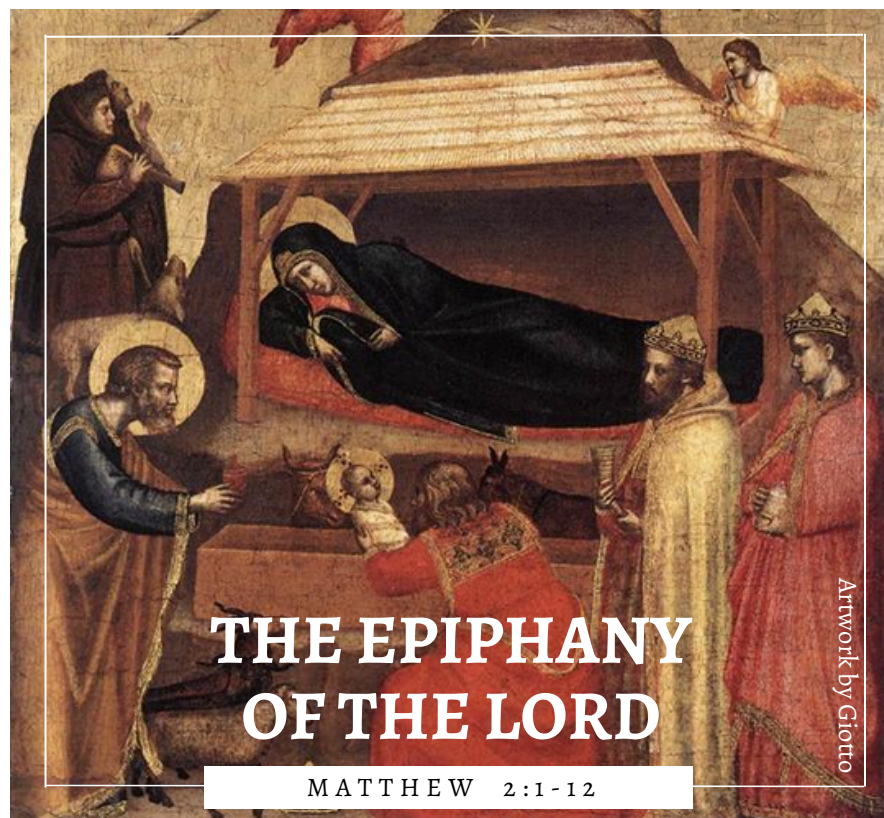


# PARISH FAMILY 14

ST. ALPHONSUS | ST. BENEDICT | ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



## SUNDAY MASSES

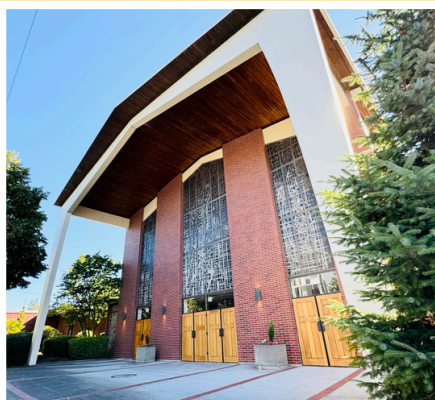
Saturday: 5:00 PM Vigil at St. Alphonsus  
5:00 PM Vigil at St. John  
Sunday: 8:30 AM at St. John  
9:00 AM at St. Alphonsus  
10:30 AM at St. John  
11:00 AM at St. Benedict

## DAILY MASSES

Mon - Thurs: 7:30 AM at St. Alphonsus  
Friday: 9:00 AM at St. John  
Saturday: 8:00 AM at St. Alphonsus  
(except 1st Sat: 9:00 AM at St. John)

## CONFESSION

Mon - Thurs: 7:00 - 7:20 AM at St. Alphonsus  
Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM at St. Alphonsus  
Sunday: 8:00 - 8:45 AM at St. Alphonsus  
Sunday: 9:45 - 10:15 AM at St. John  
By appointment: [info@parishfamily14.org](mailto:info@parishfamily14.org)  
First Thursday Confession and Adoration:  
7:00-8:00 PM at St. Alphonsus



### ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH

5816 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107  
Website: <https://stalseattle.org>



### ST. BENEDICT PARISH



1805 N 49th St, Seattle, WA 98103  
Website: <https://parish.stbens.net>



### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

106 N 79th St, Seattle, WA 98103  
Website: <https://stjohnsea.org>

Parish Family Admin Office: 206-782-2810 | 206-770-6494 (Fax) | [info@parishfamily14.org](mailto:info@parishfamily14.org) | 106 N 79th St, Seattle  
Parish Family Faith Formation Office: 206-632-0843 | [lorcoro@parishfamily14.org](mailto:lorcoro@parishfamily14.org) | 1805 N 49th St, Seattle

  @parishfamily14

For pastoral emergencies, please call: 206-271-3543.

# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

**January 4, 2026**  
**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
 Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

	ST. ALPHONSUS		ST. BENEDICT		ST. JOHN	
<b>January 4</b> <b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	8 AM 9 AM 10 AM 5 PM	Confession Mass Coffee & Donuts Epiphany Potluck - Family Center	11 AM 12 PM	Mass with CLOW (Livestream) Coffee & Donuts	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:35 AM 9:45 AM 10:30 AM  2 PM 7:30 PM	Mass Lectio Divina Confirmation Class PF14 Confession Mass SVdP Collection at both Masses Coffee & Donuts after both Masses St. Francis of Assisi - Parish Admin Building Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
<b>January 5</b> <b>Monday</b> Saint John Neumann, Bishop	7 AM 7:30 AM 7 PM	Confession Daily Mass INT: Patty Skommesa Men's Group - McGrath Rm	8:30 AM 7 PM	SMdP Sandwich Making Gospel Study via Zoom		
<b>January 6</b> <b>Tuesday</b> Saint André Bessette, Religious	7 AM 7:30 AM	Confession Daily Mass INT: Rich & Kathy Huntsman	7 PM	Women's Ministry via Zoom		
<b>January 7</b> <b>Wednesday</b> Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest	7 AM 7:30 AM	Confession Daily mass RIP: Shirley M. Barney				
<b>January 8</b> <b>Thursday</b>	7 AM 7:30 AM 10 AM 7 PM	Confession Daily mass Scripture Study OCIA - McGrath Room	9 AM 7 PM	Daily Mass Book Group	3 PM	Family Adoration
<b>January 9</b> <b>Friday</b>	8:15 AM to 8 PM	Adoration Chapel open			9 AM	Daily Mass
<b>January 10</b> <b>Saturday</b>	8 AM  4 PM 5 PM	Daily Mass RIP: Callahan Wolf Phinney Confession Vigil Mass	9:30 AM	Craft Group	5 PM	Vigil Mass (Livestream)
<b>January 11</b> <b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	8 AM 9 AM 10 AM 10:30 AM	Confession Mass Coffee & Donuts OCIC - McGrath Room	11 AM 12 PM	Mass with CLOW (Livestream) Coffee & Donuts	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:35 AM 9:45 AM 10:30 AM  7:30 PM	Mass Lectio Divina Confirmation Class PF14 Confession Mass with CLOW Pancake Breakfast after both Masses Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
	For livestream and recorded masses, click the links:		<a href="https://parish.stbens.net">https://parish.stbens.net</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stbenseattle">www.facebook.com/stbenseattle</a>		<a href="http://www.stjohnsea.org/live-stream-masses">www.stjohnsea.org/live-stream-masses</a>	



Sign up to **get notified of mass cancellations** or mass time changes.

<https://bit.ly/PF14NotifyMe>



Subscribe to **weekly bulletin and e-newsletter**.

<https://bit.ly/PF14WeeklyBulletin>



Submit your **questions & feedback** about our Parish Family.

<https://bit.ly/PF14Queries>



**FOLLOW US**



**@parishfamily14**

# PARISH FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

## EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

20 + C + M + B + 26

Take a blessed chalk at the mass today and mark your homes with the traditional Epiphany house blessing. See the insert for more information.



Chalk is available in each church's sacristy or at the St. John and St. Benedict parish office. This simple and meaningful practice asks God's blessing upon our homes and all who live in or visit them throughout the coming year.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### Take Down Decorations

- Jan 11, Sun, after 10:30 AM Mass at St. John
- Jan 11, Sun, after 11:00 AM Mass at St. Benedict
- Jan 12, Mon, after Mass and Rosary at St. Alphonsus

For more information, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 206-632-0843 and ask for Lori or Anita.



## HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR GIFT YET? SIGN UP ON FORMED FOR FREE!

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup).
2. Enter 98107 for zip code or Parish Family 14 Seattle
3. Enter your name and email address.



## JOIN US!

## EPIPHANY CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY POTLUCK

January 4, Sunday, 5 PM  
St. Alphonsus Family Center

Bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and joy as we gather around the table like the Magi who followed the star to Christ.

If you're unable to bring food, your presence is more than enough.

All are welcome!



**PARTNERS  
IN THE GOSPEL**

## UPDATES

Where are we in the One Parish Planning Process?

### Five Stages of One Parish Planning



We are still in the **"Who Are We?"** stage. In October and November, we held synodal listening sessions and conducted a survey to learn more about the gifts, charisms, experiences, and spiritual impact of our parishes in our family. We will be releasing the results of the sessions and the survey soon.

We are also gathering baseline data on evangelization efforts, ministry participation, school enrollment, staffing, financial viability, and other key metrics. The PLC will review these areas and provide each parish with its baseline viability metrics early next year.

Looking ahead, we will collect and reflect on Parish Family demographics to help us discern whom we serve and identify our opportunities and challenges as a Parish Family. A second round of listening sessions will be scheduled for this next phase, and we hope you will all participate.

For questions or inquiries about our Partners in the Gospel efforts, please feel free to submit them here:  
<https://bit.ly/PF14Queries>.

To learn more about the One Parish Planning Process, visit [archseattle.org/partners](https://archseattle.org/partners).



[bit.ly/PF14Queries](https://bit.ly/PF14Queries)

# SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION



Join the next **packing and sorting event on Wednesday, January 7, 6:00 - 8:00 PM** at the South Park Warehouse. Children as young as 10 years old (with parental accompaniment) can join.

Note that all volunteers must register in advance (FLL recommends 5 days prior). If you don't have an FLL account (required), it usually takes 2-3 minutes to create the account.

Sign up now by scanning the QR code or contact Len at [kannapell@yahoo.com](mailto:kannapell@yahoo.com).



## St. Vincent de Paul Society

SVdP society assists the poor and needy within our parish boundaries through grocery, transpo and rent vouchers. Support by donating and volunteering with them. For more info, contact the following:

St. Alphonsus: Doug Martin - [doug@martinenv.com](mailto:doug@martinenv.com)

St. Benedict: Sherry Zane - [svdp@stbens.net](mailto:svdp@stbens.net)

St. John: Joyce Farrell - [joycefarrello8@gmail.com](mailto:joycefarrello8@gmail.com)

If you need assistance, please call Helpline Call Center at (206) 767-6449, M-F, 8 AM - 3 PM.

