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Newman
Center



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The Epiphany of the Lord, Year C

January 2, 2021

Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Feast of the Epiphany is one of the church's oldest feasts. For Westerners, the Epiphany may be only the twelfth day of Christmas; but the feast is older than the feast of Christmas. In the East, this was, in fact, the original feast of Christmas. The East still celebrates the manifestation of God to the world in Christ, as well as his manifestation at his baptism, and during the wedding feast of Cana. Among Hispanics and the people of Northwestern Europe, Epiphany is commonly known as the Feast of the Three Kings, celebrated in various cultural and family rituals.

The Feast of the Epiphany enjoys greater solemnity in the East than it does in the West. The East follows the Scriptures by not identifying the number of visitors or by calling them Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar, the names given to the magi in the religious folklore of the West. In fact, the olive wood creches that can be bought in the Holy Land today generally include four, not three, wise men from the East.

With the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany on the first Sunday of the year, rather than on January 6, the traditional day for its celebration, we have an opportunity to speak about the universal gift of salvation. Christians tend to see themselves as the privileged recipients of the promise of salvation, but today's second reading reminds us that with regard to salvation we Gentiles are coheirs with Jews. We are also reminded that God wills the salvation of all human beings (1 Tim 2:5-6). This is something we must all remember, especially in these days of suspicion of and hostility to Muslims and other religious minorities. For the most part, we're ignorant with regard to Buddhists, Hindus, and the millions of other people of good will who have no firsthand experience of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Only at the Parousia (the Christian and Islamic belief that Jesus will return again) will all of us begin to understand fully what it means for Jesus to be the one advocate between God and humankind. Only then will everyone come to realize that God wills the salvation of everyone. Perhaps, we will come to understand that He is able to manifest his saving power even through religions other than our own.

Happy New Year-Feliz Ano Nuevo- Buon Anno-Ezi afo ohuru-Maligayang bagong Taon

Peace and love,

Deacon John

Mission Statement

Gifted by God, called by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center is a parish committed to serving the academic community and all those who choose to be part of our parish family. We dedicate ourselves to bringing the transformative power of Christ to the world through word and action.



2021 Giving Tree

On behalf of the Social Outreach Services (SOS) Committee, thank you for your participation in the Giving Tree Project. By taking one or more Angel(s) you made it possible to provide gift cards to eight communities.



Countless families in our communities continue to suffer from food insecurity. With your participation in the Giving Tree, many families were able to enjoy a Christmas dinner or supplemented other meals.

Your kindness reached needy families at Christmas time throughout our county. Thank you!

Storytime with Papa Deak

Please join us for the final *Storytime with Papa Deak* for the Christmas Season. It will be on Wednesday, January 5. Please email joyoflovmoms@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Weekly Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: We celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord this week. This feast reminds us that Jesus was a universal savior—for all people, not just the Jews. The Magi who brought special gifts to the infant Jesus came from distant lands. They recognized the Messiah in the tiny baby more than most of Jesus' own people did. Sometimes it's easy to forget that our Catholic faith is open to everyone. But the word "catholic" means universal—for everyone, everywhere, all the time. Your challenge this week is to give a special gift to someone who has been left out, someone who hasn't been invited into the inner circle of friendship, someone who really needs an unexpected gift. It might be something material, but it could also be the gift of conversation, listening, paying attention.

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Do you shop on Amazon.com? Amazon will give .5% of your purchase to the Newman Center through Amazon Smile. Just add "St Paul Newman Center" (no period after St) as your charitable organization on your new or existing account and shop! When you shop be sure to be on smile.amazon.com so that part of your eligible purchase can go to the church. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up. It is an easy way to give back to the church. To sign up click on the link to Amazon Smile on our website.

