

# *Our Lady of Lourdes Parish*

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SEATTLE, WA 98168

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**WELCOME!**

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

### **SATURDAY**

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

### **TUESDAY - FRIDAY**

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

### **SUNDAY**

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS**

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration  
6:00 pm Mass

### **CONFESSIONS**

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am  
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



### PARISH STAFF

#### PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL  
Frjoseph.vu@ollpsea.org

#### Parochial Vicar

Fr. Paul Thanh Vu, S.D.D.  
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#### Parish Secretary

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#### PA Administration/Bookkeeper

Jadelyn Manuel  
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#### Administration/Data Entry

Michelle Miller  
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#### Administration/Data Entry

Monica Schwarz  
Monica.schwarz@ollpsea.org

#### Ministry Coordinator

Tang Nguyen (Volunteer Staff)  
Tang.nguyen@ollpsea.org

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed  
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Please Call for Appointment

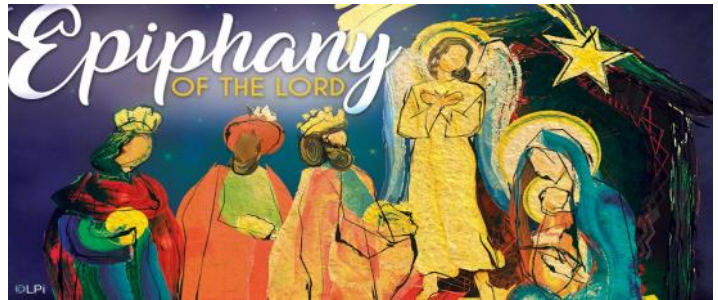
**PARISH OFFICE 206-735-7598**

Sacrament of Anointing the Sick: Ext. 1  
Parish Staff: Ext. 2  
Administrative Support: Ext. 3

Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (DEC. 30TH & DEC. 31ST)

Donation	\$7,872.00
Donation Online	\$1,260.00
Maintenance Fund	\$30.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$9,162.00



### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading:

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

#### Psalms:

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





## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### HOMILY BY FATHER PAUL THANH VU

### Feast of the Epiphany Mt 2, 1-12

Last week, we celebrated the Nativity of Christ, when God revealed himself to the Jews, represented by the shepherds. Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, when God

revealed himself to the pagans, represented by the three Eastern wise men, also known as the three kings. God revealed himself to everyone in many different forms such as: through the prophets announcing many centuries ago to King Herod's court, the multitude of the angels announcing to the shepherds, the strange star appearing to the three kings... Today, God continues to reveal himself to us through the Eucharist, through the Word of God, through the teaching authority of the Church. However, not everyone can meet God, as Saint John described: He came to His house but his relatives did not receive Him. They even rebelled against Him.

First of all, the people of Jerusalem. They banished the couple from the countryside without enough money to pay the rent. Moreover, Mary was close to giving birth at that time, carrying a pregnancy. If let them stay, it would be very unlucky. Many people believe that going out early in the morning to meet a pregnant woman is a very unlucky day. Next, the high priests and scribes, who were well-known in the Bible, knew through the sign of a strange star that the Messiah had appeared, but they still did not react at all. Worse yet, when King Herod heard the news of Christ's birth, he said he would come and worship the newborn king, but then he ordered to kill the Baby Jesus to eliminate the threat of usurping his throne in the future. He killed all children 2 years old and under. Killing by mistake is better than missing.

Only three wise men recognized the sign leading to meeting the Messiah, so they left their homeland and traveled far to find the newly born King of heaven and earth. How do we know that the Child is the King of heaven and earth, and the Messiah? Through the gifts they offered, and through the fact that they knelt down to worship the Baby Jesus. A gesture reserved only for God. The three gifts they gave to God were: gold, incense, and myrrh. Gold symbolizes the kingship of the King, incense symbolizes offerings, prayers rise before the throne of God, myrrh symbolizes the purification of God helps us to be pure.

We are living in a modern civilized world, especially in terms of social media. From a child to an old man, the phone is almost an inseparable item. From the moment I wake up in the morning and open my eyes until the moment I go to sleep at night, I keep my eyes glued to my phone. The phone is so smart and useful. In addition to communicating with others, it also has the function of helping people find all necessary information on the Internet. It is also an entertainment source that helps people text back and forth, watch movies, take photos, and record memories in life. It can also help people come to God, learn about God and religion through Catholic websites. But it can also lead people to commit crimes, watch evil and pornographic movies, or use social media to post slanderous news or speak ill of others. The phone can be a shining star that leads us to God, but it can also lead us to corruption.

God still loves us, continues to send us signs in everyday life like bright stars leading us to God and out of the darkness of sinful passions. May God help us to follow the example of the three Magi who were sensitive to the signs that God sent to lead us to God, the Word who came to earth to become human to redeem us. 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.