

Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church



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**Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,
Administrador Parroquial**

Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial

**Confesión el Sábado:
Por cita en (Español y Inglés)**

**Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María—3:20pm**

Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.

**Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María— 9:40am**

Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.

Liturgia en los Días de la Semana

Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Lunes: Adoración 7:00am y Misa a las 7:30am

**Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:
Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am**

**Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz con
Adoración**

**Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am
Misa en Honor de Virgen María**



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” - Mt 2:2

DÍA DE LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

“¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que acaba de nacer? Porque vimos surgir su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo”. - Mt 2, 2

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January 8th, 2023

**Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator
Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar**

Confession on Saturday:

By appointment English/Spanish

Saturday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 3:20pm

Saturday Mass (Vigil): English -4:00 p.m.

Sunday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary—9:40am

Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am

Liturgy of the Weekdays

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Monday: 7:00am Adoration & Mass 7:30am

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am**

Friday: At 6:00pm Rosary of Queen of Peace with Adoration

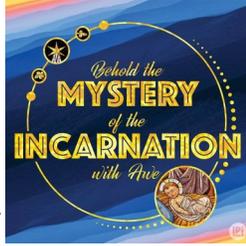
Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass
In Honor of the Virgin Mary

The Epiphany of the Lord: Year A

Star of Wonder, Star of Light

Br. John-Marmion Villa

There is a story of an astronomy professor who was enthusiastically discoursing in a planetarium about the marvels of the known universe. Noticing an unpretentious priest who had joined his group of students, the professor asked him, “What do your Scriptures say about cosmic space and its myriad stars?”



Instead of giving a direct answer, the priest, in turn, posed a question, “Tell me, Professor,” he said, “do you think that science will invent still more powerful telescopes to see farther into the universe?”

“Of course! Progress is possible, and science will always be perfecting its instruments for exploring outer space!” replied the professor.

“There is hope, then, that one day you will have developed the necessary technology that can show all that there is in the cosmos, even down to the last detail?”

“Well, that would be impossible ... The cosmos is infinite,” replied the professor.

“So, there is a limit to science?”

“In that sense, there is.”

“Well, Professor,” said the priest, “where your science comes to a full stop, ours begins; and that is what our Scriptures tell of.”

We sing the song about the Three Wise Men who follow the ‘star of wonder ... westward leading’ to Bethlehem. We see images of the three men in Nativity scenes holding their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We can even be deeply moved at modern movie depictions of the birth of Jesus and the arrival of these Magi from the East. What did they come to see?

Quite literally, they saw parents with their firstborn in an animal stable. Or from another perspective, they were stargazers who saw a remarkable anomaly in the night sky and felt compelled to make a long journey on a hunch.

But is this all they saw? And was their journey worth the effort?

I like to think that the Wise Men saw a mystery unfold before them, and rather than rush to solve or explain it, they simply beheld it. Of course, they had seen stars before, and they certainly had seen newborn babies before, but something within them knew that there was something different going on here with the stars and the baby. They intuited that the connection here was no mere happenstance or coincidence. They realized that they had stumbled onto a mystery — a delightful one at that — that led them on a journey on which they would be forever changed, evidenced in the homage that they gave to the Christ Child upon meeting him.

I wish I could have been privy to the conversations that the Wise Men had among themselves, or even with the Holy Family. I’ve often wondered how they would have tried to explain their amazing journey to parents who were surprised at their unexpected arrival.

This central kernel of Christianity — that of the Incarnation, God becoming man — is a mystery, one to be beheld with awe and amazement, just like the Wise Men experienced on that short visit. But for us, that sense of awe and amazement need not disappear after all the Christmas gifts have been opened and all the holiday parties attended. This sense of awe and amazement could be a regular disposition in our lives when we take the time to ponder the mystery of the Person of Jesus even throughout the year. The story of the Epiphany is about the Wise Men’s encounter with the mystery of the Christ Child that can be ours every day when we make time for quiet prayer as a regular habit in our lives.