## Grief Support Group

**If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you don't have to go through it alone.** Our Parish Family Grief Support Group is here to offer comfort, support, and a listening ear. Stay tuned for the schedule of **weekly sessions in January**. For more information, please reach out to Margaret Alquist at [margaretalquist1@gmail.com](mailto:margaretalquist1@gmail.com).

## Minsters to the Homebound

**Are you homebound, in nursing home or hospital and want to receive the holy communion?** Our Cabrini Ministers would be happy to bring the holy communion to your home. For inquiries, please contact the following:

St. Alphonsus: Lori Corcoro - [lcorcoro@parishfamily14.org](mailto:lcorcoro@parishfamily14.org)

St. Benedict: Brenda Stratton - [bjandmes.bjs@gmail.com](mailto:bjandmes.bjs@gmail.com)

St. John: Marion Johnson - [marijo9974@yahoo.com](mailto:marijo9974@yahoo.com)

## St. Martin de Porres Sandwich Making

SMdP sandwich makers prepare a total of 800 sandwich lunches every month for men who live at the SMdP shelter in downtown Seattle.

Join the next sandwich making on **January 5, 2025, Monday, 8:30AM** in the St. Benedict Parish Center. Contact Vicky Briones at [vicster912@gmail.com](mailto:vicster912@gmail.com) for more information.



## Sancta Vita

"God calls us to reject anything that discriminates, excludes or discards people," said the Pope, "and instead to promote, in our communities and neighbourhoods, a strong culture of welcome, in which the narrow places of fear and denunciation are replaced by open spaces of encounter, integration and sharing of life."

- Pope Francis 01/06/2025

## Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a global organization of Catholic men committed to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. The local council supports the community through fundraising for local organizations, assisting with parish events, hosting pancake breakfasts, and holding regular meetings to plan and grow its outreach. For more info, contact the following:

St. Alphonsus: Louie Van Hollebeke - [louiervh@gmail.com](mailto:louiervh@gmail.com)

St. John: Aaron Amort - [aaronamort@gmail.com](mailto:aaronamort@gmail.com)

## Hunger Project

St. Benedict collects food donations that are sent to the Family Works Food Bank every month. Donations may be placed at the box in the vestibule or brought over to the Parish Office. For more info, contact Len Kannapel at [kannapell@yahoo.com](mailto:kannapell@yahoo.com).

## Angel's Cafe

St. Alphonsus' The Angels Café is a vibrant ministry of women who come together to cook and serve meals in the spirit of Matthew 20:28: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." The group meets at least four times a year. Food preparation takes place on Saturday mornings, followed by cooking and serving after Sunday Mass. New members are always welcome to join this joyful service ministry. For more information or to get involved, contact Shelle Bjolstad at [shelleb2@gmail.com](mailto:shelleb2@gmail.com).

## Want to put your faith into action?

Our Social Justice Ministries need hearts and hands like yours. For more details, go to [bit.ly/PF14SocialJustice](https://bit.ly/PF14SocialJustice). Everyone is welcome!



# FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTS

## SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS

### Faith Sharing Group

**January 4, 7:30 PM** | St. John Group via Zoom  
Everyone is welcome to join, ask questions, and share insights as they grow together in faith. For zoom link and more info, contact tressa.Lombardi@hotmail.com

### Men's Group

**January 5, 7 PM** | St. Alphonsus Men's Group fellowship and faith sharing in the St. Al McGrath Room.  
We are starting a new video series called "You Did It To Me" discussing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy inspired by Fr. Parrish's homily series. Please join us! For more information please contact Brian LeBlanc at brianleblanc76@gmail.com)

### Book Group

**January 8, 7 PM** | St. Benedict Book Group at St. Mary Room (upper level of Parish Center); (Contact: Brenda Stratton at bjandmes@msn.com)

### Women's Ministry

**January 6, 7 PM** | St. Benedict Women's Ministry on Zoom  
Meeting ID: 83832067839 Password: 042299. All women in our Parish Family are invited to our monthly gatherings on the first Tuesday of each month from 7-9 PM.

This year, we're reading *Jesus, the God Who Knows You* by Max Lucado. For our January meeting, we'll be discussing Part 3 – Teacher. Come as you are, whether you've read the chapter or not, you are always welcome!

For more information, please call or leave a message for Debra Reilly at debras.reilly@gmail.com or 206-755-1751.

### Grounded in Grace

**January 15, 6 PM** | St. Alphonsus Family Center  
If you are navigating the pain of divorce or marital separation, join Grounded in Grace, a safe and confidential space for healing and hope. Childcare provided. Questions? Contact olivia@raesegroup.com.



**Looking to grow in faith and friendship?** Check out the many Small Faith Sharing Groups across our Parish Family! Scan the QR code or visit: [bit.ly/PF14SmallGroups](https://bit.ly/PF14SmallGroups). These groups are wonderful opportunities to pray together, reflect on Scripture, share life experiences, and build meaningful connections within our community. Everyone is welcome, whether you're new or have been with us for years. Come find a group that feels right for you!



## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### Infant Baptism

Baptisms in our Parish Family are scheduled during the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses at our three churches. **Upcoming baptism dates: February 28 and March 1.** For more information, contact Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org.

### Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC)

If your kids are from another faith tradition but feel at home in our Parish Family, or baptized Catholic but want to learn more, OCIC might be the perfect place for them to grow in faith.

**Join us for classes on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 AM in the St. Alphonsus McGrath Room.** For more information, please contact Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org.



### Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Are you an adult seeking confirmation or interested in becoming Catholic? Join our OCIA! Sessions are held on **Thursday evenings at 7 PM in the St. Alphonsus Family Center.** Email Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org for more information. All are welcome!



### Funerals

The death of a loved one brings sorrow and grief, yet our faith in Christ's Resurrection offers comfort and grace amid sadness. The Church's funeral rites bring hope and consolation as we commend our loved one to God's loving mercy. To begin making funeral arrangements, please contact Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org or 206-632-0843 ext 217.

**Please feel free to contact us for the following:**

**First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, Youth Confirmation, Sacrament of Matrimony and Funerals -**

Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org

**Order of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children -** Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org

**Parish Advocates for Annulment -** annulment@stjohnsea.org

# PARISH FAMILY UPDATES

## LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Please remember the following people who are ill, homebound, or need your prayers this week: Marnie Ahern, Lillian Anderson, Len Andrews, Akeem Arana, Fridon Bahrimandarlini, Alexander Bodsky, Anneliese Bodsky, Linda Broderick, Joe Chitty, Donna Day, Jeff D'Amelio, Natasha Ryan D'Amelio, Bertha Eriksson, Ritchell Cunanan, Todd Galvão, Espedito P. Galvão, Margaret Goodrich, Carol Grimes, Lianne Grimes, Myrna Israkul, Joanne Jepson, Emily Jones, Joan Knebel, Nicholas Konopik, Daniel Love, Josephine Lynch, Seamus Lynch, Norma Macke, Ginny Massett, Darren Miller, Joanne Morgan, Jerry Mulka, Patricia Mulka, Jennifer Nagel, Ray Naidu, Dan Nichols, Patricia Patterson, Jack Piza, Bob Pohlman, Lucy Rogers, Hilda Saleh, Lisa Schmidt, Jack Serwold, Abby Simpson, Lil' Stanley, Jeannette Tannario, Scott Tom, Jane Treeheal, Dennis Weiler, Jerilyn Wetzell, Shea Wilson, Lillian Yamamoto, and Megan Yoshimura.

For those who have died, that they may rest in the healing embrace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord.  
For Armed Forces personnel throughout the world, that they come home safely to their families, we pray to the Lord.

*Note:* To request a prayer, please call the Parish Office or use the QR code or this link:

<https://bit.ly/PF14Prayer>



## READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 - Baptism of the Lord

### First Reading

*Here is my servant.*

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

### Psalm

*"The Lord will bless his people with peace."*

Psalm 29

### Second Reading

*God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power.*

Acts 10:34-38

### Gospel

*The Spirit of God descends like a dove.*

Matthew 3:13-17

Isaiah's words may be echoing in our heads now, as we have heard them nearly every Sunday throughout Advent and Christmas. Isaiah foresaw the Messiah, God's chosen one, who, filled with God's spirit, would open the eyes of the blind, rescue those imprisoned in darkness, and establish justice on the earth. Peter attests that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, and Matthew tells of how the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove descending from the heavens when Jesus was baptized. Filled with the Holy Spirit in baptism, let us allow the words of scripture to move us with their power.

## PARTICIPATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Invite your friends and family to attend Mass and experience the peace, community, and spiritual growth it brings. Sharing our mass times with them can help strengthen our Parish Family!

### Week of December 21, 2025

#### St. Alphonsus Parish

##### MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM	----
Sunday, 9 AM	225

##### PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 2,182.00
Online Donations	\$ 4,574.08
Mailed-in	\$3,308.95

**Total Collection** \$10,065.03

Weekly Budget \$ 9,833.00

Over Weekly Budget \$232.03

Thank you so much for all your support to St. Alphonsus Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!



#### St. Benedict Parish

##### MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM	171
Sunday, 11 AM	176

##### PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 2,644.00
Online Donations	\$ 3,339.54
Mailed-in	\$ 310.00

**Total Collection** \$ 6,293.54

Weekly Budget \$ 6,055.00

Over Weekly Budget \$238.54

Thank you so much for all your support to St. Benedict Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!



#### St. John Parish

##### MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM	----
Sunday, 8:30 AM	174
Sunday, 10:30 AM	246

##### PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 3,151.00
Online Donations	\$ 11,743.66
Mailed-in	\$ 7,625.00

**Total Collection** \$ 22,519.66

Weekly Budget \$ 17,229.00

Over Weekly Budget \$5,290.66

Thank you so much for all your support to St. John Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!

<https://bit.ly/PushpaySJ>



# FAITH IN FOCUS



## Epiphany Sunday

ON MANY calendars, Epiphany falls on January 6, but the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates it on whatever date Sunday falls during the week of January 2.

*Epiphany* means “manifestation,” and it celebrates the day that the infant Jesus revealed his divinity to the Magi. Traditionally, this event is connected with two others from the Gospels: the Baptism of Jesus and the Wedding at Cana. In all these events, the mystery of Christ became more manifest. The Magi, coming from the East, signify that gentile nations—not just Jewish nations—were coming to recognize Jesus as the savior of the world.

The Bible does not indicate on what day the magi visited—nor, for that matter, on what day Jesus was born. January 6 was probably chosen for this observance as an alternative for early Christians living in a culture where pagans already commemorated the birth of a sun god on the same day.

