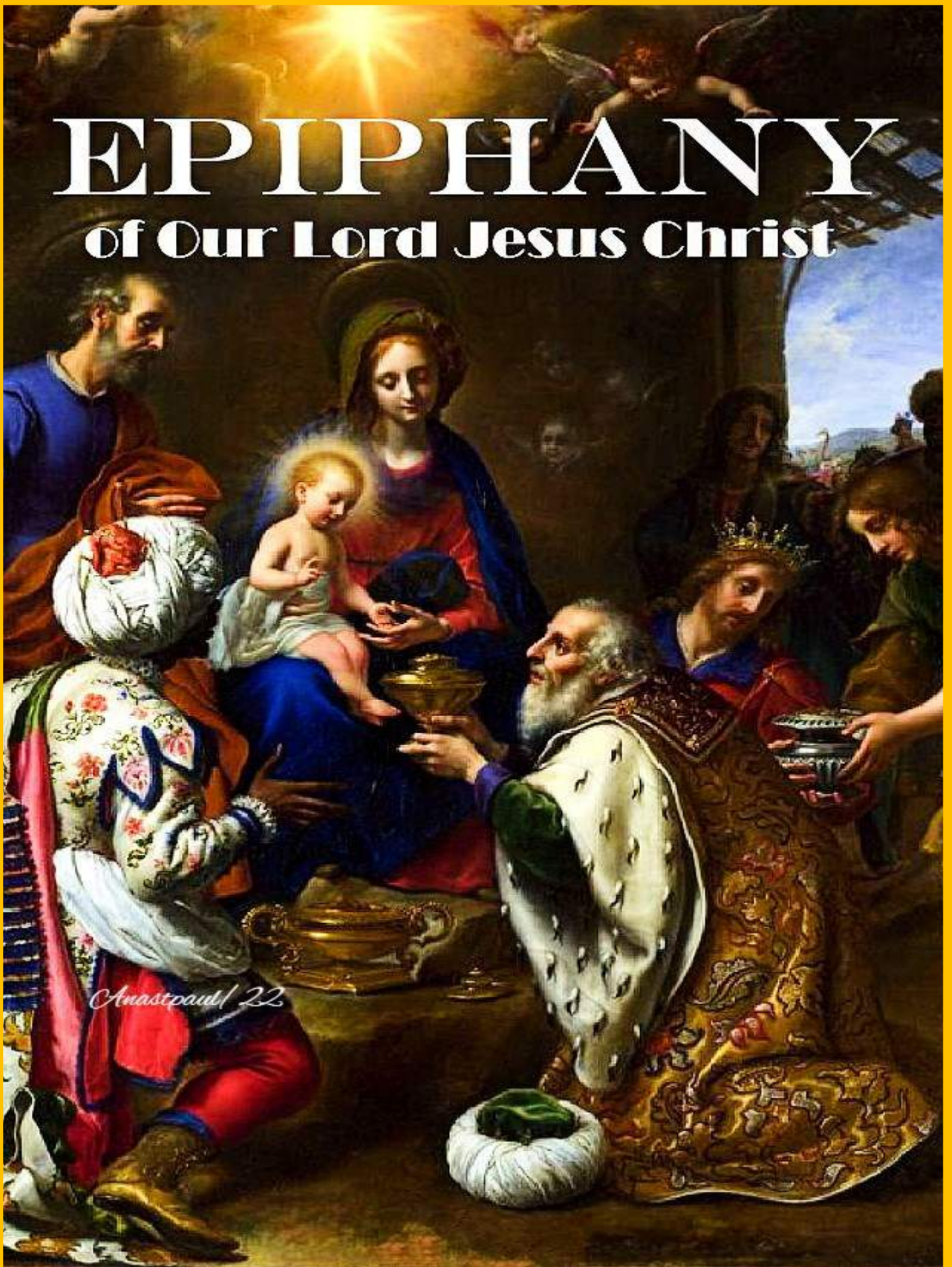


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of Our Lord Jesus Christ



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**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 7, 2024**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

The Mass of Anticipation for the Epiphany of the Lord
4:00PM John P. Ponte—6th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 AM Frank & Arthur Palermo—Memorial

9:00AM Erica Clare Rose—9th Anniversary

10:30AM Arlene Pazienza—2nd Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

The Baptism of the Lord

8:30AM Lillian E. Healey—100th Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Weekday

7:30AM Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Weekday

7:30AM Marie Franzone—Memorial

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Weekday

7:30AM Don Boyle—Memorial

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Weekday

7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Weekday; Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church; BVM

8:30AM Ryan Casey—Memorial

The Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00PM Roland, Susan & Michael Dumont and David Moore— Mem.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30AM Bill Daly—Memorial

9:00AM John J. Carne—2nd Anniversary

10:30AM Jack Donnelly—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy





Dear Parishioners:

We've all heard the Christmas carol "*Twelve Days of Christmas*." Why someone would give someone 23 separate birds, a pear tree, and the services of 50 people over 12 days is unclear to me. Yet there is a liturgical precedent for claiming that Christmas is 12 days long.

