

ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
323 WEST ILLINOIS STREET CHICAGO, IL 60654
www.assumption-chgo.org
312-644-0036

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022



*They opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Matthew 2:11

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January 2, 2022

MAKING ROOM FOR THE SEEKERS

About twenty years ago, when the first Harry Potter movie came out and Harry Potter books became immensely popular with the younger crowd (as well as a lot of older folks), a controversy erupted in the school attached to the parish where I was serving and in other Christian schools. At issue was whether it was proper to have the Harry Potter books in the school library. After all, the books were centered on pagan magic and sorcery, which run contrary to Christian teaching. My belief always was that if having pagan magicians and sorcerers around did not bother Jesus, it should not bother his followers.

On today's Feast of the Epiphany (a word that means a manifestation or a bursting forth), we recall the journey of the Magi to visit young Jesus. Based on what St. Matthew tells us in the Gospel and what we know of the culture of the time, these visitors from the East could have been magicians, sorcerers, and probably astrologers, since they were looking for meaning in the stars. Sometimes they are called Wise Men or Kings, and that is also possible. Members of the royal family in conquered nations would become tutors in the royal household. Whatever they did for a living, it is clear that they were foreigners in every sense of the word. The Gospel tells us that they were from a foreign nation and implies that they had no background in Judaism. They had to stop and ask for directions (a big mistake). The Magi in the Epiphany story represent all of us "foreigners" who have come to worship the Lord.

When Matthew begins his Gospel, he identifies Jesus as Son of David and Son of Abraham. He tries to show that Jesus fulfilled Jewish expectations for a Messiah (a Son of David) but was also a Messiah for all people of faith, going back to the time of Abraham and Sara, before there was an Israel. In other words, Matthew is trying to draw together people who do not normally flock together. Most of us have come to faith through our family and our culture, just as most of the disciples of Jesus did. But we also see people like the Magi come to faith in unexpected ways, including signs in nature. This is one of the reasons why Pope Francis has given so much attention to the care of creation. It is not just important for our survival; it is also through the beauty and abundance and order in creation that people can come to faith.

Over the next six months, in whatever form Covid will allow us, Assumption and the other five parishes in our Grouping will go through the Renew My Church process. Although no structural changes or joining of ministries is likely to be mandated, we will all be challenged to pay more attention to the outsiders, both those who share our faith and do not worship with us and those who do not share our faith but need our help. It is clear from the story of the Magi that the Holy Spirit never intended churches to be private clubs for the like-minded. Churches exist to further the mission of Jesus, and that mission is a universal mission. This will mean expanding our social outreach, giving more attention to those who have little or no background in the faith, and helping those who have a background in the faith to become more confident in sharing their faith with others.

When the pandemic began two years ago and so many more of us began to depend on virtual learning, our pastoral council began to look at on-line resources within the Catholic Church that might support our faith formation programs. While each of the products on the market has its limitations in terms of what it covers, we decided the best of the bunch is *Formed*. There were still funds available to us from *To Teach Who Christ Is*, a capital campaign to support Catholic education in the Archdiocese that took place about eight years ago. A certain percentage of the funds raised were returned to the parishes in support of their own education program. So, we have subscribed to *Formed* for a year. *Formed* will be used in our adult faith programming and by our Young Adult group, but it is also meant for all of us who are hungry to know more. So many of us march through Catholic schools or religion classes, learning what we have to in order to pass a course. Only later in life do we develop the desire to understand our beliefs better and become seekers like the Magi. Here is how easy it is to access *Formed*: (1) Go to formed.org/ signup; (2) Search for Assumption Church and you will see our location come up. Select us and hit "next"; (3) Enter your name and email address; (4) Check your email for a link to begin using *Formed*.

Fr. Joe

Epiphany Of The Lord

Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
January 8-9, 2022		
G. Brown	5:00	P. Burke
G. Herrera		
V. Stokes	7:30	E. Bernacki
E. Bernacki	9:00	P. Brown
P. Brown		
M. Amend	10:30	R. Gier
B. Kabacinski	12:15	K. Moery
M. Deneen	5:00	B. Fumo

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The miracle of Christmas was shared by only a small group of people in the middle of the night in a small town in a remote corner of the Roman Empire. This weekend we celebrate The Epiphany of the Lord. An epiphany is an explosion of light, a bursting forth. On the Epiphany we celebrate the fact that the Good News of Christmas was meant to be shared with everyone everywhere.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The Annual Rally and March for Life Chicago will take place on Saturday, January 8. The rally will begin at 1:00 p.m. at Federal Plaza, 50 West Adams. Among the speakers will be Cardinal Blase Cupich. Following the rally, there will be a march to the Hilton Hotel, 700 South Michigan, where a full day of Pro-Life events are taking place. Bishop Mark Bartosic will celebrate a Mass for Life at 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton. Assumption will have its annual Mass for Life at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 16.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