The day, the twelfth day of Christmas, gave rise to a host of customs, as well as a popular Christmas carol.

The biblical event is so important that the Catholic Church lists Epiphany among the solemnities that may be designated holydays of obligation. Episcopal conferences determine local holydays, and in the United States, January 6 was never included. In any country where Epiphany is not a holyday of obligation, the observance moves to a Sunday so that it may be celebrated by the entire Catholic community.

The transfer of Epiphany to a Sunday has the disadvantage of dividing the celebration among various Christian Churches of the world, but the advantage of helping the entire Catholic community proclaim and celebrate the meaning of coming of Christ.

*Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year* © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.



## SAINT OF THE MONTH

**Elizabeth Ann Seton**

**Feast Day: January 4**

**Canonized: September 14, 1975**

**Beatified: March 17, 1963**

Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of 46 years while raising her five children.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is a true daughter of the American Revolution, born August 28, 1774, just two years before the Declaration of Independence. By birth and marriage, she was linked to the first families of New York and enjoyed the fruits of high society. Reared a staunch Episcopalian, she learned the value of prayer, Scripture and a nightly examination of conscience. Her father, Dr. Richard Bayley, did not have much use for churches but was a great humanitarian, teaching his daughter to love and serve others.

The early deaths of her mother in 1777 and her baby sister in 1778 gave Elizabeth a feel for eternity and the temporariness of the pilgrim life on earth. Far from being brooding and sullen, she faced each new “holocaust,” as she put it, with hopeful cheerfulness.

At 19, Elizabeth married a wealthy businessman, William Seton. They had five children before his business failed and he died of tuberculosis. At 30, Elizabeth was widowed and penniless, with five small children to support.

While in Italy with her dying husband, Elizabeth witnessed Catholicity in action through family friends. Three basic points led her to become a Catholic: belief in the Real Presence, devotion to the Blessed Mother and conviction that the Catholic Church led back to the apostles and to Christ. Many of her family and friends rejected her when she became a Catholic in March 1805.

To support her children, she opened a school in Baltimore. From the beginning, her group followed the lines of a religious community, which was officially founded in 1809.

She died January 4, 1821, and became the first American-born citizen to be beatified (1963) and then canonized (1975). She is buried in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



[www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-elizabeth-ann-seton](http://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-elizabeth-ann-seton)



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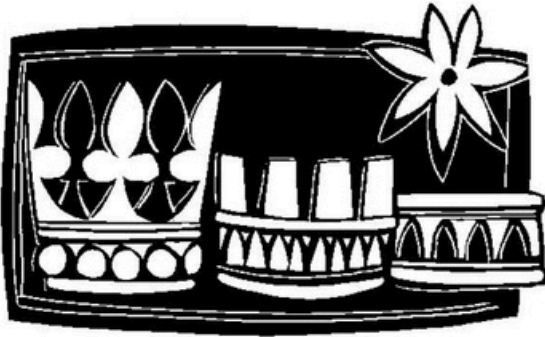
## The Three Wise Men: Share Your Gifts | Drawing Closer to God | Episode 6

Ms. Kim explains the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts by teaching students how to draw the three magi. She challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) to create your account and select our parish family to get free access to this content and much more!



# EPIPHANY AND CHALKING OF THE DOORWAY



January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, sometimes called "Three Kings Day," and comes in between Christmas (or Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord - a Holy day of Obligation) and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the final day of the Christmas Season. Since 1970 in the United States the date has been transferred to the second Sunday after Christmas, in this case January 4, 2026.

In some cultures, January 6 is a large and festive celebration, even larger than Christmas.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us this is the day the magi ("kings") arrived in Bethlehem, directed by angels and guided by a star, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus.

Gold symbolized Jesus as a king. Frankincense and myrrh are sweet-smelling resins that were burned as sacred offerings and during burials.

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star<sup>at</sup> at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"



Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

This holy mystery invites us to wonder who the magi are and how their sacred story intersects with our own. Who or what is leading you to God incarnate? Which stars will you follow this year and what road will you take? What gifts will you offer?

To invite God's blessing on a home, church, and on all who enter its doors during the year the following is inscribed in chalk on the inside, usually above the door on the inside of the lintel

## 20 + C + M + B + 26

The numbers change to reflect the new calendar year. The letters C, M, and B are given two meanings: the initials of the traditional names of the three magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and the initials of the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means, "Christ bless this dwelling." The + symbols are for the Cross of Christ.



Seeing the symbols over our door during the year reminds us, even as life goes back to a regular routine after Christmas, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. They are also reminders of the welcome the magi gave to Jesus. Who might we welcome into our hearts this coming year? With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our hearts and manifest in our words and actions.

Before, during, or after the chalking of the doorway, one or all of the following prayers might be offered:

*May all who pass through this doorway rejoice to find Christ living among us. May we seek and serve in everyone we meet that same Jesus, word incarnate, now and forever. Amen*

*O God of Stars and Journeys, we ask your blessing on this threshold. May all whose journeys lead them through these doors be blessed with health, generosity of spirit, a joyful heart, and deep peace. O God of Welcome, may all who enter this doorway rejoice to find Christ living among us, and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is the incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen*

*O God Among Us, may we be visited by angels, may we follow stars, may we bring the gifts we have to offer. May we embrace the journey and travel in love. May Christ bless our homes and find a home in our hearts throughout the year. Amen.*



Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2026

**Parish Family 14**  
Seattle, WA

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Genevieve of Paris

Born in 422, in Nanterre, France, St. Genevieve consecrated herself to God when she was fifteen. She became known for her charity and gift of prophecy. She predicted Paris would be spared from attack by the Huns and led the people in fasting and prayer. Paris was spared. When King Childeric and his son Clovis I conquered Paris, Genevieve convinced Childeric to release his captives. She became a trusted advisor to Clovis, who converted to Christianity.

