

Faith IN WV

JANUARY 4, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

What is Your Gift to Christ? Reflect God's Light

We know well the story that unfolds for us today, Epiphany Sunday. The wisemen come from a far. Each with a special gift for the Prince of Peace - gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Each gift has a prophetic meaning.

Gold is a gift for a king.

Frankincense is a gift for a priest.

Myrrh is a fragrant burial ointment, more prized than gold in Christ's time.

The gifts acknowledge the great prophecies - Jesus' Incarnation as

King of kings, a priest for all, and a redeemer who will endure pain and death to give us all forgiveness and eternal life.

The Prophet Isaiah in the first reading today wrote (Isaiah 60:1-6) wrote, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. . . Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around. . . your heart shall thrill and rejoice. . . They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall

proclaim the praise of the Lord."

Have we ever seriously considered what our gift is for Christ? Let's do that this year. Do we love God so much we can reflect His light? Hope? Future?

While contemplating what gifts we can present to our Emmanuel, consider being like the wisemen - life-long learners, humble, and aware of signs from Heaven.

As Catholics we know we can find the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and can spend time with

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Bless your house

CHRISTUS MANSIONEM
BENEDICAT

"MAY CHRIST
BLESS THE HOUSE"



DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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On the Epiphany it is custom to bless your house as a sign that Jesus is a daily guest in your home. The traditional way to do this is with chalk write "20+C+M+B+26" at the entrance of the home.

The beginning and end numbers are the year.

The letters C, M, and B, are not only the initials of the three kings, but also are the abbreviation of the Latin phrase, "Christus mansionem benedicat," meaning, "May Christ bless the house." Don't forget the "+" signs! Those represent the cross of course.

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God at Adoration or praying before the tabernacle.

When not with Him in Church, be with him in Scripture, prayer, and in faith formation opportunities. In these moments it can become clearer what to give our Savior.

As we read Scripture, we learn what Jesus wants from us, including:

- * The gift of our hearts - Love God, and love our neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40)
- * The gift of humility - Pledge the gift to be humble. Not only admit to sins Just as we seek forgiveness for our sins, but we must also forgive the sins of others (Matthew 6:14)
- * The gift of gratitude - In all things and in all circumstances give thanks to God. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- * The gift of our presence and letting others see Christ in us - We need to be the light of the world, so others see Christ in us, our deeds, and our praise to God) Matthew 5:16.

Let Epiphany Sunday be a revelation to us all. Let us realize that the greatest present of all is our presence, where we can surely find His presence.

Be the light that leads others to Jesus.



There are several ways folks have incorporated this as a new tradition for their families. Use the following as you begin yours:

Bless the chalk, praying, *“Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your*

holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Then you write “20+C+M+B+26” either above the door or even on the front porch step, while saying, *“The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.”*

Then offer this prayer, *“Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.”*

May your Epiphany and New Year be blessed.



WITNESSES OF FAITHFUL PERSEVERANCE

SAINTS WHO BUILT THE CHURCH THROUGH HUMILITY AND TRUST



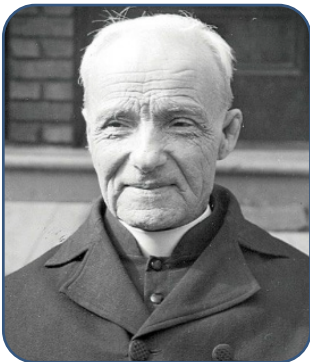
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON (JANUARY 4)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's life reveals a complete trust in God, even when her Catholic faith cost her social standing and the success of her early school attempts. She persevered! Through humility and tireless dedication, she laid the foundation for Catholic education in the United States, shaping generations of young people in faith and virtue. Her witness teaches us to nurture the Church patiently, trusting that small acts of faith can grow into lasting spiritual fruit.



ST. JOHN NEUMANN (JANUARY 5)

St. John Neumann inspires us by his deep love for learning, evangelization, and the Eucharist, which fueled his tireless service to both immigrants and native-born Americans. His humility and pastoral zeal led him to master many languages so that no one would feel excluded from Christ's love. As a bishop, he strengthened the Church through Catholic education and Eucharistic devotion, seeing both as essential to forming faithful disciples. His generosity to the poor and quiet death while serving others remind us that holiness is found in faithful daily sacrifice.



ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE (JANUARY 6)

St. André Bessette shows us that God works powerfully through humility, weakness, and unwavering trust. Despite poor health and limited education, he embraced simple service and remained completely dependent on God and the intercession of St. Joseph. His compassion for the sick and suffering flowed from deep prayer and a sincere belief that all healing comes from God alone. He teaches us that holiness does not require greatness in the world's eyes, but faithfulness, humility, and love.



ST. RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT (JANUARY 7)

St. Raymond of Penyafort exemplifies courage, integrity, and obedience to God above all earthly authority. His brilliance in canon law was matched by moral clarity, as he boldly corrected even kings when justice and holiness were at stake. Trusting completely in God's providence, he acted with heroic faith when human solutions failed. His life encourages us to unite intellect with virtue and to stand firm for truth, trusting God to guide the outcome.

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ENCOUNTER
God in the mountains.

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Our Catholic Youth Adventure Camp

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June 28th – July 4th**

Week 1: July 5th – 11th

Week 2: July 12th – 18th

Week 3: July 19th – 25th

Go to: **campcarlowv.org**

Encounter with Jesus

JANUARY 10TH & 11TH 2026

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
AND STIRRING
ADVENTURE THAT CAN
HAPPEN TO YOU IS THE
PERSONAL MEETING WITH
JESUS, WHO IS THE ONLY
ONE WHO GIVES REAL
MEANING TO OUR LIVES".

-ST. JOHN PAUL II

AGES

18-30



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DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

2026 Men's Discernment Retreat

WWW.WVPRIESTS.ORG

FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 15

PRIESTFIELD PASTORAL CENTER
4030 MIDDLEWAY PIKE, KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430

- OPEN TO MEN 18 AND OLDER
- PRAY, SHARE MEALS, AND MEET WITH CURRENT WV SEMINARIANS
- HEAR TALKS ABOUT PRIESTLY LIFE AND DISCERNMENT

Register
Today!



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Your light has come! The wealth of nations shall come bearing gold and frankincense, praising the Lord.

Responsorial: Psalm 72

"Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Saint Paul tells us that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The wisemen were overjoyed at seeing the star, followed it, and went to pay homage to the Christ Child, presenting him gifts fitting of a king.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we all realize the greatest gifts to give Christ is our trust and our presence, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That our international, national, and local leaders take on the mindset of the wisemen – life-long learners, humble, and aware of the signs from Heaven for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For refugees, immigrants, and those who must seek asylum to save themselves and their families from terror and evil, that they may find hope and sincere kindness in their new homes, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the special intentions of each one of us as we bring them to You Jesus at Mass, during Adoration, and throughout our days and nights, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



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by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.