



Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

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January 4, 2026

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord (A) *Faith: God's Prompting System*



Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

The story of the Magi's journey symbolizes the spiritual journey of all people seeking God, guided by the light of faith. Seeking truth and encountering God requires leaving our comfort zone and facing the unknown. This relationship cannot be programmed. God blesses those who genuinely seek him with his presence.

The Magi left their homes and ventured beyond their familiar world to search for the Savior, as the Jewish prophet Micah had predicted would be born in Bethlehem. We can imagine them traveling through cold desert nights, the chill seeping through their cloaks and dust clinging to their sandals. In the first century, astrologers from the East were revered for their wisdom and knowledge of the stars, and they held social significance. The strange star, like a GPS, guided their journey and led them to an out-of-the-way place, a stable, where the newborn king lay in a makeshift crib. What seemed an insignificant, ordinary place was where the glory of God was revealed. In this lowly place, they were filled with joy. They had seen the Savior. Their faith guided them to this encounter, and they were blessed with overflowing joy.

The Magi proclaimed this joy through the gifts they offered. These gifts represent the role Jesus plays in the lives of all believers:

- Gold is the gift for the King. Jesus is the truth, the way, and the life that leads to human fulfillment.
- Frankincense is the sign of the priest. Jesus is the only mediator, bridging the gap between God and man.
- Myrrh is the perfume used to anoint the dead. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb whose death restored life.

After the encounter, the Magi's lives were transformed. Initially, their journey followed the path dictated by Herod's instructions and societal expectations. However, upon meeting Jesus, a divine intervention redirected their course. "Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way" (Matt. 2:12). This shift from a predictable route to a Spirit-led detour symbolizes the profound internal conversion they underwent. What does this tell us?

First, we are to pray for the light of faith. The mysterious star guided the Magi, showing how the light of faith leads us to genuine joy, often beyond ourselves. Like the Magi, we rely on our faith as our GPS. We need to nurture it through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Confession, daily prayers, reading the Bible, and the lives of the Saints, so it maintains a clear signal connecting us to heaven.

I remember someone sharing his sense of disconnect from his faith, as if his spiritual GPS had lost its signal. He was overwhelmed by personal challenges, and his path seemed unclear. He said that after he went to the Sacrament of Confession, he felt it recalibrated his compass, helping him find his way back. The sense of renewal and guidance he experienced is a reminder that faith, when nurtured, can lead us back to the right path.

Secondly, we are to remember that we are Christians not for ourselves but for others. We are called to seek and encounter the presence of Jesus Christ in others. Often, this happens in ordinary places, not in the world's glitter. Jesus can be found in the smile of a child,



(Continuation from previous page)

the pain of a sick person, the tears of an abused wife, the homeless and destitute, the lonely elderly, the stressed pregnant young woman, the struggles of refugees, victims of human trafficking, and others. Whenever we look into the eyes of those in need or suffering, we gaze into the eyes of Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us thank God for all the people who have lit our paths and brought us closer to him. Looking back, it is the simple, humble people who have touched our hearts and led us to God. It is not the "popular somebody" but the "little someone" or the "least" who has made a difference in our lives and led us to encounter Jesus.

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor



Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi
(the law of praying, the law of believing, the law of living)

We worship what we believe, we live what we worship.

Just before receiving the Holy Eucharist, the priest or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion says, "The Body of Christ." The communicant responds with "Amen," a word that, though brief, carries profound significance in our Catholic faith.

"Amen" means "I believe." By saying it, we declare that we are receiving not only bread but Jesus Christ Himself: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is a profession of the Church's faith in the Real Presence.

However, Amen is also a commitment. It means accepting all the demands of the Eucharist: unity with Christ, discipleship, turning from sin, and living according to what we receive. The Church does not force Communion on anyone. We freely choose to step forward, and our Amen seals that choice.

The Church warns against receiving Communion without proper disposition. Saying Amen while rejecting Christ's teaching or clinging to sin contradicts this. Saint Paul emphasizes the need to discern the Body, for it is no ordinary food (cf. 1 Cor. 11:27-29).

Amen embodies both faith and surrender. It is our way of saying, "Yes, Lord. I believe. I receive. I am willing to be changed." The Church pauses for this reason, because heaven listens.

Fr. MAH.



The OCIA will be taking a break during this Advent & Christmas season.

We will resume our faith formation sessions on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026.

Thank you for all your support, and we ask that you keep our catechumen in your prayers as they continue their journey to be fully initiated in the Catholic faith.



For more information, please contact the parish office @ (808) 521-1700.

Bible Trivia Time!

1. Who directed the Magi to Bethlehem?
2. Name of the three wise men who came bearing gifts for the infant Jesus?
3. What are the three gifts?
4. In a dream, an angel appeared to Joseph, telling him, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to _ _ _ _ and remain there until I tell you;"?

