



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 158, LAKE LAND, LA 70752

PARISH OFFICE: 627-5124 | RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: 627-5819

IMMACULATECONCEPTIONLAKE LAND.COM

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. C. Todd Lloyd

Business Manager: Patti Aguiard

Religious Education: Dina Tunstall

Music Coordinator: Jody Doucet

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday Masses: 7:00, 9:00, & 11:00 AM

Daily Masses: Tues. 6:00 PM & Wed.-Sat. 8:00 AM

Care of the Sick: For emergencies please call immediately. Eucharist is brought to the sick weekly. Families of those who are sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office as soon as possible.

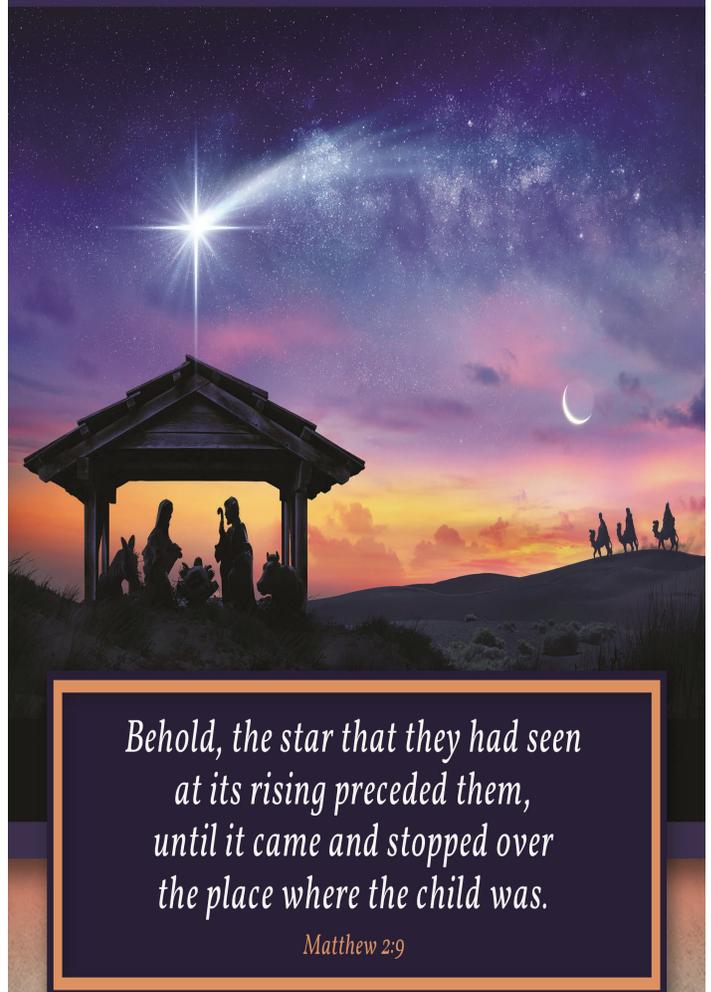
Reconciliation: Tues. 5:00 PM & Sat. 3:00 PM

Marriage: Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement or at least six months prior to the projected date of marriage.

Baptism: Celebrated monthly. Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptism preparation is required.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

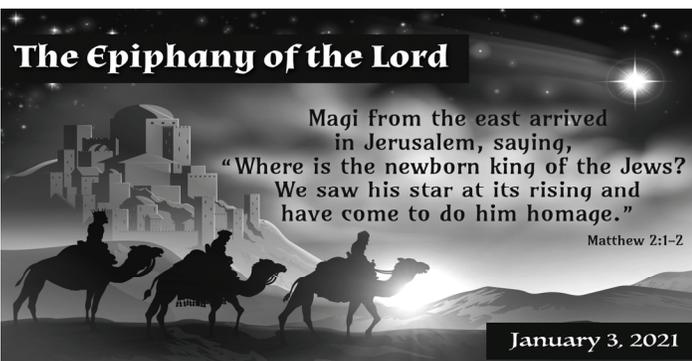


*Behold, the star that they had seen
at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over
the place where the child was.*

Matthew 2:9

Scriptures for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a;
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13;
Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17;
Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10
or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or
1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11



God Bless Our Troops

Please remember all of our troops overseas, especially members of Immaculate Conception Parish Family:

Jordan Todd Aguillard, Air Force; Jules Craig Cifreo, Air Force.; Samuel Edward Guidroz, Navy; Quinton T. Gaspard, P.F.C., Army; Zachary Carl Rollins, Marines.

Prayer Requests

Aguillard Family, Leslie Aguillard, Trevor Allement, Tim Amond, Gary Bello, Joseph Leroy Bizette, Theresa Bizette, Shirley Blauvelt, Kyle Cabalero, Robin Casiano, Doris Castillo, Linda Cheek, Brittany Collins, Lee Joseph Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Jean David, Brilynn Davis, Ronald Decuir, Wanda Decuir, Mary Doris Deculus, Malachi Engen, Shannan Everett, Deborah Fountain, Robert Geier, Jr., Alfred Gremillion, Joe Guarino, Pamela Vicknair Harrington, Lyndon Lynn Hernandez, Roger Hollier, Laura Jarreau, Sharon Jarreau, Tess Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kevin LeBlanc, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Janey Lively, Janice Marks, Doug Matte, Rob Melacon, Troy Menier, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Linda Olinde, Christine Patin, Corey Patin, David Patin, John Gary Patin, Jr., Abigail Politz, Shelby Porche, Dotti Purpera, Cody Reed, Michael Roche, Hank Ryan, Hunter Schurba, Lou Sherman, Anna Graves Smith, Timmy Smith, Sr., James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Harry Williams, Ainsley Wolf.