Twelve days after Christmas is the feast of the Epiphany. This day marks when the magi encountered Jesus, Mary, and Joseph and gave Jesus the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. "Epiphany" is a word that means manifestation. The "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to the three Magi from the East but it's also a manifestation of Christ to the whole world.

These Magi, traveling from a foreign land, reveal that Jesus came for all people, and all are called to adore Him. The Magi were "wise men" who studied the stars and understood that a Messiah was coming. God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore Christ. He used a star. They understood astrology, and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem, they realized something special was happening.

And yet, what a mystery that the Epiphany of God — his manifestation — is found in a tiny infant. The Magi bring the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the newborn child. St. Irenaeus says that the gifts signify the mystery of the Incarnate Word (God who has become man): gold, a symbol of royalty, represents his kingship; frankincense, used in worship,

points to his divinity; and myrrh represents his humanity, particularly in his passion and death.

Pope Benedict XVI, in a homily on the Epiphany, said: "*The Magi worshipped a simple Child in the arms of his Mother Mary because in him they recognized the source of the twofold light that had guided them: the light of the star and the light of the Scriptures. In him they recognized the King of the Jews, the glory of Israel, but also the King of all the peoples.*"

The Church has traditionally announced the date of Easter and other moveable feasts on the Epiphany. This tradition dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make the date of Easter known in advance since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday, and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter.

Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year many years in advance, the Epiphany proclamation still has value. It is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith, which are celebrated each year.

For the Year 2024, Ash Wednesday is February 14, Easter is March 31, Ascension is May 9, Pentecost is May 19, Corpus Christi is June 2, and the First Sunday of Advent is December 1. While Lent and

Easter are early this year, they are not the earliest. In fact, the earliest date Lent can start is February 4, with Easter falling on March 22. The latest date Lent can start is March 10, with Easter being celebrated on April 25.

Speaking of calendars, I wish to thank Deborah A. Runshe and Betsy M. Harris of the Hill Funeral Home for once again generously sponsoring our beautiful 2024 parish calendars. These calendars were put out last weekend to be taken home.

The new electronic front door of the Church is now completely installed and working well. Large buttons can be pressed, which automatically open the door from the inside and outside. We hope the electronic door in the Candle Room entrance and the new interior doors are soon fully installed. I hope these handicap-accessible doors are a help to those who need them.

Monday is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the end of the Christmas Season. The Church calendar returns to Ordinary Time with its green vestments. Ordinary Time continues until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Christmas may be over, and the beautiful decorations put away until next year. But remember what St. Mother Teresa once said: "*It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.*" Be well. Do good. God Bless!

Father Healey

Epiphany on Sunday

ON MANY calendars, Epiphany falls on January 6, but the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates it on whatever date Sunday falls during the week of January 2.

Epiphany means “manifestation,” and it celebrates the day that the infant Jesus revealed his divinity to the Magi. Traditionally, this event is connected with two others from the Gospels: the Baptism of Jesus and the Wedding at Cana. In all these events, the mystery of Christ became more manifest. The Magi, coming from the East, signify that gentile nations—not just Jewish nations—were coming to recognize Jesus as the savior of the world.

The Bible does not indicate on what day the magi visited—nor, for that matter, on what day Jesus was born. January 6 was probably chosen for this observance as an alternative for early Christians living in a culture where pagans already commemorated the birth of a sun god on the same day.

The day, the twelfth day of Christmas, gave rise to a host of customs, as well as a popular Christmas carol.

The biblical event is so important that the Catholic Church lists Epiphany among the solemnities that may be designated holydays of obligation. Episcopal conferences determine local holydays, and in the United States, January 6 was never included. In any country where Epiphany is not a holyday of obligation, the observance moves to a Sunday so that it may be celebrated by the entire Catholic community.

The transfer of Epiphany to a Sunday has the disadvantage of dividing the celebration among various Christian Churches of the world, but the advantage of helping the entire Catholic community proclaim and celebrate the meaning of coming of Christ.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.



Weekly Collection

December 17

Weekly.....	\$11,690.00
EFT.....	\$6,159.00
	Total=\$17,849.00
Outreach.....	\$927.00

December 18, 2022

Weekly.....\$14,991.00

December 24, 2023

Weekly.....	\$10,267.00
EFT.....	\$4,563.00
	Total=\$14,830.00
Outreach.....	\$542.00
Annual Collection (To Date).....	\$132,684.00
Christmas.....	\$22,391.00

December 25, 2022

Weekly.....\$19,316.00
 Christmas.....\$15,151.00

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Second Collections

**This Week: Building & Grounds
 Next Week: The Church in Latin America**





OLM FAITH FORMATION
UPDATE

First Communion Class Schedule

January 7: Class

February 4: Class. Children and Parents to attend.

2024 Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, January 21

For questions and more information please contact Mr. Jeremy Long, Director of Faith Formation at 884-4968 or email at faithformation@olmparish.org



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

Weekly Calendar

- **Monday, January 8:** Chess Master Connections begins
- **Tuesday, January 9:** Weekly OLM School Mass at 8:15am

Diocese of Providence Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

Join the Diocese of Providence as we journey to the first Eucharistic Congress in 83 years! The price includes transportation to and from Indianapolis, with local transportation to and from the Congress, 5 nights at the hotel, and the cost of admission to each day of the Congress!

