

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Luke 2:16-51

January 1st Mother of God

Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.



Today we honor our Blessed Mother in particular, we honor her Immaculate Heart just as we honored Jesus' Sacred Heart yesterday. The two go hand in hand. The Heart of our Blessed Mother is a sign of her perfect love for us. It is "Immaculate" in that it is spotless and perfect in love.

When reflecting upon the perfection of love, we also acknowledge that her love is the perfection of a mother's love. This is a unique love of the highest order. A mother's love is not just love of neighbor or a friendship. Rather, a mother's love is such that it is completely invested, nurturing, sacrificial and total. This is the love our Blessed Mother has for us.

Today is a good day to reflect upon whether or not you have allowed her to love you with this perfect motherly love. Have you consecrated yourself to her, choosing her as your queen and mother?

The Immaculate Heart, and therefore, the Immaculate love of our Blessed Mother is a glorious gift from God. She is the instrument through which Salvation Himself came into our world. She is also, therefore, the continuing instrument through which all the grace given by Christ comes into the world. She is the Mediatrix of Grace. Why does she have this role? Because God destined it to be so.

God could have saved us any way He chose, but we must humbly and honestly acknowledge that the way He chose to save us is through the mediation of the Blessed Mother. God does not change His mind today. He chose her as the instrument of salvation over 2,000 years ago and He continues to choose her today. He continues to pour forth His grace on the world through her and she continues to distribute His love and mercy through her Immaculate and motherly Heart.

Reflect, today, upon the beauty and perfection of the love radiating from her life for you. Run to her and make an act of faith in her motherly care. Consecrate yourself to her and let her be the instrument God wants her to be.

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The Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

January 3rd Most Holy Name of Jesus



Balthasar, Caspar, and Melchior, your minds were prepared to receive a greater truth. Let us see in you kings an example of holy curiosity, of pilgrimage by light to light. Your search was not endless. It did not preclude finding. Your end was pure and your search was true. When you discovered your treasure, guided by a star, you laid down your bodies and your gifts in homage. May our search also find. May our pilgrimage also end in truth followed by love.

Reflection:

"Epiphany" means manifestation. And the "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it's also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, travelling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were "wise men" who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the "star" that God is using to call you. It's closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

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**Adoration: Every Wednesday
6 pm to 8pm**

**Altar Society— First Wednesday
of the month. 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**

Invite a friend and don't forget to
bring your mask along.

Due to Covid-19 meetings are postponed until further notice. We will do our best to take care of other challenges our group is asked to accomplish.

Thank You for helping to make 2020 successful!

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Altar Society, thank you for your untiring faithfulness and your generosity to help make our Parish of St. James a wonderful and fulfilling place for our Community. Let us be thankful to God for His many blessings and especially for the time of family and friends, and the persons he places in our midst. May we continue to stay safe as we place our trust in Jesus as we begin a chapter in this New Year of 2021.

LINEN ROTATION

Members please ensure that someone else will take your turn when you are not able to wash linen.

Weekend Linen Rotation for 2021	
Lupe Oviedo	January 2nd & 3rd
Peggy Smith	January 9th & 10th
Esperanza Valdez	January 16th & 17th
Rosie VonAllmen	January 23rd & 24th
Sandra Alcala	January 30th & 31st
Maria Chapa	February 6th & 7th



Did You Know

At Mass, why do we make the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads, lips and hearts right before the Gospel?

Through the tradition of the triple cross, we are asking the Lord to **bless our minds and our hearts** that we will be open to hear the Gospel, so we might **proclaim through our lips** the good news of Jesus to all the world. Gospel means "good news."

The kind of wine that is used to celebrate the Eucharist must be pure, natural grape wine. Such wine, made for sacramental purposes, should be clearly designated as altar wine.

The kind of bread used to celebrate the Eucharist must be made only of wheat flour and water. Nothing else may be substituted or added.

The crucifix is placed on the altar or near it to remind the worshipping community of Jesus' sacrifice of the cross.

During this difficult time to come together as a group to put into place the decorating of the sanctuary and common areas of our church ...

Thank You! for giving of your time and talents to come help decorate our sanctuary and foyer for Advent and Christmas. Thank you also to other individuals of our St. James Community who also shared and gave of their time to help. New friends were made and we hope to see you again for the next one. All are invited.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Praying For The Sick of Our Parish Community:

Let us take 90 seconds out of our busy schedules and offer one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be for our parish family and all who need our prayers:

O Jesus, You suffered and died for us; You understood suffering; teach us to understand our suffering as You do; to bear it in union with You; to offer it with You to atone for our sins and to bring Your grace to souls in need. Calm our fears; increase our trust. May we gladly accept Your holy will and become more like You in trial. If it be Your will, restore to health the sick so that they may work for Your honor and glory and the salvation of all mankind. Amen.

We pray for the health of Larry Garza*Sharon Valdez*Oralia Santiago*Charlie Valdez*Hope Rodriguez*Sarah Flores Marianella Garcia*Barbara Henderson*Jim Henderson* Monica Castro*Carolyn Diaz*Chris Oviedo*Rick & Lillian Pena Arnold Trevino*Covid-19 Patients and all the sick of our parish. Our condolences and prayers are offered for all who have lost a loved one due to the corona virus* In Thanksgiving for prayers answered.

Mary, help of the sick, pray for us.



NEW MAIL SCHEDULE —

SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES:

Beginning in January 2021, your Sunday Collection Envelopes will be mailed to you bimonthly rather than every month. This change in mail delivery will be a huge savings for our parish of St. James. For clarification please contact the parish office. 210 922-2136

Felipa Espinoza, President
210-924-8795

May Garza, Vice-President
210-924-7097

Angie Garcia, Secretary
210-487-9108

Mary Frances Meras,
Treasurer
210-927-1208

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

To You and Your Loved ones