This Week at I.C.C.

01/05 Parish Office Re-opens.
Rel. Ed. Class - Grade 2nd
@ 5pm.
PAL Meeting
@ 6pm Rm#2.

The Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 2021

All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.
— Psalm 72:11

Today's Readings

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

End Of Year Statements

If you require an end of the year **Contribution Statement for 2020**, please call the Parish Office at 627-5124. All requested statements will be mailed out by **January 31, 2021**.

From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

Every year when we celebrate Epiphany I think of William Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*. The plot does not really have anything to do with Epiphany, but the title is a reference to the feast. Though we move the celebration of Epiphany to Sunday, the real date of Epiphany is twelve days after Christmas, January 6th. The "Twelfth Night" is a reference to the vigil of Epiphany, the end of Christmas celebrations with the celebration of the arrival of the Magi and Jesus' divine revelation to the whole world. It is believed that Shakespeare wrote the play to be performed as part of the Epiphany festivities, hence the name.

While the play does not reference the religious meaning of Epiphany at all, it does draw from the boisterous spirit with which Epiphany was celebrated by the English at the time of Shakespeare. Epiphany was customarily celebrated with the enjoyment of revelry, a lot of food and drink, singing, dressing up in disguises and switching of social roles. It is for us in our Louisiana culture (inherited from Europe and especially France) the beginning of Carnival season, which leads us to Mardi Gras. *Twelfth Night*... takes on themes fitting for that kind of celebration, like overindulgence, music, the heartache of romance, and identity confusion. Even though the story is not really related to the feast of Epiphany, there are themes and famous quotes from *Twelfth Night* which offer substance for reflection in relation to the feast.

One of the primary themes and plot devices of the story is identity confusion. This is most especially seen in the protagonist of the play, Viola. She is one of the most virtuous, attractive, and clever female characters in all of Shakespeare's works. From the outset of the story, however, she conceals her noble identity by taking on the guise of a eunuch (a servant boy). She does this in order to be safe without an escort and to get close and accepted into the court of Olivia, the love interest of Duke Orsino. She seeks the assistance of a ship captain who she has come to trust. She explicitly gives the theme when she tells him that, despite the deceptive nature of appearances, she trusts his appearance as a good man. She then famously says: "Conceal me what I am, and be my aid For such disguise as haply shall become The form of my intent. I'll serve this duke." In other words, she wants to serve the duke, and so she will take on the appearance necessary for that purpose. Once she successfully does this, Viola surprisingly falls in love with Duke Orsino, who is a flawed, over emotional, fickle, egotistical, and immoderate man. The story plays out in an unexpected way as Orsino is edified by his new found relationship with this page boy (Viola in disguise), and by the end gives up his self-centered lovesickness for Olivia and marries Viola, now out of disguise. Comically, Olivia ends up marrying Viola's twin brother who she had confused for the page boy she fell in love with, who was actually Viola.

What we celebrate on the feast of Epiphany is that God has revealed himself to all the nations through his Son, born of the virgin. Yet, the appearance of the Son does not make his identity too obvious. Paradoxically, that humble and hidden appearance is the very thing that makes him safe, approachable, and acceptable to people of all nations. C.S. Lewis once wrote that Jesus has come to us like an undercover agent; a spy from heaven to cause a revolution. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*, "Enemy-occupied territory – that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage."

Consider if the Word of God chose to come to us in any other form than the Child born in Bethlehem. Would he be as attractive to people of all cultures throughout the world if, for instance, he had come as a mighty ruler with wealth and armies while claiming to be the Son of God? Perhaps many people would have rejected him as a foreign ruler or oppressor not much different than Caesar who claimed to be divine. Or if he came not in the humility of the Holy Family, but with the entitlement of some powerful and wealthy family, would he have been approachable to the poor, weak, and oppressed? He could have come as some kind of brilliant philosopher or scholar, but would shepherds and fishermen be interested in him? It is certainly true that he could have come with much more overt displays of his divinity, riding on a cloud and pouring out displays of power. It would seem that this would have revealed him for what and who he is much better than being born as the Son of Mary and Joseph. And yet, would it not evoke more fear from people than love and adoration?

There is any number of ways that God could have chosen to reveal himself to the nations, but in choosing the one that seems to most disguise his identity, he chose the one that was most fitting. The one thing that people of every culture can be attracted to, least threatened by, and find most adorable: a baby born to a humble family. And this unassuming baby would become a gentle man of wisdom, love, and self-sacrifice. Like Viola, Jesus reveals his nature best by paradoxically taking on a different nature, and through this "disguise", a flawed people, like Duke Orsino, have their hearts changed. The revelation of God comes to the nations in the place we would not expect to find it, similar to how Orsino finally found true love in Viola, who first came disguised in a very humble identity.

All this is to say that appearances can be deceiving, but this deception is not always malicious. Consider that in our own lives we might sometimes struggle to see God because his appearance is not as we wish it to be or how we'd expect. At times it may seem his appearance is not as obvious as we think God should be. Whatever the reason for that is, remember the mystery of today's feast. Just because his presence is not always overt, this does not mean he is not there, perhaps disguised in some way. The Son of God chose to reveal himself to the Magi and to the whole world as a Baby in a manger, and then as a Man on a cross, and now as life-giving Bread in the Eucharist. Let us pray for wisdom to look for Christ in the unexpected places; like in our sufferings or losses or challenges or worries. And like the Magi, who accepted the revelation of the Christ Child in a much unexpected appearance, to bring him worthy gifts with the faith that he appears exactly as is best and appropriate for accomplishing his will in our lives.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd

Information Page

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Special Instructions: Until further notice, please
send us only **250** printed bulletins. Thank you.