Epiphany

Cathedral
OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
SACRAMENTO
In most traditional stories of Jesus Christ's birth, the child Jesus is visited by three people alternately referred to as wise men, kings or, as the New Testament Gospel of Matthew describes them, the magi. The gifts which the magi bring to Jesus are consistently described as gold, frankincense and myrrh. These three gifts were valuable items traditionally offered to a god in ancient times and symbolize the magi's beliefs about the Christ child's identity and his future.

Identity of The Magi - Magi is derived from the Greek word "magoi," which can have four different meanings. Magoi can refer to priestly men of Persia; men who have occult powers and knowledge of astrology; magicians; or charlatans. Matthew indicates in his Gospel that the Magi came from the East and were guided by a star. Balaam, an Old Testament prophet, had revealed that the Messiah's arrival would be marked by a bright star. With this information, it's likely the magi were Persian priests, educated in astrology and astronomy, who interpreted the star's appearance as a sign of Christ's birth.

The Consolation of Myrrh - Myrrh was, in Jesus's time, more valuable than gold. It is obtained from trees which grow in southern Arabia than gold. It is obtained from trees which grow in southern Arabia. Myrrh also was used to anoint his body suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death. Jesus was offered myrrh with wine to soothe his suffering and death.

Identifying the Magi - Matthew describes the magi as a "wise man" and "wise men" from the East. The term "wise men" refers to the traditional Persian nobility or priests. In the context of the Magi's visit to Jesus, their wisdom is understood as their knowledge of the prophecy of Malachi, who foretold the coming of the Messiah. The magi were likely trained in astrology and astronomy, as evidenced by their ability to follow the star that led them to Jesus. They were likely well-educated Persian priests, who recognized the significance of the prophecy and were able to follow the star to locate the infant Jesus. The magi were likely the first to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, and their visit marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and the spread of his message.
~Pastor’s Corner~

This Tuesday I begin my four month sabbatical. I admit that I am a little apprehensive about not being present in the parish for such a long period of time. I feel like a father leaving his family, knowing I’m going to miss everyone and praying that everybody remains out of harm and no major fights develop. Still, I appreciate the great grace that awaits me in having time to re-energize and deepen my personal journey with the Lord. I know you will be keeping me in your prayers and awaiting my return in May.

I simply want to thank all of you for your support and prayers these past four and a half years. I hope to return refreshed and ready to minister at the Cathedral for many more years. In the mean time, I ask everyone to continue to be supportive of all the ministries and their leaders, as well as our staff, invaluable volunteers, and visiting clergy. I especially acknowledge Fr. McMahon for stepping up to “pastor” the parish while the pastor is away. Remember, he is retired and will need more naps during the day than yours truly, so try not to weary him with needless concerns that don’t involve the spreading of the Gospel. As well, Fr. Michael (the younger) is excited to be of help in any way, so don’t be shy in asking for his guidance and spiritual care day or night, as well as offering him invitations for home-cooked meals.

I will be praying for all of you while on sabbatical and I look forward to being with you all when I return.

~Father Michael~

The Baptism of the Lord

At first glance, the Baptism of the Lord might seem an odd feast. Since the Catholic Church teaches that the Sacrament of Baptism is necessary for the remission of sins, particularly Original Sin, why was Christ baptized? After all, He was born without Original Sin, and He lived His entire life without sinning. Therefore, He had no need of the sacrament, as we do.

In submitting Himself humbly to the baptism of St. John the Baptist, however, Christ provided the example for the rest of us. If even He should be baptized, though He had no need of it, how much more should the rest of us be thankful for this sacrament, which frees us from the darkness of sin and incorporates us into the Church, the life of Christ on earth! His Baptism, therefore, was necessary—not for Him, but for us. ~Scott P. Richert/about.com~

Liturgical Word of the Week:

- Obleation noun ob-la-tion \\ə-ˈblā-shan, ə-
  1: the act of making a religious offering; specifically capitalized
  2: the act of offering the eucharistic elements to God
**AROUND THE PARISH**

By Leticia Hilbert

During these months of very low temperatures, there are dozens of persons around our cathedral parish that spend their nights outside on the streets. We cannot do much to alleviate their situation but with lots of love, many hours of knitting and yards and yards of yarn, many volunteers of all ages have knit beautiful scarves and hats and gloves for them. We thank all of them for sharing their time and talent; and for their generosity.

