



THEY OPENED
THEIR TREASURES
AND OFFERED HIM GIFTS
OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE,
AND MYRRH.

THE
EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022

M A T H E W 2:11

GIFTS

Gifts are everywhere at this time of year. Christmas gifts. Hostess gifts. Hidden gifts. Wrong-size gifts. Unexpected gifts. Unwanted gifts. Unreciprocated gifts. And in today's readings we hear about even more gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But we know intuitively (or, one hopes, eventually!) that gifts are symbols of something much deeper and less tangible. The gift of God's Son is, of course, at the heart of our Christmas festivities. We are not—alone, because “God is with us.” (Thus the name Emmanuel.) But wait, that's not all! The liturgy reminds us over and over that this is a “holy exchange.” As Christ came to share in our humanity, we come to share in his divinity. The full significance of that mystery is a gift we have yet to unwrap completely.

WHAT KIND OF GOD IS THIS?

Christmas is a season of abundance. Christmas cookies and carols. Parties and presents. Mangers and mistletoe. The same is true in our church. Within a period of nine days we celebrate Christmas, the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, and today the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Truly an embarrassment of liturgical riches. (And we are not finished yet!)

However, for many people, Christmas is already over. Trees litter the curbside or make their way back to the attic. Presents are put away or returned. We prepare to go back to school or work. But as Christians we have barely dipped our toes into the profound mystery of a God who walks among us. What kind of a God is this whose kingdom is not limited by our borders, fears, expectations, or imaginations? Today's psalm reminds us, “Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” Diversity and inclusion are not new to God's agenda.

TRADITIONS UNCOVER MEANING

Two traditional rituals, one liturgical and one domestic, help underline the meaning of the Epiphany. The Proclamation of the Date of Easter is an option for inclusion at Mass today. This text which formally announces the dates of the upcoming major feast days reminds us that Christmas is best honored in the context of the whole story of salvation that culminates in Easter. Or as writer Nathan Mitchell reflects, the wood of the crib becomes the wood of the cross.

The second tradition connected to Epiphany is the blessing of the door of one's home with chalk. It includes a prayer for protection for all who enter therein. One explanation of this tradition ties it to the Passover in the Book of Exodus: the marking of the doorposts with the blood of the lamb kept the Israelites safe. This tradition too offers a connection between Christmas and Easter.

As we continue to mine the richness of this season we hum along with the angels, *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

TODAY'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



**Sacred Heart Mission
Catholic Church**
205 James Canyon Hwy
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
www.sacredheartcatholiccloudcroft.org

Office hours: Monday–Wednesday
(at Immaculate Conception Church)
(575) 437-3291
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (closed 12-1:00 p.m.)
Thursday and Friday 9:00–12:00 p.m.
Pastor: Very Rev. Martin Cornejo
Vicar: Fr. Emmanuel Stephen
Deacon: Gary Perkins

Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Confessions prior to Mass
Wednesday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Rosary: Wednesday 9:00 a.m.**
**Anointing of the sick: On the
First Wednesday of the month**

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Pope Francis' special intentions during JANUARY: *For true human fraternity*
We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday Jan. 2, For the intentions of
Pope Francis
Wed. Jan. 5, For the intentions of
Bishop P. Baldacchino

EMOHC (Teresa Stevenson (281) 772-7450)
Jan. 2, Tim Burkhard

Reader (Teresa Stevenson (281) 772-7450)
Jan. 2, Kathy Burkhard

Church Committee Members

Chair – Joe Barcevac
Vice-Chair – Bob Balog
Secretary – Mira Pepper
Finance – Steve Pepper
Social Coordinator – Lourdes Blette

Ushers & Altar Servers (John C. 687-2144)
Jan. 2,

Please remember to notify Teresa Stevenson or John Conner if you are unable to serve as Scheduled, even if you have arranged for someone to take your place.

We close the Christmas octave — the eight days following the birth of Christ — with a day honoring Mary as the Mother of God. This is usually a holy day of obligation, but since it falls on a Saturday in 2022, it is not this year.

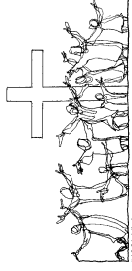
"Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 721

"With his Mother's flesh God clothed himself, / Since from Virginité he was made man." — Prudentius, *Hymn of the Divinity of Christ*, 435-436



our parish mission statement We are a community that comes together to model Jesus to all peoples by addressing physical concerns and spiritual matters, and to do as Jesus did, giving everything to bring people into a closer relationship with God, in celebration.

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.



ALLELUIA!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Epiphany of the Lord;

National Migration Week

Monday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Tuesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Wednesday: St. John Neumann

Thursday: St. André Bessette

Friday: St. Raymond of Penyafort; First



National Migration Week

Resources and info at usccb.org



December 24 & 25	\$1,112.42
December 26	\$ 724.00
Building Fund	\$ 90.00
United in Ministry	\$ 84.00

PLEASE PRAY for

Jennifer Madl, Velia Perea , Ceci Borunda
Susan Walen , Leonor Rubalcava,
Manry Family, Phyllis Madin,
Joe Rogers, John Phillips,
Margaret Bevins, Mike & Lourdes Blette,
Brendan Cronander-Ford.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Feast Day Jan. 4

"OH MY GOD, FORGIVE
WHAT I HAVE BEEN,
CORRECT WHAT I AM, AND
DIRECT WHAT I WILL BE."

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



We have a suggestion box for any new ideas or questions you may have for our church. The box is located on the table next to the kitchen.

To report abuse in New Mexico:

If you suspect a child is in imminent danger from abuse, please call 911 immediately.

To report known or suspected child abuse, contact:

Dial #SAFE (#7233) from a cell phone Or 1-855-333-SAFE (7233)

Elder Abuse Hotline: 1-866-654-3219 National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces Victims Assistance Coordinator (575)523-7577

Or Maria D Martin Safe Environment Clerk (575) 523-7577 mmartin@rcdlc.org