

## *Our Lady of the Desert*



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**Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,  
Administrador Parroquial**

**Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial  
Confesión el Sábado:  
Por cita en (Español y Inglés)**

**Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima  
Virgen Maria—3:20pm**

**Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.**

**Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima  
Virgen Maria— 9:40am**

**Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.**

### **Liturgia en los Días de la Semana**

**Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli**

**Lunes: Adoración 7:30am y Misa a las 8:00am**

**Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:**

**Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am**

**Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz  
con Adoración**

**Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am**

**Misa en Honor de Virgen María**



**"WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING AND HAVE COME TO  
DO HIM HOMAGE." - MT 2:2**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**"¿DÓNDE ESTÁ EL REY DE LOS JUDÍOS QUE ACABA DE  
NACER? PORQUE VIMOS SURGIR SU ESTRELLA Y HEMOS  
VENIDO A ADORARLO". - MT 2, 2**

**LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR**

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS (2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. LECCIONARIO R © 1987 COMISIÓN EPISCOPAL DE PASTORAL LITÚRGICA DE LA CONFERENCIA DEL EPISCOPADO MEXICANO, ILPM)

## **January 7th, 2024**

**Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator  
Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar**

### **Confession on Saturday:**

**By appointment English/Spanish**

**Saturday Rosary:** With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary - 3:20pm

**Saturday Mass (Vigil):** English -4:00 p.m.

**Sunday Rosary: With** Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary—9:40am

**Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am**

### **Liturgy of the Weekdays**

**Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli**

**Monday: 7:30am Adoration & Mass 8:00am**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:**

**Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am**

**Friday: At 6:00pm Rosario of Queen of Peace with  
Adoration**

**Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass  
In Honor of the Virgin Mary**

Reflection for The Epiphany of the Lord : Year B  
The Epiphany of the Lord – January 7, 2024  
Fr. Christopher Trummer

Readings: Is 60:1–6 • Ps 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13 • Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6 • Mt 2:1–12 [bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010724.cfm](http://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010724.cfm) and 3) those who worship Him, share Him.

*Seek*

Today's feast of the Lord's Epiphany celebrates the fulfillment of God's original purpose for His chosen people. Recall God's initial promise to Abraham: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [ . . . ] in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen 12:2–3). In our first reading from Isaiah, we heard, "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance." The Lord also said through the prophet Isaiah, "It is too little for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (Isa 49:6). God chose Israel in an *exclusive* way for the eventual purpose of drawing all peoples to Himself in an *inclusive* way. Israel was meant to become God's "light to the nations," revealing Him to the world. Despite this lofty vocation, Israel had remained essentially closed off to the world. Now, with the birth of Jesus Christ and the magi approaching him from the east, it is clear that this original plan of God was finally being fulfilled.

In modern English, we typically use the word "epiphany" to mean a sudden insight or intuition. It is generally a personal and private phenomenon. But the original meaning of *epiphany* is the public revelation or manifestation of something. The Epiphany of the Lord is the moment when Christ was revealed to the nations, the Gentiles, who are represented by the magi. Shortly after his birth, the shepherds had come to see him. As Jews, they represented the people of Israel acknowledging their Savior. But now, the magi seek him out and come to worship him. As non-Jewish foreigners, they already foreshadow the Gentiles who will later believe in him and be baptized.

Since most of us are Christians who descend from non-Jewish roots, it's easy for us to take for granted that the Gentiles should be included. However, in our second reading from Ephesians, St. Paul says that the mystery of the Gentiles' inclusion in God's plan of salvation "was not made known to people in other generations," and that it was "made known to [him] by revelation." Despite Christ's teachings about Gentiles and his encounters with them, it took special revelation to convince Paul, Peter, and the other disciples that the Gentiles were heirs of God's promises.

There are a few spiritual laws on display in Matthew's account of the visit of the magi. We could summarize them as: 1) those who seek God, find Him; 2) those who find Him, worship Him;

God had said to the prophet Jeremiah, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart" (Jer 29:13). And Christ said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Lk 11:9). The Magi seek Christ using reason and faith. They ask, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Like the magi who followed the star, we too experience God's handiwork in nature. We can learn about Him indirectly through His creation. But nature is not God. Notice that the star did not lead the magi all the way to Jesus. They had to consult Sacred Scripture in order to find him. And of course, it was only by coming into his presence that they could worship him.

*Find*

"They were *overjoyed* at seeing the star and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother." The magi had assumed that Jesus would be in Jerusalem with the king and other "important" people. Instead, they found him in the lowest place: a manger, a feeding trough for animals.

*Worship*

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Today, all of us have been affected to some degree by consumerism. "What's in it for me? What can I get out of this?" We do have real spiritual needs, but these questions miss the main point. The example of the magi reminds us that the center of worship is sacrifice — in other words, *giving* and not receiving.

*Mission*

" . . . they departed for their country by another way." We don't know what became of the magi or what they did to share about their experience. But we do know that they were changed by their encounter with Jesus and that they followed God's will by protecting Jesus from Herod.

Every Mass is a Christmas: The incarnate Christ becomes present again in humble form. And every time we come to Mass, it is an Epiphany: The Lord is revealed to us. We are to be like the magi: we seek the Lord, we find him here, we worship him by offering our gifts, and we leave as changed people.

*Our Lady of the Desert*

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

### Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations  
as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:  
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the  
same body,  
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus  
through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

### Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?  
We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Though the magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey God has planned for us this year.

## Observances for the week of January 7, 2024

**Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord

**Monday:** The Baptism of the Lord

**Saturday:** St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; BVM

**Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

St. Tarcisius was a 12-year-old boy who lived in 3rd-century Rome. Although much of what is known of him is from a poem written by Pope Damasus (366-384), he is considered an important martyr who protected the Eucharist from desecration with his life.

## Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord,  
With thanksgiving we entrust  
our year to You: whatever it  
holds, whoever we encounter,  
wherever we traverse. What  
You supply is gift. May our  
comings and goings be aligned  
with Your will. Amen.



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

*"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory."*  
— Isaiah 60:2

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

#### Answer:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

***Fr. Victor is scheduled  
To be at “Our Lady of the Desert”  
the 4th Sunday of every month.  
(Dates are subject to change)***



**Readings for the week of  
January 7, 2024**

**Sunday:**

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Monday:**

Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1  
Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

**Tuesday:**

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/  
Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday:**

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,  
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:**

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/  
Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:**

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/  
Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:**

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
Mk 2:13-17

**Next Sunday:**

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10  
(8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

**Gospel Meditation**

**Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture**

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, “This place is boring. I want to go somewhere.” So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, “Where am I truly at home?”

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, “**They were overjoyed at seeing the star.**” This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you’re a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, “Follow me! I will take you home!” Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

— Father John Muir





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