By January 9, most of us will have long since put Christmas behind us, but the liturgical season of Christmas does not end until next weekend on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. An older tradition, still followed by some, extends the Christmas season to February 2, the Feast of the Presentation, 40 days after Christmas.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible) godparents of infants to be baptized is Monday, January 10 from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. at the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for those who have never before attended a preparation session. Call the parish office to register. It is not necessary to wait until the baby is born to attend a preparation session. Baptisms normally take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15 p.m. and on the first weekend of the month during Mass.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, many churches and charities offer meals to the needy and homeless. But people are still hungry in January and February. Chicago Help Initiative has been allowed to resume offering indoor hot meals on a limited basis on Wednesday evenings at Catholic Charities, 721 North LaSalle. However CHI feeds many more people across Chicago with bag meals, and the number of volunteers who prepare these meals has declined. Find out how you can provide bag meals to your sisters and brothers who are struggling by contacting chicagohelpinitiative.org.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Electronic giving is the twenty-first century way to support your church. Go to our homepage (www.assumption-chgo.org) and click on electronic giving. That will take you to GiveCentral, where you can draw up your giving plan. Thereafter, the amount you have designated will be charged to your credit card or transferred electronically from your checking account each week.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Was getting more involved in my church one of your New Year's Resolutions? Whether it was or not, our church can certainly use more "involvees". Through all the ups and downs of this past year, people have ministered as ushers, greeters, ministers of the Eucharist, lectors, and singers and musicians. Some of them out of concern for our faith community, have done much more than their share. People have assisted with our social ministries and been involved in social justice activities and sacramental programs. Maybe it is time that you stepped up. Call the parish office or check our website to find out who the contact people are.

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Pope Francis has reminded us over and over again that care for God's creation is an integral part of Catholic teaching. One of his latest efforts to get all of us involved in caring for our common home is to establish a Creation Care Committee in every parish and every Catholic institution. That is a tall order, but it will certainly fail if Assumption fails to comply. Three members of our parish attended an information session offered by the Archdiocese last month and they are willing to serve on that committee, but we need more members. The role of the committee is to keep this issue before the members of the parish and to explore specific ways that we as a parish can respond to the challenge of climate change. Would you be willing to serve on this committee? Contact Fr. Joe at jchamblain@assumption-chgo.org.

OUR VIDEO MASS CONTINUES

For those who have not yet returned to church, Sunday Mass from Assumption is uploaded on our website at 4:00 p.m. Saturday (www.assumption-chgo.org). Sunday Mass from Assumption is also available on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel.

MASKING IS BACK

Although we wish it were over, “It ain’t over till it’s over.” With the resurgence of the virus due to the Delta Variant, the City of Chicago as well as the Archdiocese of Chicago now requires everyone, vaccinated or unvaccinated, to be masked while in church or at other indoor church gatherings. The Archdiocesan COVID-19 Task Force wrote in part: “We will continue to monitor the situation and will reevaluate our policy if conditions and public health guidance warrants it. It is our hope and our prayer that measures taken now and scrupulously applied will enable us to adopt a mask-optional policy for vaccinated persons in the future. Certainly we are disappointed and saddened that infection and serious illness rates have again surged. We must do our part to bring the pandemic under control and the suffering to an end. This is both our civic and Christian duty. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to keep each other safe and well.”

HYMNS FOR MASS

#105, #107, #108, #81 (except 5:00 p.m. Sunday)

BAPTISMS

LEIA MADELEINE RODER

WEDDINGS

MATT MOCHEL & MARY PENNINGTON

PRAY FOR THEM

Sick: Annette Russo, Bill Hjorth, Nancy Alfano,
Rosemary Reeves, Kevin Atwood, Terrie Stevens,
Maripat Nellis, Craig Mitchell, Terry Hufnagel,
Davy Hart, and Anita Lopez

REST IN PEACE

Kevin Pentoney

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1, 2022

Sun.	2nd	9:00	Michael & Rose Marie Sopko (RIP), Helen Morris (RIP) Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfister & Jenkins Families
		10:30	Charles & Marion Joachim (RIP)
		12:15	Dorothy Brennan (RIP)
Tues.	4th	12:10	Frank & Mary Deneen (RIP)
Wed.	5th	7:00	Dubuque Family

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Dr. Kevin Zajdel, Deacon

In Residence:

Rev. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.

Rev. John Fontana, O.S.M.

Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M.

Bro. Arnaldo M. Sanchez, O.S.M.

Rev. Eugene Smith, O.S.M.

MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 7:00, 12:10 PM

Saturday: 7:30, 5:00 PM (for Sunday)

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15, 5:00 PM

CONFESSION:

Friday: 11:35 –12:05 PM

Daily after all Masses (on request)

ST. PEREGRINE DEVOTION:

Monday following the 12:10 Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Third Monday of the Month: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

WEDDINGS: You do not have to be a member of Assumption to get married at Assumption. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

BAPTISMS: Second and fourth Sundays of the month at 1:15 and the first weekend of the month during Mass.

TEXT TO GIVE: Sundaycoll to 312-900-8747

NIGHT EMERGENCIES: 312-661-3466

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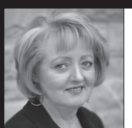


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