."*

WEDNESDAY, JAN 06, 2021 MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS OPEN THE DOOR TO NEW LIFE

So many have said that 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, marked by a pandemic that has taken lives and so much more, and a national election that challenged the U.S. belief in a united nation with liberty and justice for all.

Though a new year is only the turn of a calendar page, it allows and encourages new life, new perspective, new hope, and new energy. Let the life of the gentle and humble Saint André Bessette—who spent many years as a doorman for his monastic community—be our inspiration. May compassion and love of neighbor guide us into this new year.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). "If God so loved us, we also must love one another."*

THURSDAY, JAN 07, 2021 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY AND NOW FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT . . .

Even in an age when people are bombarded with messages, announcements can have particular cachet. They appear over and over in the gospels, from angels announcing Christ's birth to Jesus' announcement in today's gospel that he came to fulfill the words of Isaiah. The church continues to make plenty of announcements, from the calendar items announced at Mass to "announcements" in the form of pastoral letters and encyclicals about how to live contemporary Christian life. You probably announced your faith in a formal way at your Confirmation. How can you "announce" Christ today through your words and actions?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22a (215). "He said to them, 'Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.'"*

FRIDAY, JAN 08, 2021 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY OUT OF STILLNESS, CREATION

As the Christmas season draws to a close, some treasure its highlights, others dread the January "blahs," and all of us could do well to follow Jesus' model in the gospel. After he cures a leper, the crowds and the demands on him increase. Many of us would plough into the need, then the adulation. Instead, he withdraws and retreats. This wintry season offers a time to withdraw and reflect. Think, for example, of the solitude necessary to create the kind of sacred art that Giotto was known for. He died on this day in 1337, so perhaps you can bring him to mind as you channel your own inner artist in the winter stillness. Create something new today!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). "But he would withdraw to deserted places to pray."*

SATURDAY, JAN 09, 2021 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY MAKE SPACE FOR CHRIST

This is the final day of the Christmas season. But it's always Christmas, every day of the year. Christ comes in our humanity, born into our human flesh. We are always united with Christ in a communion of divinity and humanity, realized in Jesus, shared with us. We celebrate that communion in the central act of our worship: We eat and drink the Real Presence of Christ in us. But like John the Baptist proclaims in today's gospel, that presence of Christ must increase in us as our own egos decrease. This is the way to fulfillment. Let Christ lead you today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). "He must increase; I must decrease." Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a*

Next Sunday

SUNDAY, JAN 10, 2021 FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD DO JUSTICE—TO NAME A FEW.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:1-11 or Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; 1 John 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11 (21). "A smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth."*

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING CORNER **Jan., Feast of the Epiphany**

As we continue the Christmas season this feast helps us to understand that Jesus is the Light of the whole world and his salvation is given to all people. The magi from afar trusted that God would lead them to the new King, whom they found in very humble, non-royal circumstances. Do we allow God to help us to recognize Christ in the face of the migrant women and children crossing our borders? In the lives of the poor? In the tiny unborn child? In the prisoner on death row? Where can we look for Jesus this week?

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MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 8:00AM

In loving memory of Rosalind Cunningham, Theresa Fontenette, Geri Stewart, Tony Colton and Janet Patterson.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 10:00AM

For the repose of the souls of Martha and Benjamin Duff, Nancy, William and Patrick Lasplace, Peter and May Carberry Susan Chang Him, Albert, Elina and Albert Talma jr. Talma, requested by Ed and Elina Mullen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER, 2020

SUNDAY MASSES

8:00AM 10:00AM

No Noon Mass this week, Jan.5-8, 2021

DECEMBER 27, 2020

OFFERTORY	\$1708.00
SVDP	15.00
E-GIVING	2070.41
SVDP(E-GIVING)	39.00
MSP(E-GIVING)	54.00
IGBO	1291.00
Christmas Donations	380.00
FLC/Debt Retirement	425.00
40.00 DR (E-GIVING)	298.00
Needs of Parish	400.00
Needs of the Parish(E-GIV)	19.00
Immaculate Conception	10.00
Gift Store	210.00

NEEDS OF THE PARISH COLLECTION

This collection helps to pay things like repairs, intervention, and other needs of the parish. This collection happens every last Sunday of the Month. We would like you to convert much of your gift to St Vincent the Paul to the needs of the Parish as the parish funds St Vincent the Paul monthly. Thanks for your generosity.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR PARISH DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME

Remember, the Church depends on your weekly donation for paying bills, and maintaining of the Church facilities. Even though Masses and other events are cancelled, the Church is still operating. Your weekly offering and donations are direly needed. If you are not online giver, you can still do so by going to

www.holycrossaustin.org and give your donation. You also can mail it if you are able to. Thank you for your faith and commitment.

Dear Brothers and Sister, Thank you for all the work you did to get your church ready for the coming of Jesus. *Therefore, my brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*
 1cor.15:58



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BASIL
 Father Basil sends Blessings and New Year's wishes to all Holy Cross parishioners. He did arrive safely and was in quanantine for several days, but all is well and he is now with his family. He wants all of us to know he is praying for us in his daily prayers

PRAY FOR THE SICK

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Ella Adams | Mary Anthony |
| Evelyn Battle | Mildred Carter |
| B.J. Dukes | Jude Ekpc |
| Vanessa Downey-Little | Bernie Little |
| Monica Godsey | Lester Johnson |
| Marion Welch | Sam King, Jr. |
| Vonnys Rice-Gardner | Bernadette Phifer |
| Ella Pease | Betty Ridley |
| Mary Sobers | Mary Waters |
| Charlene Postell | Gladie Stelly |
| Cornelius Harris | Jim Castro |
| Pearl Cox | Brent Brown |
| Frances Brown | |

Family Life Center Now Available for Renting

For all your events like:

\$1,000.000

- Wedding Party
- Birthday Party
- Graduation Party
- Wakes
- Coporate Events
- Ministry Events
- Meetings
- ETC

Contact the Church Office for details
 5124723741