Faith, Family and Friends

Faith, Family and Friends will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 4 for our monthly Children's Mass! Please join us in the Chapel at 6:00pm. **Please note that masks are required.** If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Family Life Ministries

Men's Saturday Coffee Group will meet Saturday morning, January 8 from 7:30am to 9:00am in the Cafeteria for coffee, to share our collective spiritual wisdom as we form friendship bonds with other men on our individual spiritual journeys. Men's Scripture Reflection and Discussion Group meets on Mondays after morning Mass from 8:30am to 9:15am in the Library. **We will NOT meet on Monday, January 3.**

The Hero Within

This unique seminar and support group uses psychological archetypes for spiritual direction and greater self-awareness on your unique life journey. The seminar meets for 10 sessions facilitated by John Prandini on Thursday evenings, January 13 - March 17, 2022 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in Cardinal Newman Hall 101. This seminar is recommended for everyone, but especially those who have experienced any significant loss or life-altering event. It is an opportunity to discover more deeply who you are and the hero that lies within you. There is no class fee, but participants are required to purchase the book, *The Hero Within*, by Carol Pearson in advance of the class. Advance registration is required. To register: Email John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com.

Prayer Ministries

Christian Meditation meets weekly on Tuesdays at noon in the Community Room, for 20 minutes of silent meditation followed by a brief lesson about this ancient Christian prayer tradition and discussion. The group is off for the rest of December, but will resume meeting in January. Christian meditation utilizes the mantra, "Maranatha" (a word in Jesus' own Aramaic language meaning, "Come, Lord Jesus") in order to quiet the mind and come to silence, meeting Jesus in the depth of our own being, beyond words or images. The group is a member of the World Community for Christian Meditation. Meetings are facilitated by Benita Lankford. For information email contact John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com.

Weekday Mass and Communion Service Schedule

Our weekday Mass schedule is as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:00am

First Tuesday at 6:00pm

Thursdays at 6:00pm

Communion Services all remaining Tuesdays at 8:00am and every Thursday morning at 8:00am

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 2 **Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12**

7:30am Mass for Tim England Chapel
 9:30am Mass for Jennifer Alvarado Chapel
 11:30am Mass for Carolyn De Francesco Chapel
 5:00pm Bilingual Mass Chapel
 6:30pm Prayer Activity Chapel
 7:00pm Young Adult Mass Chapel

Monday, January 3 **1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25**
Office Closed – No Mass

Tuesday, January 4 **1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44**

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 12:00pm Christian Meditation Community Room
 5:00pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal Chapel
 6:00pm Children’s Mass (Mass for Marilyn Temple) Chapel

Wednesday, January 5 **1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52**

8:00am Mass for Mario and Rose Beltramo Chapel
 6:00pm Scriptural Rosary Community Room
 6:30pm PAIN Cafeteria
 7:00pm Storytime with Papa Deak (via Zoom)

Thursday, January 6 **1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22**

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 4:00pm Confessions Chapel
 6:00pm Mass for Leticia Tacadena Chapel

Friday, January 7 **1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16**

8:00am Mass for Sherry Marik Chapel
 8:30am Sacred Heart Devotion for Families Chapel

Saturday, January 8 **1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30**

7:30am Men’s Saturday Coffee Group Cafeteria
 5:00pm Mass for Trini Ramirez Chapel

Sunday, January 9 **Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22**

7:30am Mass for Gary Peters Chapel
 9:30am Mass for Tom Reinhart Chapel
 10:00am HS Confirmation Class
 11:30am Mass for Javier Castillo Chapel
 2:00pm Baptism Prep Class (via Zoom)
 6:30pm Prayer Activity Chapel
 7:00pm Young Adult Mass Chapel

December Contributions

2020		2021	
Dec. 6 ACH	\$17,435.05	Dec. 5 ACH	\$43,245.07
Dec. 13	\$16,236.00	Dec. 12	\$13,586.45
Dec. 20	\$15,701.50	Dec. 19 ACH	\$20,108.88
Dec. 27	\$9,334.00	Dec. 26	\$21,906..15
Dec. Total	\$58,706.55	Dec. Total	\$98,846.55

*This amount includes one time gifts for the *Heart Speaks to Heart* program and also year end gifts. We received \$14,614.50 for Christmas. Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

Prayers:

♦ **Please pray for those who have requested special intentions and prayers:**

Sr. Ana Rosa Guzman, Joan Renner, Margery Toll, Frances Garcia, Fr. Joe Baca, Kristal Lowe Limon, Jessica H., Olivia King, Olivia Arriaga, Abigail Love, Ron Dodds, Donna Lang, Mark Lang, Gary Payne, Willie Jacques, Linda Alvarez, Marianne Coons, Julissa Mojarras, Estefania Medina, Laura Willers, Mary Garr, Kathy Papagni, Michael Vienna, John and Kathy Brechmann, Issac Orozco, Diana Mock, Fr. Kevin Bray, Msgr. Anthony Janelli, Sandra Barrie, Nettie Shute, Sandy Keith, Meghan Vasquez, Jacob Blake, Dan Dungy, Isabel Wiggins, Monica Becerra, Alice Schultz, Sr. Rosa Maria Branco FHIC, Dick and Jan White, Randy Trejold, Jose Murillo, Piper Linden, Jose Guadalupe Solorio, Jennifer Payne, John Schutt, Bobbie Sweeden

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College Pages

 Newman Catholic Student Association (Fresno)

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Synod

Under the guidance of our longtime parishioner Jim Grant, we are currently putting together our Synod Committee. Please keep us in your prayer as we begin this important process for our Church. More information can be found on our website: <https://csufnewman.com/synod-synodal-church>

Estate Giving

Have you included St. Paul Catholic Newman Center in your estate plans? You can add the parish in your will / trust or even leave the Newman Center as a beneficiary of a retire or bank account and even your life insurance policy. Please contact Deacon John for more information.

San Joaquin Memorial

San Joaquin Memorial High School 2022-2023 Enrollment Applications and Financial Aid and Scholarship applications are now open on www.sjmhs.org. Scholarship applications close January 15. For more information and to schedule a Shadow Visit Day and / or a tour contact Bianca Blanchette, Director of Admissions, at (559) 268-9251 ext 139 or bblanchette@sjmhs.org.

Office Closed

Our office will be closed on Monday, January 3 in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday. We will not have Mass that morning.

Creation Care Tips

It's time once again for New Year's resolutions. Quite a noble time, really, when we look ahead to ways we can improve ourselves. Consider embracing a resolution related to the environment this year. As Pope Francis wrote, "We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread" (Laudato Si', 211). So pick something, large or small, that will be manageable but a good challenge for you or your family to care for creation this year.

RCIA

If you interested in becoming Catholic or know of someone who may be interested, this is a good time to start RCIA. Please leave contact information at the front desk and we will follow up or you can contact Charles Arokiasamy – 286-6372 or by email rcia@csufnewman.com.

The RCIA process at the Newman Center is designed to be a safe and welcoming place to personally experience Christ and develop your relationship with Jesus in a supportive community. We don't throw a bunch of doctrines and rules at you. Instead, we provide a place for you to develop your faith journey with Jesus as a Catholic Christian. If you are a baptized Catholic, spread the word and consider becoming a sponsor of those seeking Christ.

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QUESTIONS?

Contact:

Neira Herrera (559) 485-6210
nherrera@stjohnsfresno.org

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Learn more:

<https://dioceseoffresno.org/office-of-human-resources/>

From Father Byron

This is the word: ἐπιφάνεια - That is the Greek word for "Epiphany," which means "appearance" or "manifestation."

This is the word that refers to the manifestation of Jesus to the world; and, again, it comes down to God's initiative to dwell among us.

We are the Three Wise Men (and Women) to whom, although we live on the other side of the world, Jesus wants to manifest not only himself but also the real tidings of joy that his Good News is about: "that the Gentiles [that is: you and I] are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." (Today's Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

And now the hard part of this: How can we be an epiphany of God's love and promises to others? It's certainly not easy but we can at least try; then miracles happen!

EPJ Encuentro

Please keep me in your prayers as I accompany a group of 20 young adults going on retreat this weekend. Pray that I can be of any assistance to them as they rekindle their faith and relationship with God.

Congratulations, Sister Kathleen!

Please join us to celebrate Sister Kathleen's Golden Jubilee! Thanks, Sister Kathleen, for 51 years of keeping your public promise to give your life to the Gospel and the People of God. We will celebrate at the 11:30am Mass followed by a reception. Hope you can come, swing by, give her a heart-felt fist-bump and rejoice at such amazing testimony of a real religious vocation.

Three Important Saints in the US

This week is quite particular when it comes down to our sanctoral: we celebrate the Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious (January 4); the Memorial of Saint John Neumann, bishop (Jan 5); and the Memorial of Saint André Bessette, religious (January 6). I invite you to get to know more about them as they are pillars to the Catholic faith in the US.