The Wise Men beheld a mystery that night. In return, that mystery of the Incarnate God — Jesus — probably smiled back at them, which only confirmed the hunch that their journey was not in vain, that they indeed found what they came to seek. From the encounter, I’m sure they’d spend the rest of their lives trying to explain to themselves and others what happened on that journey when, at night, a star led them to a baby.

—Br. John-Marmion Villa

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

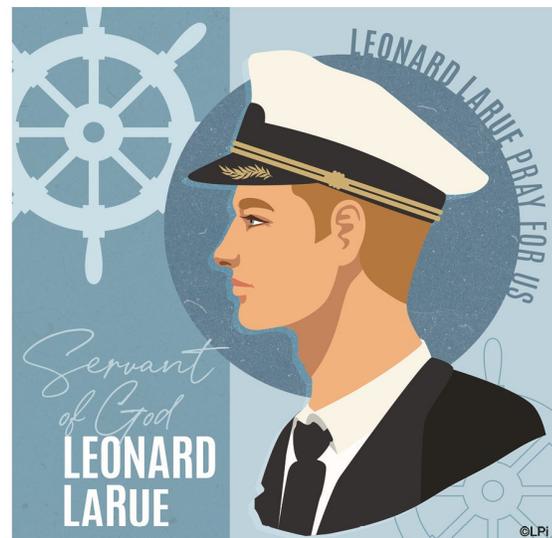
- Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
- Monday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 (11b)/Mt 3:13-17
- Tuesday:** Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9//Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17
- Next Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord
- Monday:** The Baptism of the Lord
- Friday:** St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

The offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh were carried by the magi over many miles of hard travel to be laid at the feet of Jesus. What gifts do we bear through the journey of life to lay at the feet of the King? Do we protect them as we should?



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saving over 14,000 Korean refugees during the Korean war in what is still the largest marine rescue in the history of the world, Servant of God Leonard LaRue's bravery and love of the Lord inspired his cause for sainthood to be opened in 2021.

PRAYER

God, our Father, Creator of the seas, Protector of refugees, and all those in need, You called Captain Leonard LaRue to recognize Your Son Jesus Christ in the faces of the Korean refugees, and led him as Brother Marinus to a life of prayer and service in the tradition of St. Benedict.

May his life be an inspiration to us and lead us to greater confidence in Your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the people of the sea, welcoming those who are refugees from war, and deepening all the faithful in their prayer and work of service.

We humbly ask that You glorify Your servant Captain Leonard LaRue/ Brother Marinus, O.S.B. on earth according to the design of Your holy will, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <http://www.aos-usa.org/pdf/Capt.-LaRue-Bro.-Marinus-O.S.B.-Prayer-for-the-Cause.pdf>)

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Faith and Fear

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear.

But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am

guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed.

But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? *"All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him."* — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action.

So, then, it should move us all.

We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage. — Matthew 2:2

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding

feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A friend of mine is a young priest who teaches high school physics at a Catholic boys' prep school. Like many today, the boys often think science and religion are enemies. So, he delights in their raised eyebrows when he reminds them his first full-time job as a priest was to be an astrophysicist. He cataloged the size, shape, and matter of distant stars. He tells them, "Science gave me more love for God, not less."

The Magi were something like scientist-astronomers. Like today's scientists, they employed disciplined methods of discovering dependable patterns in the world. Their rigorous commitment to the truth led them to the joy of discovering Jesus. Their love for knowledge leads them

to worship the Source of all knowledge. Luke says of them, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star."

We may see the universe as cold and empty and feel sad. But why should we do that? The Magi, like my priest-friend, show us there is another way to experience the world. We use our intelligence to discover the beautiful patterns in the world — in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology, neuroscience, and so on — and allow this to lead us to greater love for God. So, my fellow Magi: the world needs us to be overjoyed at finding God in science and, finally and fully, in Jesus.

— *Father John Muir*

*Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."
- Mt 2:1b-2*

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