Answers: 1. King Herod; 2. Melchior, Caspar (or Gaspar), and Balthazar; 3. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh; 4. Egypt

Weekly Offering Report

For December 22, 2025 - December 28, 2025



SAINT THERESA SCHOOL
CONTACT INFORMATION
 Office Phone: 808-536-4703



St.TheresaSchool@Beavers808
 Sttheresaschool808

Website: www.stshi.org

SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS

- Principal/Music 1-8 - Conception (Bernie) Gora
- Vice Principal/Math 8 & Discovery - Lauren Ramirez-Asaeda
- Executive Administrative Assistant/LA 6 - Faith Leasiolagi
- Admission Clerk/Office Assistant - Stephanie Lou Odayog
- Dean of Discipline/Athletic Director/4 & 5 Health/Art - Francine Caetano-Fontanilla
- Preschool Director/Teacher - Magdalena Collins
- PK-8 PE & MS Health - Jayven Bumanglag
- Preschool Aide - Elaine Jane Gonzalez
- Kindergarten Aide & Resource Teacher - Lenie Macadangdang
- Kindergarten Teacher - Leilani Tanaka
- PK, Kindergarten Religion & Liturgy Coordinator - Sr. Ana Fua Dela Cruz, SPC
- 1st Grade - Marvin Macadangdang
- 2nd Grade/Sacramental Prep - Faith Afu
- Creative Music K-3 - Johnelle Silva
- 3rd Grade Teacher - Sibel Mestanova
- 4th Grade Teacher - Laura Gabriel
- 5th Grade Teacher - Taiena Finau
- Middle School Social Studies & Math 6 - Alyssa Yabes
- 7 & 8 Language Arts/7 & 8 Home Economics - Dr. Frances Wong
- Middle School Religion - Shaun Agtarap
- Math 7 - Christian Raquepo
- Middle School Japanese/7 & 8 Arts/ Marketing - Tiani Quon
- MS Science - Peter Park
- Permanent Sub - Bernadette Lopez
- Maintenance - Edwin Kaaihue
- Custodian - Romeo John Cabarrubias

Weekly Collections Online Giving

Misa de Gallo Mass Offering from Dec. 20 & 22-24	\$ 6,959.00	
Christmas Masses Offering	\$ 19,073.00	
Weekend Mass Offerings (Including Misa de Gallo on Dec. 21)	\$ 9,959.50	\$ 1,091.49

*** Looking for convenient, safe and secure way of giving to our church? We have online giving feature in our website, just click on the link and go through the easy-to-follow steps to go about it. We also have a Giving Kiosk beside the statue of St. Damien. Please have a look at these methods for your church contributions. We thank you for your continued support in fulfilling the mission of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. ***

We will provide a complete report on the donations and updated expenses for the church fence and security project as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we would like to encourage you to reflect and pray to consider donating more towards the church fence and security project the construction of which is in progress. Please continue to pray with us for the completion of this important project for the safety and security of our church and school.

Parish Savings with the Diocese as of November 30, 2025 **\$ 25,098.87**
Outstanding Parish Loan with the Diocese as of November 30, 2025 **FULLY PAID**
Outstanding PV Loan with the Diocese as of November 30, 2025 **\$ 283,904.02**

Second Collections:

January 10-11 for the Repairs & Maintenance
 January 24-25 for the Church in Latin America and Black & Indian Mission
Mahalo for your generosity.



CCST Fence Project



Happy Epiphany Day



:We are in need of volunteers:

Anyone interested to help please call the Parish office
at (808)521-1700 so we can put you on the schedule.
Mahalo!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
(Closed during Lunch break from 12:00 - 1:00 pm)

Saturdays
from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Sundays
from 7:30 am - 11:30 am

MASS SCHEDULES

Sunday Mass

6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm

Daily Mass

Mon – Thurs: 6:30 am

Fri – Sat: 8:00 am

Vietnamese Mass (VHM)

Daily Mass:

Mon. Tues. & Thur. at 5:30 pm

Saturday Vigil at 7:00 pm

Sundays at 3:30 pm

Holy Hour/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession

Wednesdays

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at 6:00 pm

Holy Hour/Benediction & Confessions at 6:15 pm

(First Wednesdays of the month with Bishop)

PASTORAL TEAM & PARISH STAFF

Fr. Manuel Hewe

Pastor

Sr. Mercedita Estrella, SPC

Dir. of R.E. & Pastoral Associate

Tyra Lamb

Safe Environment Liaison

Pinky Mendoza

Office Coordinator

Jennifer Asuncion

Office Secretary

Francis Leasiolagi

Deacon

Jonathan Lam

VHM Deacon

Bernie Gora

Director of Music

Ray Lamb

Deacon

Roy Matsuo

Retired Deacon

Fr. Anthony Tran

VHM Chaplain

Ryan and Ashley Agcaoili

Coordinators of Youth Ministry

Grace Young

Communications Coordinator

Earl Morita

Church Grounds Maintenance

Samy Ratum

Facilities Custodian

Noraliza Tapecc

On-Call Church Custodian

Felipe Tan

Accountant

Joan Mabag

Custodian

*"How lovely is Your
dwelling place, O
Lord God of Hosts."
Psalm 84:1*



Daily Mass Readings

www.usccb.org

January 5, 2026

**Memorial of St. John Neumann,
Bishop**

1 John 3:22–4:6; Matthew
4:12–17, 23–25

January 6, 2026

Tuesday after Epiphany

1 John 4:7–10; Mark 6:34–44

January 7, 2026

Wednesday after Epiphany

1 John 4:11–18; Mark 6:45–52

January 8, 2026

Thursday after Epiphany

1 John 4:19–5:4; Luke 4:14–22

January 9, 2026

Friday after Epiphany

1 John 5:5–13; Luke 5:12–16

January 10, 2026

Saturday after Epiphany

1 John 5:14–21; John 3:22–30

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7; Acts 10:34–38;
Matthew 3:13–17