### The Jesus Prayer

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, reminding the faithful of the power and reverence due to His Name: *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Phil 2:10). A fitting prayer for this month is the Jesus Prayer, long cherished in Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions: *"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."* Simple yet profound, this prayer can be repeated throughout the day. Prayed attentively, it deepens love and reverence for Christ, invokes His saving grace, and helps cultivate a steady spirit of prayer, humility, and interior peace.

*"The things that we love tell us what we are."* St. Thomas Aquinas

## Turning our hearts back to God

Converting our hearts back to God begins with an honest pause – not a dramatic moment, but a decision to look at our lives as they really are. What shapes our days? What gets our best energy, our first thoughts, our deepest trust? Whatever holds that place is, in practice, what we put first.

**Putting God first starts with intention.** We make room for Him by removing what crowds Him out. A few minutes of prayer before reaching for a phone. A short passage of Scripture read slowly instead of rushed. These small choices retrain the heart. They remind us to whom we belong.

**Repentance is part of the return,** but it is not about shame. It is about direction. To repent means to turn. We admit where we've drifted and choose a better path. God does not demand perfection before welcoming us back. He asks for honesty and willingness.

**Trust follows close behind.** Many of us profess trust in God but still rely

on our own control. Putting Him first means surrendering outcomes we cannot manage anyway. It means praying not only for help, but for guidance, even when the answer may change our plans.

**Faith moves us to action.** When we

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*"Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy."* St. Teresa of Calcutta

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align our choices with God's teachings, our hearts follow. Faith leads to action. Forgiving when necessary. Serving when it is inconvenient. Giving when it feels risky. These actions reshape our priorities.

**Community matters.** Worship, shared prayer, and accountability keep our hearts oriented toward God when we are tempted to drift.

Turning back to God is rarely instantaneous. It is daily, deliberate, and deeply personal. Each step taken toward Him strengthens the heart's true center.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

Blessing ourselves with holy water when entering a Catholic church recalls the ritual washings of the Old Testament, through which the Jews purified themselves before approaching God in the Temple. St. John the Baptist built on this tradition by using water as a sign of repentance and conversion.

## Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?

Today, this gesture reminds us of our Baptism and renews our commitment to live the Faith. As a sacramental, holy water disposes us to receive God's grace, strengthens us against temptation, and, with proper repentance, helps remit venial sins.

# New Year, new habits build change that lasts

Starting and maintaining New Year's resolutions can be difficult for the same reason cultivating virtue is difficult: both require forming new habits. Perseverance rarely comes from sheer willpower alone. Practical strategies, supported by grace, make growth more sustainable.

**Begin with achievable goals.** Set yourself up for early success by practicing self-denial in small, manageable ways. Learning to say no in minor matters builds the discipline needed to resist greater temptations later.

**Replace, rather than simply remove.** It is often easier to abandon an unhealthy habit when it is substituted with a better one. Just as swapping potato chips for pretzels can make dietary

changes more attainable, uprooting vice is aided by cultivating the opposing virtue. Greed is weakened by generosity.

**Seek accountability.** A trusted friend, exercise partner, or prayer companion can provide encouragement and consistency for change. Knowing someone is watching makes it more difficult to give up when motivation fades.

**Above all, rely on grace.** God invites us to call upon Him, especially in moments of weakness, often marked by anger or anxiety, fatigue, hunger, or sadness. In those moments, turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and consolation, trusting the Lord's promise: *"The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still"* (Exodus 14:14).

## from Scripture

### Matthew 4:12-23, Discipleship is the greatest adventure

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about Him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Hearing the invitation to know Jesus better and follow Him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing deeds. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, won countless souls for Heaven, and suffered many

hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – friends of God. Jesus Christ invites each of us, in particular, to know and follow Him. While few of us are called to leave everything behind, we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still give our "Yes." Pursuing authentic holiness isn't boring but a great adventure!

## Q & A

### Why is the feast of the Epiphany important?

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated this year on January 4, is important because it celebrates the public revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior of the whole world. The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "revealing."

Originally, the feast commemorated the visit of the Magi, wise men from the East, who followed the star to Bethlehem. In honoring the Magi, the Church proclaims that salvation is universal and that Gentiles are fully included in God's plan.

Traditionally, Epiphany also encompasses two other key moments of revelation: Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan and His first miracle at the wedding at Cana. At His Baptism, the Father's voice and the descent of the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus as God's Son. At Cana, Jesus manifests His divine power publicly for the first time. Together, these events reveal who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany calls us to respond as the Magi did: to seek Christ, to worship Him, and to offer Him our lives. It reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden, but proclaimed.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.** When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man. Mary's title highlights God's humility, in that God chose to come to us through Mary, as a vulnerable newborn. This year, it is a holy day of obligation.

**January 5 – St. John Neumann (1860).** The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan

schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.

**January 11 – The Baptism of the Lord (1st Century).** Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to "*fulfill all righteousness*" (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His "*beloved Son*" (Matthew 3:17).