On Wednesday December 28, Feast of the Holy Innocents, there was a Rosary Procession from our Cathedral to The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We were guided by the Auxiliary Bishop Myron Cotta, who prayed the rosary in remembrance of the innocent babies killed by king Herod who was trying to kill baby Jesus. We also prayed for the end of abortion that from 1973 when it was legalized to 2016 there are more that 58 million babies that have lost their lives. The procession ended with Holy Mass at the shrine with a choir of girls from the Cathedral and Holy Cross Church to sing the hymns and prayers. See http://www.lifenews.com/2016/01/14/58586256-abortions-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973/.

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**LITERARY ENDEAVORS**

Deacon Don recently celebrated his 89th birthday. In 2014, he published “Born to Live,” the story of Deacon Don’s life and our lives. We are born to live, here on earth and forever in heaven, in relationship with each other and with God. Deacon Don’s book is filled with personal stories that point to Jesus and his love and mercy for all.

Regina Fagan, a long-time parishioner, who volunteers as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector has several books to her credit. “Leave Me on a Sunday” is a collection of short stories that will leave cat lovers and mystery buffs alike purring.

Books by both authors are available through many online resources, including Amazon.com. The next time you shop online, take a few minutes to sign up with smile.amazon.com and support the Cathedral. Every time you shop, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the cathedral.

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**Ordinary Time Begins**

**9**

The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father. He is the light of the nations and Lord of all creation. To him be all glory and praise.

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10 Mt 3:13-17

**10**

Week 1 in Ordinary Time

Jesus, though submitting to the laws of human existence, has authority over sickness and death.

Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Mk 1:29-39

**11**

Week 1 in Ordinary Time

Jesus is forever our merciful high priest, healing those who are ill and afflicted.

Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Mk 1:29-39

**12**

Week 1 in Ordinary Time

Let our hearts not become hardened so that the mercy of the Lord may heal and sure us.

Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-7c, 8-11 Mk 1:40-45

**13**

Week 1 in Ordinary Time

Though we often imitate Israel’s infidelity, we must never forget the Lord’s readiness to forgive our sins.

Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8 Mk 2:1-12

**14**

Week 1 in Ordinary Time

Jesus came to call sinners, not the self-righteous. His word is refreshing, penetrating even to the heart.

Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

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The Epiphany of the Lord

All nations are invited to sing the Lord’s praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

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**Check us out on cathedralsacramento.org**

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Follow us on Twitter
Let Us Pray... 

~ Santo Niño Feast ~

You’re invited to celebrate the Santo Niño Feast on Saturday, January 14, 2017 with the Filipino-American Community. There will be a Novena at 10:30am, followed by Mass, concelebrated by Father Arnold Parungao, Father Michael O’Reilly, Father Michael Estaris, and Father Nicolas Ho, at 11am, followed by a pot luck luncheon. If your name begins with an A to E, please bring a cooked rice dish, F to M, bring Pancit (noodle dishes), N to T, bring dry adobo (a Filipino chicken/pork dish), and U to Z, please bring dessert. Appropriate attire is a red and/or gold top with black pants or skirt.

The event supports the Cathedral’s education department and welcomes donations, either cash or checks payable to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Also, in support of our homeless brothers and sisters, please bring brown bag lunches to donate, packed with the usual items.

Sleeping Bags Needed! We welcome your donation of sleeping bags new or used for our homeless brothers & sisters. They can even be purchased for less than $15 from Amazon! Our target is 100! Please kindly drop them off at the Cathedral Rectory or call 916-585-3044. Thanks for your generosity!

THE BIBLE TIMELINE:

Matthew

JANUARY 4 to JUNE 29, 2017

Come study the Gospel of Matthew with us! Matthew: The King and His Kingdom is a Catholic Bible study that brings the history of Christ to life through Matthew’s Gospel. You will see Jesus as the awaited Messiah who fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, establishes the New Law, and inaugurates the Kingdom of Heaven.

This is the third year of this popular bible study program. The study will include a series of twenty-four videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be preceded by a lively group discussion. Each week participants can attend on Wednesday at Holy Family in Citrus Heights, or on Thursday at The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament downtown. We will meet from 7pm to 8:30.

Attendance is free. We will also provide materials. Although there are some helpful online materials that are made to go with this presentation that you may purchase to supplement your learning, it is not required. Please join us for a life-changing journey through the Bible! We only have room for 40 in each location. To register, contact Sister Jenny at 916-444-5364, or jenny@cathedralsacramento.org.

