

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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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**

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (DEC. 31ST – JAN. 1ST)**

<b>Donation</b>	\$3808.00
<b>Donation Online</b>	\$1,195.00
<b>Maintenance Fund</b>	\$60.00
<b>Debt Reduction</b>	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$5,063.00</b>

**PARISH STAFF**

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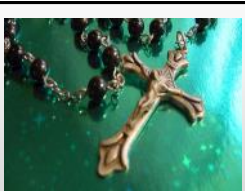
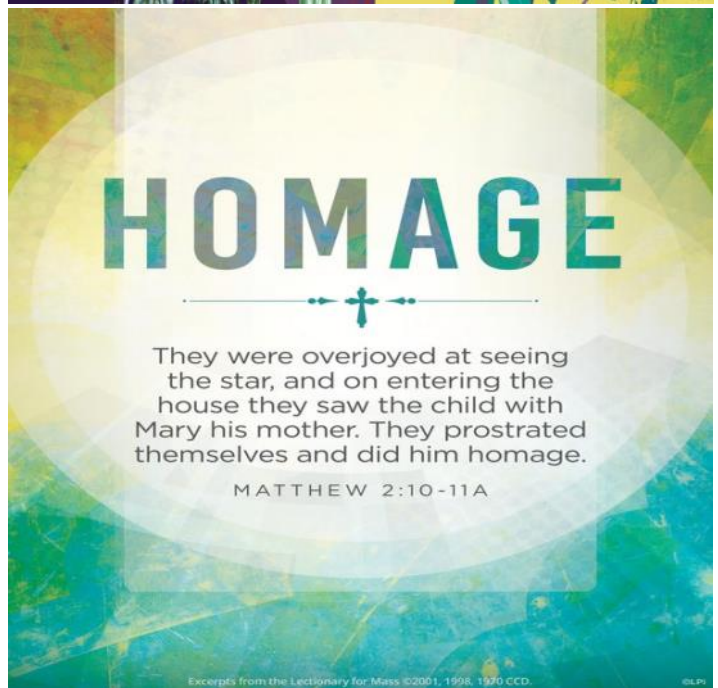
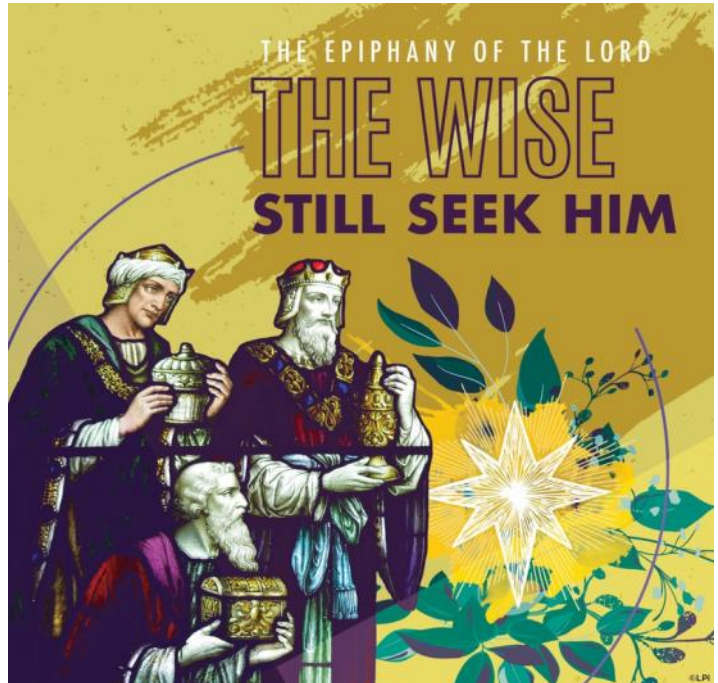
**Liturgy Coordinator**

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday: Closed  
 Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
 Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
 Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
 Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

*Let every nation adore you, LORD*  
 Psalm 72



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19th at 7:00 pm**  
**Pray the Rosary at St. Thomas in the Daily Chapel**  
 Hosted by **Knights of Columbus**



## Seeing The Signs

### Homily by Father Joseph Vu

In today's liturgy, the Three Magi come from afar bearing gifts because they see the signs in the stars that a great king has just been born, great enough to warrant leaving their countries behind to see him and pay him homage. The very fact of their arrival is the sign of something even greater sign.

Today's First Reading speaks of how Jerusalem will be radiant when the Lord shines upon it, so much so that Jerusalem itself will attract others by its light to the Lord.

- Christ is like the filament of an incandescent bulb: without him, there'd be no light at all.
- A filament needs a bulb. Israel is the glass bulb. When Our Lord assumed human nature he chose a place, time, and a people in which to become flesh, and that people, prepared by the Father, is Israel.
- Together they became a great source of light.
- Like a light bulb, that illumination is not just for Israel alone
- All nations would be drawn to that light until they reflected it too.
- Isaiah said it would attract attention and gifts, a foreshadowing of the coming of the Three Magi.

In today's Second Reading Paul recalls that all nations, not just Israel, would be able to benefit from the promises Our Lord has made through the Gospel.

- Israel thought for a long time that salvation was reserved to them alone and that the Messiah would only come to save and lead them.
- In the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters, we see the fledgling Church struggling with understanding that the Gospel was not just for the Jews, but for everyone.
- Paul received the revelation, along with the apostles, that their mission was to the Gentiles, not just the Jews.
- In Christ, the divisions between Jews and Gentiles would end. All of humanity was called to his light.

The Three Magi in today's Gospel is the first signs of that fact.

Today's Gospel teaches us that the light of Christ extends farther than we could ever imagine.

- The Three Magi represent all the peoples of the earth seeing that light in the distance—the distance of their situation, of their cultural differences—and heading toward it.
- A distant light, a star, became a beacon that led them to Jerusalem.
- The prophecy regarding Bethlehem led them closer to their goal, and then the star itself ushered them to the baby Jesus.
- The Three Magi needed help understanding the prophecies to keep going forward because astrology was not enough. If Our Lord assumed human nature in a specific place and culture that presented a gap to be overcome.
- Thanks to this episode we know that Christ's light reaches to all the nations, and leads us above and beyond our own cultures.
- All the nations of the earth can benefit from his light.

### Make Christ Your Guiding Star

- Today's culture is plagued by people seeking a higher meaning to things in all the wrong places.
- Astrology was not enough for the Three Magi, and it never goes the distance. People consult horoscopes, fortune tellers, Tarot cards, Ouija boards. They think they can wrest meaning out of higher mysterious forces.
- Not only are all those things condemned by Church teaching as the sin of divination (see, for example, Catechism 2115-2117), they are absurd, and not because what you might think.
- If we believe God is the Creator of Heaven and earth, and he came in Person to teach us and save us, why do we think we need gimmicks to understand his will for our lives?
- He's already given us all the answers we need in Sacred Scripture. We just have to ask him.
- The Three Magi needed a little help understanding the prophecy to move forward. God has also blessed us with his Church to help us understand his will. Sometimes we need a little guidance to see that it may not be that God is not answering, but that we don't like what he is trying to say.
- Through His Word and His Church Christ can be our guiding star.

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### Faith and Fear

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear.

But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed.

But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? "*All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.*" — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action.

So, then, it should move us all.

*We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage.* — Matthew 2:2

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



### 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.