**January 13 – St. Hilary of Poitiers (367).** St. Hilary converted to Christianity as a young man and was elected bishop around 350. St. Hilary spent most of his office battling the Arian heresy, which denied the Divinity of Christ. He was exiled to Phrygia. He spent his four-year exile writing and teaching against Arianism until the emperor begged him to return home.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

# THE EPIPHANY

In the Catholic Church, the Epiphany, typically celebrated on the Sunday closest to January 6th, holds profound theological significance. It marks the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior to all nations, symbolized by the visit of the Magi, or Wise Men, from the East. This feast is also known as *Theophany*, meaning the manifestation of God.

## KEY MEANINGS OF THE EPIPHANY

**Revelation to the Gentiles:** The primary meaning of the Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi. This signifies that Christ's salvation is intended for all people, not just the Jewish nation. The Magi's visit, guided by the Star of Bethlehem, illustrates the universal scope of Jesus' mission.

**Recognition of Jesus as King and God:** The gifts brought by the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—carry deep symbolic meanings:

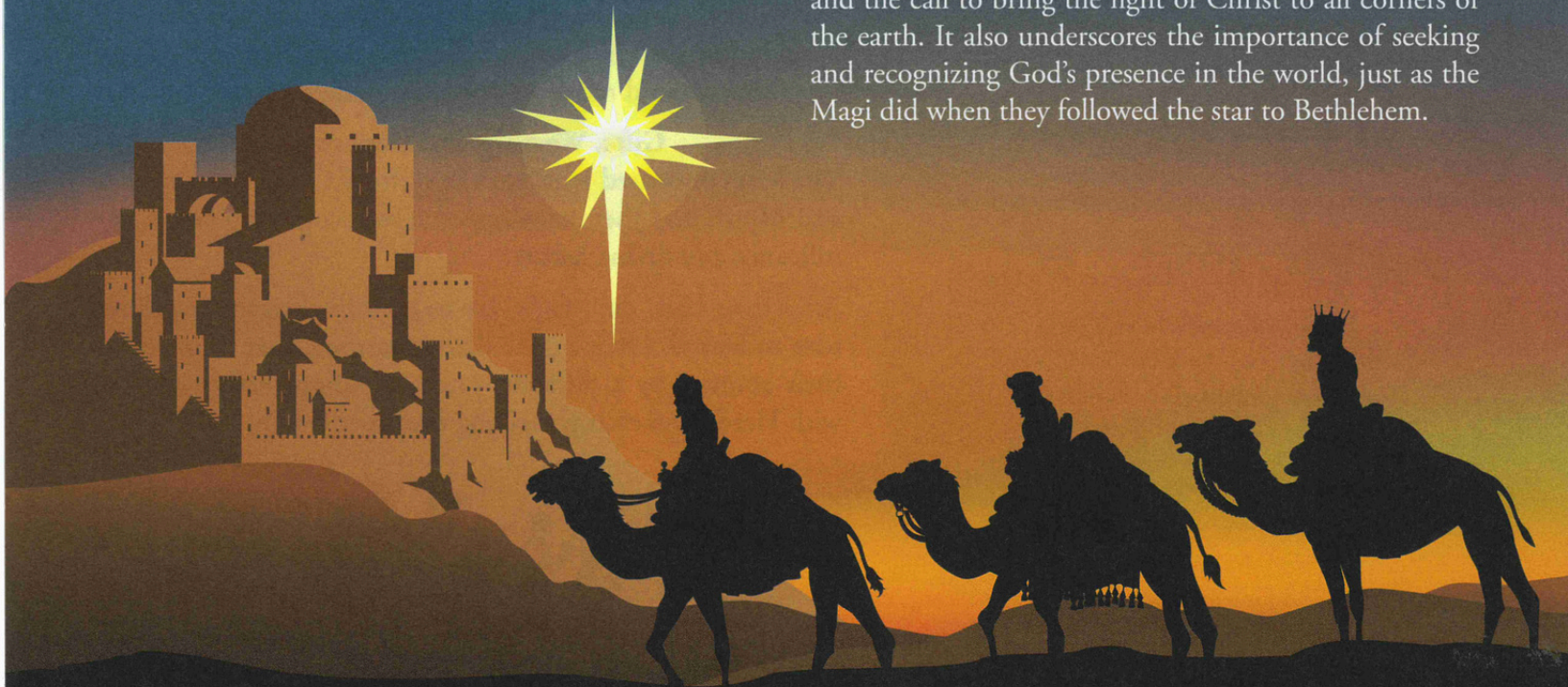
- **Gold** signifies Jesus' kingship.
- **Frankincense** represents Jesus' divinity and role as a high priest.
- **Myrrh** foreshadows Jesus' suffering and death, highlighting his role as Savior.

**Divine Guidance and Obedience:** The Magi's journey following the star emphasizes the theme of divine guidance. Their obedience to God's leading, even from distant lands, encourages believers to seek and follow God's will in their own lives.

**Manifestation of God's Glory:** The Epiphany also celebrates the broader theme of God's glory being revealed to the world. This encompasses not just the visit of the Magi but also, in some traditions, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, where God the Father proclaims him as his beloved Son, and the miracle at the wedding feast in Cana, where Jesus first reveals his divine power.



The Epiphany is a reminder of the divine revelation of Jesus as the Messiah and the Light of the World. It invites Christians to reflect on the inclusivity of Christ's message and the call to bring the light of Christ to all corners of the earth. It also underscores the importance of seeking and recognizing God's presence in the world, just as the Magi did when they followed the star to Bethlehem.



## HISTORY OF THE EPIPHANY

The Epiphany originated in the Eastern Christian tradition in the 3rd century. Initially, it was a broader celebration encompassing not only the visit of the Magi but also Jesus' baptism and the miracle at the wedding feast of Cana.

By the 4th century, the Western Church began to adopt the feast, focusing primarily on the visit of the Magi, while Jesus' baptism was celebrated separately on January 13th.

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Epiphany is also known as *Theophany*, highlighting Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. The Great Blessing of the Waters, a tradition where bodies of water are blessed, became an integral part of the celebration, symbolizing the sanctification of creation through Christ.

In Western Christianity, the emphasis on the Magi, or Three Kings, led to various cultural traditions. By the Middle Ages, the feast had evolved to include pageants and plays depicting the journey of the Wise Men and their adoration of the Christ Child.

During the medieval period, Epiphany became associated with royal feasts and the giving of gifts, reflecting the Magi's offerings to Jesus. This tradition persisted into the Renaissance, with elaborate celebrations and the baking of special cakes, such as the Galette des Rois in France and the Rosca de Reyes in Spain. The tradition of the Epiphany Proclamation, announcing the dates of the movable feasts for the year, also emerged during this period, reinforcing the liturgical importance of the feast.

Today, Epiphany is celebrated worldwide with diverse customs. In many Spanish-speaking countries, it is known as Three Kings' Day and features parades, gift-giving, and special foods. In Eastern Orthodox communities, the Great Blessing of the Waters remains a central ritual, often accompanied by outdoor processions and cross-diving ceremonies.

### *Epiphany Morning Prayer*

Father, you revealed your Son  
to the nations by the guidance of a star.  
Lead us to your glory in heaven  
by the light of faith.  
We ask this through  
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen  
—*The Liturgy of the Hours*

## THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

The Magi, also known as the Wise Men or the Three Kings, were learned men from the East. They were likely scholars or priests well-versed in astronomy and astrology, coming from regions such as Persia (modern-day Iran), Babylon (modern-day Iraq), or Arabia.

### **The Star of Bethlehem**

The journey began when the Magi observed a unique and bright star in the sky. They interpreted this celestial event as the sign of the birth of a significant king, specifically the "king of the Jews." This star, often called the Star of Bethlehem, guided them westward towards Jerusalem.

### **The Journey to Jerusalem**

Following the star, the Magi embarked on a long and arduous journey. The exact distance and time taken are not specified in the Gospel of Matthew, but such a journey would have been lengthy and challenging, likely taking several months.

### **Encounter with King Herod**

Upon reaching Jerusalem, the Magi visited King Herod, inquiring about the newborn king's whereabouts. This news troubled Herod, who saw the potential threat to his throne. Herod consulted his own priests and scribes, who cited the prophecy from Micah that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Herod then directed the Magi to Bethlehem, deceitfully asking them to report back so he too could "worship" the child.

### **Finding Jesus**

Guided once again by the star, the Magi continued to Bethlehem. The star stopped over the place where Jesus was. Unlike the traditional nativity scenes, the Gospel suggests that the Magi found Jesus in a house, as by this time Mary and Joseph might have found more stable accommodation.

### **Gifts, Worship and Departure.**

The Magi presented Jesus with the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and then worshipped him recognizing Jesus' significance and divine nature.

After their visit, the Magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. Obeying the divine warning, they returned to their country by a different route, avoiding further contact with Herod and thus protecting the Holy Family.



# THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE



**January 5 | 7:30 - 8:30 AM | Blessed Sacrament Church**

The Archdiocese of Seattle's First Responder Ministry invites you to attend a special monthly Mass held on the **first Monday morning of every month** at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church for police, firefighters, and chaplains. Hosted by the Seattle Firefighters Holy Name Society. Attendees are encouraged to attend in uniform and sit together.



**January 7, 2026 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | Virtual**

The Archdiocese of Seattle's First Responder Ministry invites all police and fire chaplains to join with Police Chaplain Linda Haptonstall for facilitated monthly peer support sessions. These sessions will be held virtually via Zoom on the **first Wednesday of every month** from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Join with fellow Catholic police and fire chaplains to pray together in our tradition and debrief incidents, callouts, and pastoral encounters. To register and receive the Zoom link, please email Joe Cotton at [joe.cotton@seattlearch.org](mailto:joe.cotton@seattlearch.org).

- Unwrap the gifts in your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter. It is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together.
- Sign up today to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on **February 13-15, 2026**, LaQuinta Inn, Tacoma, WA

For more info, visit our website at [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org), or contact Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321.



When the secular world moves on after Christmas day, let's keep celebrating the joy of Christ's birth and his gift to all of us.

## Ways to keep celebrating Christmas all season long:

- Come to Mass on the 7 feasts of solemnities of Christmas this year
- Plan a 12th Night or Epiphany celebration with your family or friends
- Keep the Christmas carols playing, especially those that focus on the birth of our savior
- Spend time in prayer in front of the creche at your parish
- Keep the creche out, tree up and lights lit until Epiphany



Go to [archseattle.org/Christmas](http://archseattle.org/Christmas) for all the feasts and solemnities of Christmas and more ways to celebrate the peace and joy of Christmas all season long.



**January 7, 2026 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Virtual**

What is Jesus' invitation to Catholics on how to respond to the increasingly divided and violently polarized cultural context of the United States? By reflecting on the life and example of Jesus, this presentation will seek to provide a hopeful response to the challenges of toxic polarization affecting nearly every area of American society. Learn more/register at <https://bit.ly/4j1to68>

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