Interested in joining Catholic Charities of California on a Walking Pilgrimage? We have futures dates to Camino de Compostela, Spain and Via, Italy in May 2017 and September 2017. Contact CCC at pilgrim@catholiccharitiesca.org or call (916) 758-5946 for more information. An meeting will take place in early February 2017.

...For One Another

Johnny Ramirez
Arturo Ramos
Dominic Renzi
Joanne Renzi
Edwin Rocha
Rogelio Rodriguez
Maria Rokomasi
Daling Santos
Lorna Soderberg
Sheetz Family
Lily Da Silva
Rose Mary Stadler
Brian Swann
Jeff Swann
Ida Thomas
Norma Thureen
Charles J. Urrutia,

Robert a, Peter,
& Robert B. Martinez
Cynthia Matulia
Lee McClure
Nellie Medina
Blanca Padilla
Nilda Medina
Michael Jose Mejia
Della Melsness
Cloraine Miura
Maria Elena Monzani
Eugenio Negrete
Elizabeth Paul
Rosemary Plain
Hilda Plancarte
Jesse Quiming
Alex Quiroz

Prayer is the most effective tool we have to create change and help our brothers and sisters. Offer a simple prayer for the people listed here. If you need prayer, let us pray for you or your loved ones. Submit your prayer request on cathedralsacramento.org or email: cbsprayer3@yahoo.com

**Note: Changes in Baptisms**

Spanish baptism classes are now on the third Thursday of each month, and Spanish baptisms will be on the fourth Saturday of each month at 9am. The English baptism classes are still the first Thursday of each month, and English baptisms are the third Saturday of each month at 9am.

- The next open English baptisms are on January 21st, February 18th, and May 20th.
- The next Spanish baptisms are on January 28th, February 25th & April 29th.
- There are no baptisms during Lent, from March 1 to April 16, but there are baptism classes.

Registration for baptisms is required. Go to cathedralsacramento.org/baptisms to access the registration form and for more information. If you have questions, please contact Deacon John at jgisla@cathedralsacramento.org.
1. What form did the Holy Spirit take at the baptism of Jesus?

2. Where was Jesus baptized?

3. At what age did Jesus start his ministry?

When my daughter had a crush on a boy, I asked her to place his name in 1 Corinthians 13:4-6.

She did. “Sean is patient and kind; Sean does not envy or boast; Sean is not arrogant or rude. Sean does not insist on his own way; Sean is not irritable or resentful; Sean does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.”

She frowned. “I saw him pick on another boy in the hallway. I guess he wasn’t very kind.” She began to rethink her interest in him.

This verse has not only given my daughter greater discernment about others, but it also has helped her reflect on her own behavior. I asked my daughter to substitute her own name into that passage. Then I explained that when we become more like Jesus, we become the right type of person for someone else to like.

~Diane Stark~

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What form did the Holy Spirit take at the baptism of Jesus?

2. Where was Jesus baptized?

3. At what age did Jesus start his ministry?

Cathedral Kids

Crushes

Celebrate the Epiphany by making a dove out of paper plates. Cut one plate in half to create the wings, and use another plate to cut out the body, head, and tail. Glue.

