

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

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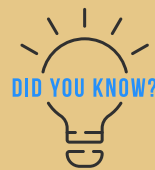
Art by PaxBeloved

Even though 2000 years have passed, the Epiphany still has great riches for us in our daily lives. The gifts of the Magi are important elements of this feast day. But it's far more than the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that we're speaking about here. There are riches for us—riches from scripture, from the liturgy, from the life of the church, and the lives of saints and scholars.

Christ is being disclosed and revealed on this day.

“WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

Excerpts from a homily by
Father John G. Horgan (1958-2022)



The Epiphany is the most original and the most ancient celebration of the Christmas season. Already in the 2nd century, by the year 150 (so, a little over 100 years after Jesus' death and resurrection), the Epiphany was being commemorated annually by Christians.

The celebration of Jesus' birth, Christmas Day, doesn't come to be celebrated until the 4th century, in part because birthdays were considered something private and familial. But, the Epiphany is a public manifestation of Jesus. A revelation of Jesus.

Epiphany is a transliteration of the Greek word θεοφάνεια, which means “showing”. Manifestation. Disclosure. Revelation.

This is the Feast for adoring Jesus. It's the day on which his dual nature is revealed. On the night of his birth, the angels came down and told the shepherds the new Lamb of God is born in the manger at Bethlehem.

But on Epiphany, it is the visit of strangers. Wise men bearing gifts. Kings from afar who are guided on a journey, a quest, an adventure, to find Truth. They come because the star manifests a great king. But when they enter the house, what do they do? They fall before him in worship.

“

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION THAT JESUS ASKED HIS DISCIPLES 30 YEARS LATER WHEN HE WAS AN ADULT IN THE MIDST OF HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY WAS: "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" THE MAGI ALREADY GIVE THE RIGHT ANSWER. THEY ADORE. THEY WORSHIP.

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These men, who were considered in their time to be men of science, followed the ways that they knew. And they came to something greater. **They came to a truth that science could not prove to them.** They came to an inner conviction that was *before* science. They came to the Creator of all things created.

The Universality of Christ's Salvation

It wasn't as if when Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, he said to his disciples, "Now if it doesn't work with my people, go out and talk to the strangers. Bring in a few of them." Instead, God is saying from the very beginning, I want *all* the peoples of the earth to know my Son. I invite them *all* to his birth.

We are not an afterthought. We are part of the original plan. We can also say, **"That's my place. I have a front row seat at the birth of Jesus. He wants me to be here."** God may no longer send stars to direct us, but he does send his servants out into the vineyard. He does send us out into the harvest. He sends us as missionaries to make Him known. *

DID YOU KNOW?



In the common translation of Canadian churches, the Gospel we hear today (Matthew 2.1-12) says they "knelt down."

But actually, the verb in Greek is more dramatic and emphatic. It doesn't say they simply knelt down and paid him homage. It says that **"they fell to the ground."**

This wasn't a simple bow, as you might get at an expensive restaurant from a waiter, and it wasn't a more formal curtsy you might give to the Queen if you were presented.

This was a gesture of worship, which in the ancient world was expressed by kneeling and touching your forehead to the ground as a sign:

I am from the dust of the earth. You, you who are before me, are from heaven.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



SUNDAY CAFÉ TODAY!

You are invited to make your way downstairs to our Church Hall today, **Sunday January 5** after 11 am Mass for the Sunday Café. This is a casual, once-a-month event and its purpose is simple: **community!**

Today's treats are yogurt parfaits served for free by our wonderful Catholic Women's League.

OASIS THIS THURSDAY

Every month on the 2nd Thursday, we open our church doors in the evening for those who are seeking calm. We call this hour Oasis. Oasis is a night of candlelit adoration, quiet reflection, and peaceful uplifting music.

Come to Oasis this **Thursday, January 9** at 7 pm until 8 pm, even if you can make it for just a few minutes.

Do you know someone in your life who needs to experience the light of Christ during this time? We encourage you to invite them to Oasis.



LUNAR NEW YEAR DINNER

Enter the Year of the Snake! The 2025 Annual Knights of Columbus Lunar New Year Dinner is on **Saturday February 8** at 6 pm in our Church Hall. Our Knights will be selling tickets in the back of the church this weekend!

Good food, fun, and door prizes. There will be a Tinikling dance (of the Filipino tradition) this year!

Adults \$30.00 | Seniors \$25.00
Children 8-15 \$10.00 | Children under 8 Free

Stay tuned for an announcement when tickets will also be ready for purchase at the parish office.

PRAY MORE THIS YEAR

THE JESUS PRAYER



Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of God,
Have mercy on
me, a sinner.



(say 33 times)

It's not too late to join our Jesus
Prayer 33 Challenge!

Text **JESUSPRAYER** to **514-900-0130**. Starting Friday January 3, once a day for 40 days, you will receive a text message reminder from the parish to say the Jesus Prayer. The text message will be sent each day at a different hour. (You can unsubscribe from the text messages anytime by texting **STOP** to 514-900-0130).

MEN'S MEETING



Men of our parish (age 12 and up): Save the date **Saturday February 1 after the 9 am Mass** for a very special men's gathering with dynamic national speaker Brett Powell. This event will be an inspiring and invigorating morning for the men of our parish family. It will take place in both our Church Hall and the church. More info to come.

CAN YOU HELP?



Ignite young adults, PREP family members, and parishioners who can lend a hand: please stay behind a few extra minutes **next Sunday, January 12 after 11am Mass** to take down the Christmas decorations and put them in storage.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday Jan. 6 - Sunday Jan. 12, 2025

(† Deceased)

Monday	Celebrant's Intention
Tuesday	Fr. Kenneth D'Souza, SJ †
Wednesday	George Chan †
Thursday	Fr. Richard Conlin
Friday	Fr. Jesse Maingot
Saturday 9:00 am	Julian Licaros †
Saturday 5:00 pm	Dominic Tan †
Sunday 9:00 am	Parishioners
Sunday 11:00 am	Joseph Ing †