Drawing Contest for Children!

This Tuesday we celebrate Saint Elizabeth Seton. I would like our children to bring in drawings of this amazing saint to the Children's Mass at 6:00pm. There will be prizes for the winners and we will place the drawings in the sanctuary for Mass. Spread the word and talk to Fr. Byron for more info.

Save the Date

Monday, February 7, 2022: Creation Team Meeting! More information coming up soon.

Saintly Quote

"Led by the Spirit, the [Wise Men] come to realize that God's criteria are quite different from those of men, that God does not manifest himself in the power of this world, but speaks to us in the humbleness of his love." Pope Francis on Epiphany.

Have a Laugh

The three wise men came to the manger with gifts for baby Jesus. They brought gold and frankincense...
...But wait, there's myrrh!

Baby Jesus Meets the Public

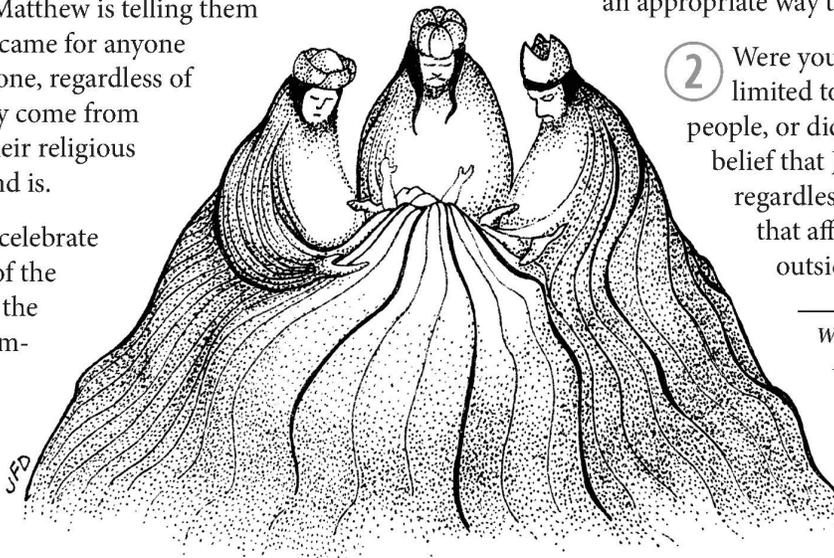
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 60:1-6 - Glory of the new Zion
- ▶ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 - Commission to preach God's plan
- ▶ Matthew 2:1-12 - The visit of the magi

In the ancient world, an epiphany referred to the appearance of a god among humans. For the church, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the public recognition of Jesus by the outside world when the magi found the newborn in Bethlehem. The connection between the first reading from Isaiah and the Gospel could not be more clear. Matthew picks up on Isaiah's prophecy of a guiding light (the star), travelers coming from afar (the magi), and extravagant gifts (gold and frankincense) to show that Jesus is the promised savior.

Over the centuries, many legends have told of the magi who followed the star to discover Jesus. All scripture tells us about their identity, however, is that they were "from the east," which Matthew's readers would have known meant that they were Gentiles—not Jews. This was significant because Matthew was writing for a primarily Jewish audience, trying to convince them that Jesus was their long-awaited savior. At the same time, Matthew wanted his readers to hear that people *outside* of their religion also recognized this baby as worthy of their homage. In effect, Matthew is telling them that Jesus came for anyone and everyone, regardless of where they come from or what their religious background is.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the public "coming out" of Jesus to the wider



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

Sheepish Question:
What personal and spiritual gifts can I offer as Christ's light?

world. Although Jesus was born into a specific religion and culture in a particular time in history, the Epiphany reminds us that he is not limited to being a savior to the Jewish people. He is available to everyone, as Mary demonstrated by welcoming the foreign travelers "from the east."

Questions of the Week

- 1 In some cultures, the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated more than Christmas. Does your family have any Epiphany traditions? What would be an appropriate way to celebrate?
- 2 Were you taught that salvation is limited to a set population of chosen people, or did you grow up with the belief that Jesus came for all people, regardless of their religion? How did that affect how you related to others outside of your church?

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