~ 6 ~

= Color me! =
Mary Holy Mother of God — Sunday, January 1
Epiphany of the Lord — Sunday, January 8
Baptism of the Lord — Monday, January 9
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — January 18-25
Ecumenical Prayer Service — Wednesday, January 18
National Day of Penance — Monday, January 23
Presentation of the Lord — Thursday, February 2
World Marriage Day Mass — Saturday, February 11
World Day of the Sick Mass — Saturday, February 11
Ash Wednesday — Wednesday, March 1
Rites of Election — March 4-5
First Sunday of Lent — Sunday, March 5
Day of Penance — Wednesday, March 8
Second Sunday of Lent — Sunday, March 12
Feast of Saint Patrick — Friday, March 17
Third Sunday of Lent — Sunday, March 19
Feast of St Joseph — Monday, March 20 (19th is the 3rd Sunday in Lent)
The Annunciation of the Lord — Saturday, March 25
Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) — Sunday, March 26
Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) — Sunday, April 2
Chrism Mass — Thursday, April 6
Palm Sunday — Sunday, April 9
Holy Thursday — Thursday, April 13
Good Friday — Friday, April 14
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil — Saturday, April 15
Easter — Sunday, April 16
Divine Mercy Sunday — Sunday, April 23
Forth Sunday of Easter — Sunday, May 7
San Torobio Romo Mass — Sunday, May 21
Ascension Sunday — May 28 Holy Day of Obligation
Ordination of Priests — Saturday, June 3
Vigil of Pentecost (Adult Confirmation) — Saturday, June 3
Pentecost Sunday — Sunday, June 4
Trinity Sunday — Sunday, June 11
Corpus Christi (June 15) transferred to Sunday, June 18
Sacred Heart of Jesus — Friday, June 23
Ordination of Deacons — Saturday, June 24
Nativity of John the Baptist — Saturday, June 24
Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul — Thursday, June 29
Memorial of St. Junipero Serra — Saturday, July 1
Memorial of St. Maria Goretti — Thursday, July 6
Memorial of St. Kateri Tekakwitha — Friday, July 14
Feast of St. James — Tuesday, July 25
Transfiguration of the Lord — Sunday, August 6
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Tuesday, August 15 HDO
Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Tuesday, August 22
Labor Day — Monday, September 4
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Friday, September 8
Exaltation of the Holy Cross — Thursday, September 14
Our Lady of Sorrows — Friday, September 15
Feast of St. Matthew — Thursday, September 21
Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels — Friday, September 29
Respect Life Sunday — Sunday, October 1
The Holy Guardian Angels — Monday, October 2
All Saints Day — Wednesday, November 1 Holy Day of Obligation
All Souls Day — Thursday, November 2
Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome — Thursday, November 9
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Tuesday, November 21
Thanksgiving — Thursday, November 23
First Sunday of Advent — Sunday, December 3
Immaculate Conception — Friday, December 8 Holy Day of Obligation
Our Lady of Guadalupe — Tuesday, December 12
Christmas — Monday, December 25 Holy Day of Obligation
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph — Sunday, December 31

13th Walk for Life West Coast
Saturday, January 21, 2017
Civic Center Plaza

Join thousands of Pro-lifers in San Francisco as we proclaim to the world the sanctity of life. Let’s stand up for the unborn! Reserve your seat or buy your bus ticket today. The Respect Life ministry will be outside the church after masses to give you more information or contact Veronica Avina at (916) 205-0713.

Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market St. (2 miles). Ends at Justin Herman Plaza/Ferry Bldg.

SPEAKERS:

Pam Tebow: Prolife advocate and mother of Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow
Reggie Littlejohn: Founder and President, Women’s Rights Without Frontiers
Melissa Ohden: Abortion survivor
Rev. Clenard Childress: Founder, Black Genocide.org

WalkforLifeWC.com
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<tr>
<th>Mass/Intentions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday Jan 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm / Isabel &amp; Manuel Gomez +</td>
<td>10:00 am CFF Classes</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday Jan 8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 am / Inocencio Meza + 9:00 am / Parish Intentions 11:00 am / Carlos Gomez + 1:00 pm Spanish / Richard Hernandez + 3:00 pm Chinese 5:00 pm / Susan Ciminelli S.I. 7:00 pm Spanish / Bruschi Family S.I.</td>
<td>9:00 am RCIA class for children and teens 9:30 am RCIA Breaking of the Word 11:00 am Liturgy of the Word for Children 11:15 am Spanish CCD classes</td>
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<td><strong>Monday Jan 9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10 pm / Thanksgiving Mass for Jesus &amp; Mary 5:10 pm / Loren Linnard +</td>
<td>6:30 pm RCIA Evening Prayer 7:00 pm RCIA Class</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday Jan 10</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10 pm / Danelle Saldana + 5:10 pm / Irene Shepard +</td>
<td>6:00 pm Spanish Choir for the 7pm Mass 7:00 pm English Confirmation classes 7:15 pm The Men’s Club</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday Jan 11</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10 pm / Irene Jones + 5:10 pm / John “Jack” Henricks</td>
<td>7:00 pm Respect Life Meeting—Spanish 7:00 pm Communion &amp; Liberation 7:15 pm English Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Spanish Choir for the 1pm Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday Jan 12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10 pm / John Enderle + 5:10 pm / Patty McDaniels +</td>
<td>7:00 pm Bible Timeline—Mercy Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Jan 13</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10 pm / Leticia Jose Amado +</td>
<td>7:30 pm Pray the Rosary at St. Junipero’s Statue in Capitol Park</td>
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S.I.- Special Intentions + - Deceased

“The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord let His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace, Father Michael.”

~Your Friends~