After registering, you will be contacted directly by Paige Bertuch, coordinator of our diocesan participation in congress, so she may help you with your room assignment. It is helpful if you indicated on your registration form who you would like to room with (rooms are single through quad occupancy). However, if you chose double, triple, or quad occupancy and are not sure who you want to room with, that is okay. Paige will be in contact with you. Registrations are first come, first served

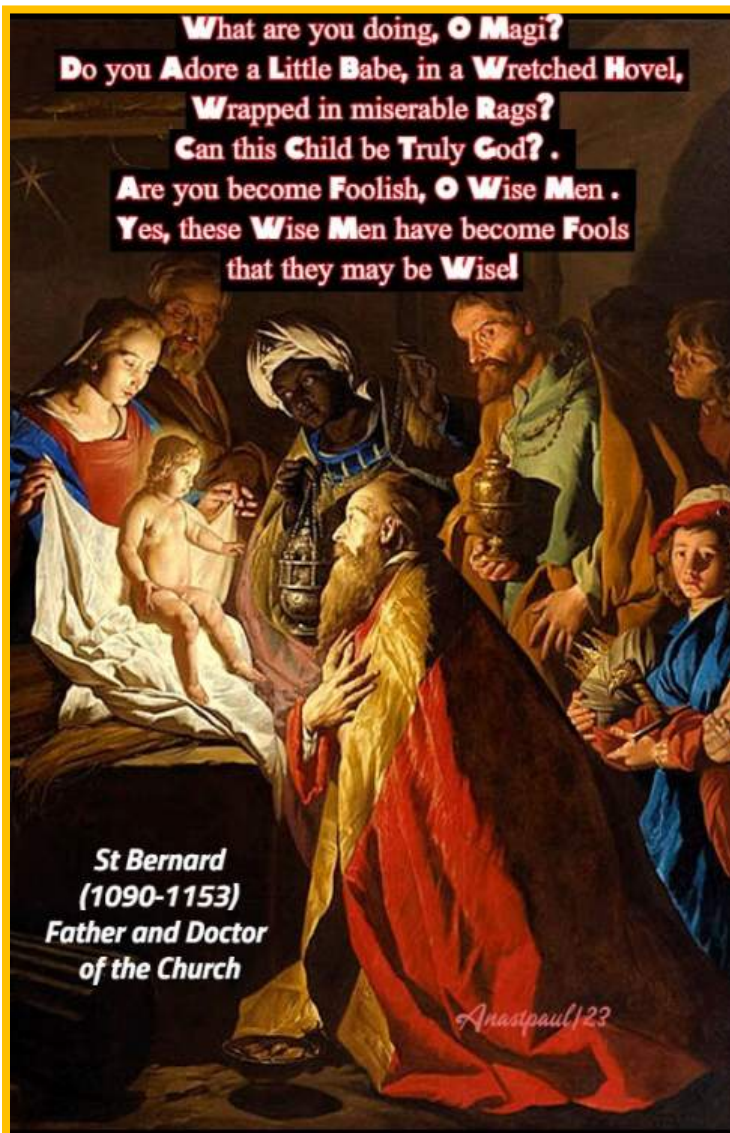


• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. All food items should be unexpired and non-perishable. We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.

• **OLM Bereavement Group:** Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 4:00pm in Mercy House. All those adults experiencing sorrow, grief or loneliness are most welcome to attend for prayer and discussion.

• For more information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org






**What are you doing, O Magi?
Do you Adore a Little Babe, in a Wretched Novel,
Wrapped in miserable Rags?
Can this Child be Truly God?
Are you become Foolish, O Wise Men.
Yes, these Wise Men have become Fools
that they may be Wisel**


**St Bernard
(1090-1153)
Father and Doctor
of the Church**

Have Your Intentions Remembered in Prayer



A book in which your prayer intentions can be written has been placed in the OLM Candle Room. Please feel free to list those intentions and needs you would like to be remembered in prayer. Weekly on Fridays at 3:00pm all the intentions in the book are remembered at the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Divine Mercy Chaplet



Join us each Friday at 3:00PM as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet before the Our Lady of Mercy Altar and Shrine.

Epiphany Chalk

SOME CHRISTIANS bless their homes on Epiphany each year. With chalk, they write an inscription on the inside lintel above the front door. The series of numbers, letters, and crosses changes only slightly from year to year. For example, at the start of the year 2018, the line read as follows: 20+C+M+B+18.

The four digits designating the New Year appear at the beginning and end of the line. In 2010, for example, the last number would have been 10. Because Epiphany comes so near the beginning of the New Year, the numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing.

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing.

The crosses represent Christ, whom we invoke, and the saintliness of the Magi. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing.

The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and patron of the beginning and end of things. This blessing adds a Christian dimension to the traditional observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal Word in this holy season.

If you want to bless your home this Epiphany, read the opening verses of John's Gospel, pray the Lord's Prayer, then write the inscription for this year above your front door with chalk.

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