

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, January 3

The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/4:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Monday, January 4

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, *religious*

Mass at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Tuesday, January 5

Memorial of St. John Neumann, *bishop*

Mass at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Wednesday, January 6

Wednesday after Epiphany

Sacrament of Reconciliation by Appointment

Mass at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Thursday, January 7

Thursday after Epiphany

6:30am & 12:00pm

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Friday, January 8

Friday after Epiphany

6:30am & 12:00pm

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Saturday, January 9

Saturday after Epiphany

Mass at 7:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by Appointment

Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Sunday, January 10

The Baptism of the Lord

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/4:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Quote of the Week

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, / the glory of the Lord shines upon you (Isaiah 60:1)

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection

12/21 – 12/27

Sunday Offering	\$ 5,142.45
Weekday	\$ 670.31
Online Giving	\$ 2,527.42
Feasts & Solemnities and Christmas	\$ 5,609.68
Total Offertory	\$ 12,949.86

Other Collection

Repair & Maintenance	\$ 206.50
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 35.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 10.00
Seminarian Educational Fund	\$ 25.00
Promise of Hope & Healing Campaign	\$ 1,630.00
Baptism, Funeral and Mass Intentions	\$ 30.00
Others (Gallery, Candles, etc.)	\$ 912.75
Total	\$ 15,799.11

Living the Liturgy

- Gentiles came from the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The journey would not have been easy! Trace the possible routes the magi might have made to find their way to Bethlehem. Imagine this symbolically. What does it mean for us?
- Read the verses that follows this passage, Matthew 2:13 – 23. In them, Joseph protects his family on two different journeys, making certain Jesus is safely sheltered. Discuss Joseph's actions and where we might be called to provide shelter for God's unprotected people with a group.
- King Herod is unprepared to accept the image of a humble Messiah who does not identify with powerful rulers like himself. We, too, can find it difficult to identify with those different than us. Invite someone who thinks differently than you do to join you for refreshments or dinner. What do you find out about God from your encounter.

Sharing the Faith

- Who in your life has gone to great lengths to follow God's path?
- Where are you building up the kingdom of God by taking a stand for justice and peace?
- The manger always stands in the shadow of the cross. How does this solemnity point us to the events of Jesus' suffering and death?



January 3, 2021 – The Epiphany of the Lord

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Isaiah 60:1-6 | Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 | Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Matthew 2:1-12

The ideal kingdom proclaimed in today's Responsorial Psalm imagines a ruler who will care for the poor, deliver God's people from oppression, rule with justice, establish peace, and judge with wisdom. Isaiah says such a place would radiate like the light that pierces the darkness with the overflowing blessings of God's glory. What an appropriate Psalm for the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord which celebrates the recognition and praise of Jesus, the newborn King as Messiah by the magi and his manifestation as Savior of the world! Such a ruler the psalm speaks about has come, born in the small, relatively obscure town of Bethlehem. The time has come for the entire world to rejoice.

Emmanuel has come among us and the magi, Gentile visitors from the East, make their pilgrimage and acknowledge the power of this moment in human history. The hope of the New Jerusalem is realized. The ideal kingdom where justice and righteousness will be practiced is present already in the Messiah. The hope of salvation for all people has dawned. God's glory will be seen over all the earth because the Messiah is born.

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Next Sunday's Readings: "The Baptism of the Lord"

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or 55:1-11 | Psalm 29 or Isaiah 12 | Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9 | Mark 1:7-11

From the Desk of Fr. Pascual

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Matthew 2: 11

When I was in grade school, I used to take part in different plays. During one of the Christmas seasons, I was chosen to stage the play of the birth of Jesus. Together with my classmates, we were all excited to share with our viewers the story of Jesus. While some of us played Joseph and Mary, shepherds, and angels, I garbed myself as one of the magi who brought a gift to Jesus. As I recall, the gift that I offered to Him was the myrrh. Being part of the play was a big thing for me, but I was taken aback when I knew later on the gift's meaning. It was myrrh that He would taste at the crucifixion when He said, "I thirst."

On this Feast Day of the Epiphany, the memory of giving a gift to Jesus comes to play. The story goes on to say that magi from the east went looking for the newborn King. When they found Him, they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Yes, they offered their treasures, valued gifts that can be costly. Despite the challenges they experienced along the way traveling from afar, their sacrifice made their treasures even more precious. But all were compensated with great joy, prostrating themselves and did Him homage as they saw the Child and Mary, His mother. Of course, Joseph was around. They offered their best for Jesus not only materially but more so with their sacrifice, respect, and profound love for Him.

I think it would be best for all of us to continue thinking and offering the best gift we can give to Jesus throughout the year. Gifts measured not materially but more profound than wrapped presents. The meaningful gifts of our life, our faith, our commitment, and our stewardship are the best gifts of all. Not because the Christmas season is ending soon, we stop pondering these things but instead think about it every day. We know that Jesus offered His life and love unconditionally. May we, in turn, reciprocate that with our dedication to be faithful to Him and follow His ways. The Magi gave their best gifts for the Lord. Should we not also give our best for Him too?

As we embark on this New Year, 2021, though we may still experience many difficulties due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, let us keep our hope in the Lord always strong. Let us cling to Him no matter what, for He is the only One who can get us through our challenges and give us the joy and peace we truly long for in life.

A blessed New Year to you and your family!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual